

# Annual Report

Presented January 21, 2015

# 2014

Victoria Family Court and  
Youth Justice Committee





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## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

### *2014 Membership*

- Cynthia Day, Chair, Councillor (Colwood)
- Sigurd Johannesen, Councillor (Highlands)
- Lanny Seaton, Councillor (Langford)
- Matt Sahlstrom, Councillor (Alternate-Langford)
- Mr. Rick Cooper, (Metchosin)
- Tim Chad, Councillor (Sidney)
- M. Hailey, Councillor (Alternate-Sidney)
- Dunstan Browne, Councillor (North Saanich)
- Craig Mearns, Councillor (Alternate-North Saanich)
- Michelle Kirby, Councillor (Oak Bay)
- Bill Warburton (Alternate-Oak Bay)
- Jim Hackler, (Saanich)
- Marcie McLean, Councillor (Alternate - Highlands)
- Kerrie Reay, Councillor (Sooke),
- Charlayne Thornton-Joe, Councillor (Victoria)
- Ron Mattson, Councillor (View Royal)
- Dave Hodgkins, Councillor (Esquimalt)
- Marie Bourque (Central Saanich)
- Geanine Robey, Restorative Justice Resource Group (CRD)
- Jennifer Gibbs, Mobile Youth Service Team
- Pamela MacDonald, Youth Probation Officer Victoria Youth Custody Services
- Ranj Atwal (MCFD), Youth Probation (Team Leader)
- Ramndee Bajwa, Community Liaison Officer, Youth Custody Services
- Sue Hendricks, Director, Aboriginal Programs and Relationships
- Gillian Lindquist, Restorative Justice Victoria
- Georgia Peters, CASA for Children
- Mitzi Dean, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association
- Bill McElroy, CRAT/SEY
- Neil Poirier, Trustee (Sooke School District)
- Tim Dunford, Trustee (Saanich School District)
- Sgt. Murray Mashford, Youth Investigation Section, Saanich Police
- Cst. Jeff Bevington, Saanich Police, Youth Section
- Tom Ferris, Trustee ( Victoria SD #61)
- Shirley Williams-Yuen, John Howard Society of Victoria
- Victoria Court Registry, Ministry of Attorney General (Vacant)
- Public Safety and Solicitor General (Vacant)
- Central Saanich Police (Vacant)

### Chair's Report

Our job as the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is ***to be aware of the circumstances for youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system***. We represent the community for government - local, provincial and federal. Factors in family and youth success include stable housing, financial stability to ensure they have enough to eat, the involvement of caring adults, and access to appropriate health services. In this report, I bring you a snapshot of what we have found the situation for youth to be in Greater Victoria in 2014.

The McCreary Centre Society has published its latest report on youth in custody, based on interviews with 57 girls aged 13 – 19 in the care of the Burnaby Youth Custody Centre, following the centralization of custody services in Burnaby. <http://www.mcs.bc.ca> The Victoria Family Court and Youth Custody Committee lobbied to retain youth services and containment facilities here on Vancouver Island, with full support from all 13 municipalities, and 4 school districts. We are concerned that big city influences (including gang idolization) in mainland custody centres are likely detrimental to healthy or developing community based relationships and family dynamics. We continue to advocate for building family and community connections with supportive services close to home.

Mr. Rick Cooper, our Metchosin representative, investigated the issues affecting Families during separation and divorce and facilitated a presentation by Mr. Jerry McHale, QC, Law Chair from the University of Victoria, on the work of the National Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters. A voice for system wide improvements, they focused on fostering engagement, pursuing a strategic approach to reforms and coordinating the efforts of all participants concerned with civil justice. Read Chief Justice McLachlin's speech from the 2012 Canadian Bar Association Council Meeting: <http://www.cfcj-fcj.org/action-committee> Victoria is fortunate to have the newly opened **Justice Access Centre** as a central resource. At the Centre, families may be eligible to meet with a trained mediator and services may be free depending on income. [www.ag.gov.bc.ca/justice-access-centre/victoria/mediation](http://www.ag.gov.bc.ca/justice-access-centre/victoria/mediation) . **The Family Court litigation process continues to do much harm to children and families** - draining financial resources, impacting access to food, lodging and activities and taking many years to conclude. Members of the committee toured the new facility.

Mr. Darryl Plecas, MLA, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Prevention spoke to the committee on the need for public confidence in our systems and the report [A Criminal justice System for the 21st Century](#), by Geoffrey Cowper, QC, who recommended the development of a province-wide crime reduction plan to improve community safety.

Mia Golden – Crime Reduction Education Division (CRED), Pacific Centre Family Services, spoke about her work with youth exiting gangs in Victoria and the need to support the youth. Mia has recently been working closely with the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) – our regional mobile police unit dedicated to addressing youth exploitation and prostitution - and Mia

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highlighted her work with gang affiliated or gang idolizing youth, assisting them to exit gangs and addressing the cultural acceptance of the gangster lifestyle. She spoke to a number of assaults where youth have had broken fingers, burns and even a ‘tattoo’ carved into their scalp as they are manipulated and extorted for drugs, drug money, or asked to commit assaults.

With increasing pressure on gangs in the lower mainland, there is increased incentive for gangs to bring their influence to Vancouver Island. The committee was impressed with the accomplishments of the CRED program – assisting 6 youth to exit gangs, granting \$2,500 from our own resources and initiating a regional funding drive resulting in an additional \$2,750. CRED is applying for funding to continue this important work.

The committee is also keenly aware of the insecurity of housing for youth and families. Our January guest speaker was Andrew Wynn Williams from the **Coalition to End Homelessness**, who have worked to identify both the severity of homelessness in Greater Victoria and the cost effectiveness of different housing models. The vacancy rate for rent that is lower than \$700 a month is non-existent.

He also identified some very innovative services including the **Homelessness Prevention Fund**. Funded entirely by private donations, this fund was established in January of 2011 by the Coalition and its partners, HPF provides a one-time grant as bridge funding to those facing homelessness due to financial hardship. Grants from the fund can be used for rent or utility related expenses and paid directly to the landlord or utility company (e.g. hydro). Recipients of the fund do not have to repay the grant (which can be up to a maximum of \$500). Other options that help with homelessness in Greater Victoria include: BC Housing’s **Rental Assistance Program (RAP) supplements**; BC Housing’s **Shelter Aid for Elderly Residents (SAFER) supplements**; BC Housing’s **Emergency Shelter Program (ESP)**; and **Homelessness Outreach Program (HOP)**. 80% of those provided with housing assistance remained housed after 6 months. You can find more info at [www.victoriahomelessness.ca](http://www.victoriahomelessness.ca) or [www.homeforhope.ca](http://www.homeforhope.ca)

It was estimated in 2008 by the Community Social Planning Council in “A Youth Housing Study for BC’s Capital Region” that 616 youth were homeless in Greater Victoria: 220 were aged 13-18, 323 were emerging adults aged 19-24 and 73 were young adults (aged 25-30). There have consistently been only 19 shelter beds for youth for the past 15 years. Since 2012 members of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and CRATsey have been looking at how to improve youth housing. In November of 2013 we reported that Threshold Youth Housing planned to increase the number of youth they help from the current 19 beds to 50 in the next 5 years. In February of 2014, the West Shore Youth Housing Task Force turned over all funding raised to Threshold, to assist in housing youth in the West Shore.

Threshold have initiated the SHY (Safe Housing for Youth) program. Instead of building new structures to house youth, time is put into actively searching out “youth-friendly” landlords who will accept youths as tenants. While building structures to house at-risk youth still has a

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place in the housing continuum for at-risk youth, construction is not only costly, but it takes time. The SHY program attempts to house *quickly* that segment of the at-risk population who are high functioning, low needs, and motivated to seek independence but need affordable and stable housing. Modeled after programs running in Vancouver, Winnipeg and London, Ontario, the SHY Program is designed to house at least 8 youth over a one year period at the current level of funding. The target population will be at-risk youth transitioning into adulthood that have barriers (mainly age, minimum wage jobs and no savings) to finding safe housing. <http://thresholdhousing.ca>

The committee is keenly aware that when youth do not have a safe secure home, they are much more vulnerable to exploitation. Protective factors include strong relationships and community connections. The Mobile Youth Services Team (of one) continues to advocate for youth who have run away from home, are dealing with addiction issues, or who have been sexually exploited. The MYST position asked for but did not receive an additional team member. Youth continue to be highly mobile within the Capital Region and additional resources that could cross all boundaries would be helpful to youth and families dealing with pimps, gangs and criminal influences. A team of one cannot be 'on call' all the time, leaving families waiting for thinly stretched resources in times of dire need.

Each Spring, we bring Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others, (TCO<sup>2</sup>) an interactive theatre presentation put on by **The Children of the Street Society**, to local middle and high schools to help inform youth. Presentations are based on the real life experiences of youth who have worked with the Society and this helps to provide youth with insights and tools to prevent exploitation. We organized a presentation for the Committee, to help our municipal representatives understand some of the methods of exploitation and signs that youth may be being 'groomed' for exploitation. [www.childrenofthestreet.com](http://www.childrenofthestreet.com)

Along with the difficult work of being aware of the exploitation and abuse of children, we also focused on the positive work being done to create and reinforce healthy lifestyles by local governments through their recreation programming. Mr. Ian Hennigar, Senior Manager, Peninsula Recreation Association presented to the committee on their efforts to address the alarming statistics that 84% of 3 to 4 year olds get the required 180 minutes of physical activity, **but only 4% of 12 to 17 year olds get the required 180 minutes of physical activity.** Ian highlighted two very successful programs, the Teen Lounge – an after school drop in program with weekend ties to public skates and swims, and the curriculum inclusive Circuit Training at Shoreline School, that helps kids get more active and also provide opportunities for positive social connection. He invited the committee to the October 21 'Kids R Us' Forum on youth health where Dr. Richard Stanwick and HASTe BC will be guest speakers, bringing together health, education, and youth advocacy groups to address the issues physical and mental wellness. Statistics are showing that there is a tsunami of costly health issues coming our way if we don't take proactive steps to address the lack of activity for youth. The forum is a multi-stakeholder first step towards addressing this issue.

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The committee is also committed to Restorative Justice Principles. Last year the committee provided a grant to bring restorative justice principles to school based 'Girls Circles' through Peninsula Crossroads Restorative Justice. This provided students, especially those at risk, with the support to learn the language, practices and tools to avoid and resolve conflict, take responsibility for their actions and repair harm, while remaining integrated within the school community. The final report is included (as we just received it), showing the benefits of conflict resolution skills training.

The committee has found that Restorative Justice Programs, seen as an alternative to costly court systems, are beneficial and the groups who administer them are well connected within the community. There remains a disconnect between the provision of cost effective restorative justice services and the availability of long term stable funding needed to maintain them.

Mr. Bill Warburton, our Oak Bay representative, presented to the committee on his work of 30 years in social policy. Mr. Warburton has held positions including Director of Research for the Evaluation and Statistics Branch of the Ministry of Social Development and Head of the Child and Youth Development Trajectories Research Unit at UBC. Some of his recommendations for the committee included: start young, admit what we don't know, try new approaches, break down silos, recognize barriers, think long term, utilize the 'science of implementation' (capture key components of pilots for programs), and plan for continuous improvement.

The committee also closely follows reports from the BC Children's Representative [www.rcybc.ca](http://www.rcybc.ca). In October she released a monitoring report: Not Fully Invested: A Follow-up Report on the Representative's Past Recommendations to Help Vulnerable Children in BC. The province needs to step up to its commitment to helping vulnerable children and youth by following through on recommendations. In November she released a follow-up report to Finding Forever Families: A Review of the Provincial Adoption System which provides key statistics. And in December, she released Who Cares? BC children with complex medical, psychological and developmental needs and their families deserve better. The report details the April headline accounts of an 11 year-old boy who was tasered by police. **Her investigation into the incident found system failure after system failure**, and she writes:

*"they can ... sometimes be written off as unusual, isolated and unforeseeable. To do so, however, is to ignore the potential risks to the health and well-being of nearly 9,000 children and youth in BC who are cared for in the same system..."* and she says *"A lack of human and financial resources means that children may not get the services they need to thrive, or even a suitable place to live. For Aboriginal children, this absence of resources is even more glaring."*

This is what we found the circumstances for youth and families to be in 2014.

Cynthia Day, Chair  
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee





**Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee**

**2014 Annual Financial Statements**  
**December 1, 2013 to November 30, 2014**

**Opening Balance December 1, 2013:** **\$ 18,620.33**

**Expenses:**

Lunches:	\$ 2,392.63
Secretarial:	\$ 2,600.00
Office Supplies:	\$ 122.27
Web site:	\$ 234.17

**Grants:**

Pacific Centre Family Services Assoc: CRED	\$2,500
Boys and Girls Club: SOLO	<u>\$1,500</u>
Total Grants:	\$ 4,000.00

**Total Expenses:** **\$ 9,349.05**

**Revenue:**

Interest:	\$ 17.30
Municipal Contributions to CRED:	\$ 2,750.00
Capital Regional District Grant	<u>\$ 14,149.00</u>

**Total Revenue:** **\$ 16,916.30**

**Closing Balance November 30, 2014:** **\$ 26,187.58**

**Notes:**

1. \$ 10,000 reserved for Mental Health Project.
2. \$ 2,750 contributions to CRED: \$500 from Colwood, Esquimalt, North Saanich, Oak Bay, Sooke; \$250 from Highlands.
3. Financial Statements compiled on a cash basis.

We have reviewed these financial statements and the accompanying documentation and confirm that they are a fair representation of the financial position of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.

  
Bill Warburton, Member, Audit Committee

Date: JAN 2, 2014

  
Ron Mattson, Member, Audit Committee

Date: JAN 2, 2014

## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report



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CRAT met 4 times during the year in donated space at Victoria City Hall. **Our thanks to the City of Victoria for donating space for the meetings.** We were able to provide light lunches to the meeting and to cover expenses for materials and presenters through an annual \$1500 grant from the Capital Regional District. During the year, we continued to raise awareness of the issue of sexually exploited youth in the Capital Regional District and worked to identify gaps in service for these youth. Although we are not seeing as many youth selling sex on the streets, it appears that youth are now using the internet and are becoming more difficult to detect and help. There also appears to be an increase in the incidents involving gang coercion.

At the January meeting, Bill McElroy was acclaimed Chair. At the same meeting, the new Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Coordinator, Constable Jennifer Gibbs from the Oak Bay Police Department, was introduced to the meeting by outgoing Coordinator Theresa Tuttle, who is providing orientation to Jennifer. CRAT thanked Theresa for all her hard work on behalf of Sexually Exploited Youth. Theresa also reported that she had asked the area Police Chiefs to add a second Police Officer to MYST. A community meeting was held February 6 with key stakeholders to discuss the future of MYST. After some months of consideration, budget limitations meant that a second person could not be added.

CRAT wrote letter to Minister Anton opposing funding cuts for PEERS, due to changing Ministry guidelines, which meant that PEERS had to close one of their key programs. After concerns were raised by the community, PEERS obtained a \$100,000 grant and were able to reopen their daytime drop in sessions. We also wrote to the Premier with our concerns about the closure of the Youth Detention Centre. At the end of the day, we were informed that the decision, which had been made with no community input, was final.

The Boys and Girls club brought over the Executive Director of the Safety Online Society to put on 3 Workshops on April 9 and 10: one for students, one for parents and one for people working in agencies that work with youth. CRAT helped organize the sessions, as many exploited youth are now being groomed online.

Although the WestShore Emergency Youth Housing Task Force was wound up and funds turned over to Threshold Youth Housing, CRAT continued to monitor the issue. CRAT sponsored Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (tco2) to put on presentations in local schools in May, including one presentation to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. In 2014, 10 presentations were made to 403 people. We will be bringing them back in May 2015.

CRAT helped organize 3 successful day-long workshops on Human Trafficking/Sexual Exploitation in in 2011, 2012 and 2013 and will be organizing another workshop in May 2015.

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Submitted by Bill McElroy, Chair, December 2014

## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

### Communications

The primary communications outlet (other than direct correspondence via email or regular post) is through the committee's website [www.victoriafamilycourt.ca](http://www.victoriafamilycourt.ca). Anyone wanting to contact the committee should email our secretary at [vfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com). Correspondence can also be received c/o The Capital Regional District Board, or c/o The City of Colwood (Chair's appointing local government).

This website helps to ensure reports, meeting dates, and presentations are readily available. It can be a valuable resource for both members and the community at large. Work continues to ensure that articles of interest to the committee are posted as well as our annual reports, dates of meetings and presentations.

The Communications subcommittee has also had the assistance of our representative from Central Saanich, Ms. Louise-Marie Bourque, who has helped to create and manage our new twitter account, @vfamcourt. It's exciting for the committee to be able to communicate about local events, promote articles of interest and provide a point of contact for citizens throughout the CRD.

The delivery of this Annual Report is a big piece of work done to assist with Communication. It is my hope that it will be presented to every municipality and school district by their representative, as well as being provided to government agencies and leaders. As chair of the committee, I will present the annual report to the CRD Board and the City of Colwood.

The committee also welcomes any suggestions for presentations to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, please contact our Secretary at [vfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:vfamcourt@gmail.com) with contact information for the suggested presenters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day, Chair  
Communications Subcommittee  
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

## Guest Speakers 2014

- January 15**      **Housing & Homelessness in Greater Victoria**  
**Andrew Wynn-Williams, Executive Director,**  
**Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness**  
Andrew spoke to the lack of availability of affordable rentals in the Capital Regional District, the number of type of housing that the Coalition to End Homelessness has determined are needed to service this vulnerable population in the most cost effective way (Shelters being one of the most expensive and least desirable ways to provide housing).  
Website: [victoriahomelessness.ca](http://victoriahomelessness.ca) or [homeforhope.ca](http://homeforhope.ca)  
Email: [awynnwilliams@victoriahomelessness.ca](mailto:awynnwilliams@victoriahomelessness.ca)  
Twitter: @andrewrww    Twitter: @homeforhope
- February 19**      **Access to Justice for Families and Children**  
**Mr. Jerry McHale, QC, Law Chair, UVic**  
Law has followed the practice of lawyers, not the experience of people. 57 % of BC Families have chosen to represent themselves, largely for financial reasons. The adversarial process is hard on children and relationships and a collaborative out-of-court solution is preferred. The opening of the Justice Access Centre in Victoria is a step in the right direction.  
**Family Justice Working Group of Action Committee on Access to Justice in Civil and Family Matters** [www.cfcj-fcjc.org](http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org)
- April 16**      **Mr. Darryl Plecas, M.L.A. for Abbotsford South.**  
Email: [darryl.plecas.mla@leg.bc.ca](mailto:darryl.plecas.mla@leg.bc.ca)  
Chair of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Crime Reduction, Mr. Plecas introduced their mandate and offered to present the committee's 10 recommendations to the committee in the future.
- May 21**      **Representatives from The Children of the Street Society**  
Children of the Street Society takes a collaborative and comprehensive approach to preventing the sexual exploitation of children and youth.  
**Contact Information: 208 – 1130 Austin Avenue Coquitlam B.C. V3K 3P5**  
**Phone: 604.777.7510. Toll Free: 1 877.551.6611**  
Website: [www.childrenofthestreet.com](http://www.childrenofthestreet.com)

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**June 18**

**A) Ian Hennigar, Senior Manager of Peninsula Recreation**

84% of 3 to 4 year olds get 180 minutes of physical activity, but only 4% of 12 to 17 year olds get 180 minutes of physical activity. Ian highlighted two very successful programs, the Teen Lounge and Circuit Training at Shoreline that help get kids more healthfully active. He invited the committee to 'Kids R Us' Forum on youth health Oct 21.

**B) Bill Warburton, "How we can help kids: Ten steps to improving the outcomes/wellbeing of children in BC"**

Contact: Bill Warburton [wwwarburton@shaw.ca](mailto:wwwarburton@shaw.ca)

**September 17**

**Mia Golden, C.R.E.D.**

With Pacific Centre Family Services since 1997, Mia has recently been working closely with the Mobile Youth Services Team worker, and highlighted her work with gang affiliated youth, assisting them to exit the gangs and preventing the growth and idolization of 'gangsta' symbols and lifestyles through social media and established youth connections.

**October**

**Bill Warburton, sharing his research**

**\*No Meetings:**

**March, July, August, November, December**



## TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES, TAKING CARE OF OTHERS

# TCO2

***YOU'RE INVITED!*** to the Victoria City Council Chambers  
**Wednesday, May 21, 2014 Noon – 1:30 pm**

*Children of the Street Society* “We decided to take a risk to reach out to the screen generation. Our team of young adult facilitators wrote, directed, starred in, and edited 12 videos- 6 for elementary and 6 for high school. These videos follow two characters, Carter and Julia, and are used to provide tangible stories of different ways sexual exploitation can happen, and the complex dynamics involved. In between the use of these short, 3-5 minute videos, our team generates discussion, uses PowerPoint, and even peppers in live role plays. In less than two months, we have seen an incredible amount of engagement and overall class participation.”

**Andrea Kraken:** “What interests me most about my job is the way we approach the issue and how we create an inviting workshop that youth like to engage in ... Education about sexual exploitation is key in protecting youth and giving them ways to stay safe and reach out.”



### Ian Jung:

If there is one thing that disturbs me, it's when I hear of the unfair robbery of a youth's childhood through physical, sexual, or emotional abuse.



### Priorities Committee

The Priorities Committee consists of the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and one other member appointed by the Chair from the committee to review applications received for extraordinary funding and grants to other agencies. Our goals are outlined in the Priorities Purpose document, representing the belief of the committee that simply observing the circumstances for youth is not enough, members of the committee want to manage our scarce resources to maximize our knowledge and investigate options that could possibly make a difference for youth and their families, so that we can make informed recommendations to local, provincial and federal governments.

The committee works to ensure that when a grant request comes forward to the committee, all the necessary information is in place to allow for an informed decision. The application is reviewed via email and a recommendation (with additional information if needed) is brought to the main committee for a decision, usually through a formal report. The 2014 applications follow; please note that not all applications received the full amount requested, and one application – Healthy Minds - was not carried through on, due to their not meeting the minimum support levels via their online crowdsourcing platform. Exact amounts are as detailed in the treasurer's report.

### Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Priorities Report January, 2014

We have received one application for funding from the Boys and Girls Club to support three School Based Internet Safety presentations and workshops designed to offer engaging research-based content about online risks and safety. Three workshops would be delivered to students, parents and professionals who work with children and youth about online safety.

From their website <http://www.safeonlineoutreach.com/>

“ Since technology began to significantly impact B.C. youth, particularly high risk youth, Merlyn Horton and SOLOS have delivered workshops and presentations to youth-serving professionals: social services, public health, women’s health, law enforcement, women’s shelters and education. Our highly respected, reputable and memorable professional development workshops have been hosted by many non-profit organizations throughout B.C.”

Recommendation: That the VFCYJC Support the application in the amount of \$1500 with a request that members of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee be invited to attend one of the sessions *at no cost*.

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### Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

#### Priorities Sub-committee

#### Form for Goods and Services Submissions

(Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to [Councillorday@shaw.ca](mailto:Councillorday@shaw.ca) for distribution

January, 2014

1. Name of organization / person(s) applying: **Boys and Girls Club of Victoria**

2. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:

Our programs tackle a broad range of critical issues facing young people and their families – we help them overcome barriers, enhance their lives and empower them to reach their potential.

3. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:

To bring Merlyn Horton from the **Safe OnLine Outreach Society** to Victoria to **provide 3 workshops on online safety to students, parents and professionals** who work with children and youth. Improved online safety education will help reduce



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online bullying, promote positive citizenship, help youth understand sexting, luring, privacy and dysfunctional material.

4. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application:

This request is to provide funding to assist in delivering 3 workshops: one for youth, one for parents and one for professionals who work with youth.

5. Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. In the Greater Victoria area or within your organization).

Yes, Boys and Girls Club of Victoria will work in partnership with CRAT, Pacific Centre Family Services, and other organizations working with youth.

6. Budget:

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Detail</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>	<b><u>Total Funder Cost</u></b>
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Boys and Girls Club	Confirmed	\$500.00	\$500.00
Boys and Girls Club	Confirmed In Kind	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
VanCity	Applied	\$500.00	\$500.00
VFCYJC	applied	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Admissions (professionals)		\$500.00	
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$4,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,000.00</u></b>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Rent and supplies	In kind	\$500.00	\$500.00
Admin, organization	In kind	\$500.00	\$500.00
Travel, honoraria, fees for speakers/panels		\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
<b><u>Total</u></b>		<b><u>\$4,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>\$4,000.00</u></b>

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored: VanCity, Admission fee for professionals.

8. Catchment area served – target population: Throughout the CRD.

9. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

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Cyberbullying is one of the aspects of social media that is having an impact on youth in our community. SOLO's programs will help students, parents and professionals who work with youth to provide advice and support in making positive choices online.

10. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):

Projected attendance is 100 youth, parents and professionals.

11. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)

This will be a one-day project in March or April 2014.

12. Evaluation framework:

Evaluation forms at end of workshop.



## Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

### Priorities Report

April, 2014

The Priorities Committee has looked at one application in the past month, as recommended by the Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee for consideration.

Members of the Priorities Committee have reviewed the application and support spending \$250.00 to assist with the Healthy Minds Canada production of a game to build empathy among 9 – 16 year olds.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Day

## Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

### Priorities Sub-committee

### Form for Goods and Services Submissions

(Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to [rmattson@shaw.ca](mailto:rmattson@shaw.ca) for distribution

1. **Date of Application:** April, 2014

2. **Name of organization / person(s) applying:**

Healthy Minds Canada (sponsorship recommended by FCYJC Chair)

3. **Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:**

Healthy Minds Canada is a national charitable organization that was founded in 1980, it has funded close to 400 research projects across Canada. They were very involved in the Bell Let's Talk Day. They are raising funds for the HMC game, you can find more information at [healthymindscanada.ca](http://healthymindscanada.ca)

#### **Healthy Minds Canada: Building Empathy With Mobile Games**

- 47% of Canadian parents report having a child victim of bullying
- 89% of Canadian Teachers say bullying & cyberbullying are serious problems in schools
- At least 1 in 3 adolescent students in Canada have reported being bullied recently

**Lower empathy levels have been linked to increased frequencies of bullying behaviours in youth.**

We are asking YOU to help us raise funds to develop our first game of a series of mental health mobile apps. This first game/app will be designed to increase empathy in the user through a variety of scenario-based challenges and mini-games, and will deal with the subject of bullying.

**Why does empathy matter in bullying prevention and coping?**

**A variety of research has shown that building empathetic skills and levels in youth can affect positive changes in behaviours, specifically in relation to a reduction in the frequency of engaging in bullying behaviours.**

The app, which is aimed at 9-16 year-olds, will reward players with points that can later be deemed as currency at a variety of online stores for goods and services enjoyed in everyday life. Additionally, Pollara (a polling research company) will periodically survey the user as the game progresses, using the results

## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

to analyze and gauge the changes in empathetic responses. As additional incentive, points will also be rewarded to complete these surveys.

**HMC will be offering this app as a FREE download.**

**But it won't be developed without your help! So please, donate today!**

\*All Canadian donors will receive a charitable tax receipt for their contribution(s) following this campaign.

#### **4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:**

The goal of the project is to raise sufficient funds (approximately \$45,000) to create a 2D game that promotes empathy. The game is geared to 9 – 16 year olds with the goal of reducing bullying through the increase in empathy.

#### **5. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application: Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. In the Greater Victoria area or within your organization).**

In our desire to support youth mental health, this game will start the conversation about empathy with youth. As youth play a lot of games it has the unique opportunity to be considered by youth who would otherwise not otherwise get this exposure.

We also hope that through this level of support Healthy Minds will help to publicize our committee through the inclusion of our Logo on their website and 'tweets' about our support.

#### **6. Budget – There are benefits associated with various amounts of donations:**

**\$500** level includes being part of the Beta Testing Team and a HMC T-shirt, your name on their donor wall and in their annual report and a gratitude tweet will be sent out acknowledging your support.

**\$250** level includes copies of 'When Something's Wrong' handbook series for Families and for Teachers – which contain coping strategies and will contain clues to the games challenges and your name on their donor wall and in their annual report and a gratitude tweet will be sent out acknowledging your support.

**\$75** level includes your name on their donor wall and in their annual report and a gratitude tweet will be sent out acknowledging your support.

As of April 14, they have raised \$3,666. This funding drive is on until May 1. All funds will go to the game initiative even if they do not reach their goal, but launch of

the game will be delayed. Healthy Minds Canada has already invested \$6,000 in the development of the game.

**7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:**

Healthy Minds (through their website [healthymindscanada.ca](http://healthymindscanada.ca)) is seeking support from individuals, corporations and governments, offering various amounts of public acknowledgement at different levels of funding.

**8. Catchment area served – target population:** 9 – 16 year olds.

**9. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:**

Bullying and harassment that are linked to a lack of empathy and 'connection' with youth as witnessed in the Reena Virk and Amanda Todd cases, to name just two. Increased empathy may assist youth with mental health or other issues to find more support within their peer group.

**10. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):**

The game will be developed and made available to sponsors.

**11. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)** One time grant is suggested, development date will depend on reaching the goal of \$63,000 to finalize the game.

**12. Evaluation framework:** None at this time. Once the game is produced we would hope that members of the committee would be able to assemble a test group to try the game and report back to the committee on the success of the platform and the particular game.

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*Special Report to the Chiefs of Police for the Capital Regional District, BC  
by Rebecca Nelems, External Evaluator of the CRED Program (May 2014)*

## The Crime Reduction and Education Division (CRED) Program

The CRED program was established by Pacific Centre Family Services Association (PCFSA) in August 2012 with funding from the BC Ministry of Justice. The overall goal of the program is **to prevent youth involvement in gang activity in the Capital Regional District (CRD) by providing targeted intervention and support to youth at high risk of gang involvement, youth displaying gang-related behaviours, and youth who are gang-entrenched**. Core strategies of the program include: one-on-one support plans and assessment; providing information, resources and pro-social opportunities and choices for youth participants, including a boys' group; providing support, resources and information to families and communities; coordinating and collaborating with other youth-serving agencies and actors in the community; and engaging in ongoing information-gathering through online media, walking the streets, and networking.

Participants have affiliations to 9 gangs in the CRD or Greater Vancouver Area:

- *West Coast Goat Fuckers (WCGF)*
- *West Side Bloods*
- *Nortenos*
- *Indian Posse*
- *Mad Cowz*
- *Unknown Soldiers (Greater Vancouver Area)*
- *Red Scorpion (Greater Vancouver Area)*
- *The UN Gang (Greater Vancouver Area)*
- *856 (Greater Vancouver Area)*

To date, the CRED program has successfully engaged **33 youth** (30 males and 3 females) aged 9<sup>1</sup>-21 who were actively engaged in gangs, exhibiting gang-related behaviour or demonstrating risk of gang-involvement. An additional 4 male youth are currently in the referral process.

In addition to gang involvement, CRED youth participants have had a range of police contacts and involvements with the justice system, including: Robbery; Obstruction; Assault with a deadly weapon; Break and entry; Assault causing bodily harm; Mischief; Possession; Robbery with a deadly weapon; Extortion; Shoplifting; Trafficking; Uttering threats; Breaches of parole.

To date, 5 cases (3 males and 2 females) have been successfully closed. **All 3 of the males were leaders or high ranking gang members (from the West Side Bloods and the WCGF) who successfully exited their gangs as a direct result of their participation in the program.** The average length of time in the program by those who successfully exited is 10 and a half months.

The program typically receives referrals from probation, police, schools, service providers and parents or caregivers. The wait time from referral to assessment is minimal, often occurring 3 days after initial referral. The average length of time current participants in the program have been in the program is 4 months, with the longest-term participant having been in the program for 10 months and the shortest-term participant less than one month.

<sup>1</sup> While the program aims to support youth and the typical youngest age is 13, the risk was deemed so high in the case of one 9-year old that the program included this individual in the program.



## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

*Special Report to the Chiefs of Police for the Capital Regional District, BC  
by Rebecca Nelems, External Evaluator of the CRED Program (May 2014)*

### Top Indicators of the CRED Program's Success:

- **The CRED Program supported the successful exit of 3 leaders and high ranking members of the West Side Bloods and the WCGF gangs.** All three have not only successfully exited their gangs, but evidence of each of their pro-social behaviours in their communities has been documented. For example, one ex-gang leader is now an active member of a community wellness committee and is regularly taking on responsibilities to support elders in his community. Coordinated responses and support to youth between agencies such as the RCMP, police and CRED staff, facilitated by program staff, is a key factor in this success.
- **Reduced police contacts, violence and gang-related behaviours have been documented for all participants in the program to date** (except for those who have been in custody for the duration of their participation, or who have been in the program for less than one month). These changes include reduced violence, pro-social behaviours, access to services, choices with respect to health or safety, increased knowledge and awareness, and improved social and emotional well being.
- **CRED Program Staff are being used by at-risk youth and their families as a community liaison to the police, and to other community services.** In May 2014, for example, one youth participant failed to report to the treatment centre where he was completing the last few months of his sentence and a Canada-wide warrant for his arrest was issued. His probation officer contacted the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) with an old address for him, asking them to arrest him. The CRED Coordinator who is working directly with MYST recognized his name and immediately contacted his mother. He contacted the CRED Program Coordinator 48 hours later and followed her instructions to contact his probation officer. She was then contacted by him again along with his probation officer stating that the youth was ready to turn himself in, accompanied by the CRED Coordinator.
- **The program has had a 100% retention rate and youth participant engagement and responsiveness has been high.** All youth participants maintain regular contact with program staff, with many making contact with CRED Program staff. For example, all participants of the boys' group who began in the program in the fall of 2013 have remained actively in the group and new participants have joined since that time. Even those who have relocated to other parts of BC (e.g. Burnaby Custody Centre) have consistently maintained contact with the CRED program manager.
- **Gang-entrenched youth and those at risk of entrenchment are increasingly aware of the CRED Program and see CRED staff as a reliable and safe community resource.** Staff is increasingly being contacted directly by youth and their families. The cooperation between CRED and the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) for Greater Victoria has been critical to increasing program visibility amongst youth on the streets.
- **The CRED Program is increasingly being viewed as a model approach to preventing and reducing youth gang-involvement.** For example, CRED Program staff member has been interviewed by the Vancouver Police Department, who has shown an interest in replicating the model.
- **The program has seen a dramatic increase in the number of referrals and participants – with a 77% increase in the number of program participants in the last quarter alone.** This is a direct reflection of increased prominence of the program in the community.

# 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

*Special Report to the Chiefs of Police for the Capital Regional District, BC  
by Rebecca Nelems, External Evaluator of the CRED Program (May 2014)*

## Key Factors Contributing to the CRED Program's Success:

1. **Program coordinates resources and mobilizes cooperation across community actors to provide support for youth:** The program is based on collaboration and information-sharing with wide range of community actors, including police, school boards, and a wide range of community organizations and services. While a formal wraparound approach, such as is used by the Wraparound Program in Surrey, is not possible at this time due to the lack of financial and human resources, the program has drawn from this best practice in its reliance on sharing resources, information and expertise. Collaboration and information sharing between the CRED program and the MYST for example, has directly benefited youth and both organizations. Another example of this includes the CRED Program Coordinator's collaboration with Angela Kermer of the RCMP who helped facilitate the successful exit of a youth from a leadership role in a CRD-based gang.
2. **The program is highly responsive to its youth participants.** Despite having only one full-time staff person, the program has been able to be highly responsive. Program staff commonly meets with new youth referrals within 3 days of their initial referral, and are highly responsive, attending hearings, visiting homes, and taking youth for medical attention upon short notice.
3. **The Program has offered support and resources to families as well as youth.** Families constitute a core aspect of a youth's support network and system. Offering support to families has strengthened youth relationships with parents and caregivers, offered much-needed resources to families and been critical in supporting youth to achieve positive outcomes in the program. Families frequently contact CRED program staff for information about the justice system and other community supports.
4. **Boy's group has fostered leadership skills and a sense of community belonging amongst participants:** The boys' group has been highly successful and has contributed to social and emotional well being of its participants, as well as knowledge about risks and potential alternatives to gang-related activities. Facilitators have worked to build a sense of community, belonging and safety and group participants make choices about what they would like to learn about, take on leadership roles in sharing their understanding and information with one another, and engage in community-building activities designed to build social and emotional well being.
5. **Program focus on social and emotional well being has directly enhanced its positive outcomes:** Studies show that youth are better able to absorb information and seize new opportunities with respect to alternatives to gang-involvement, when they have high emotional and social well being. By having an emphasis on enhancing the social and emotional well being of participants, the program has been able to successfully build youth knowledge and awareness of the choices and resources available to them, and the impact of their behaviours and choices on others as well as themselves. This emphasis has also built trust between program staff and youth, contributing to the high program retention rates.



*Special Report to the Chiefs of Police for the Capital Regional District, BC  
by Rebecca Nelems, External Evaluator of the CRED Program (May 2014)*

6. **CRED Program staff and PCFSA leadership have invested in building relationships across agencies and organizations in the community – a timely pursuit given the 13 municipalities within the CRD jurisdiction.** The program staff has also frequently and actively engaged in meetings with police, community and academics about gang trends, and intervention approaches – ensuring high visibility for the CRED program while keeping abreast of latest trends.
7. **The program is using internationally-validated instruments to ensure a high quality assessment of both participants' vulnerability/risk-level and the quality of CRED programming,** including the internationally validated **YLS/CMI**, a quantitative screening survey of youth by Multi-Health Systems (MHS) Inc. being used by the Surrey Wraparound Project, the Search Institute's **Developmental Assets Profile (DAP)**, and the **Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA)**, developed by the Center for Youth Program Quality (CYPQ) in the US.

### **Resources are Essential to the Long-term Sustainability of the CRED Program:**

It is the CRED External Evaluator's opinion that this program represents a significant return on a minimal investment. (See for example <http://www.care2.com/causes/how-locking-kids-up-adds-to-the-cycle-of-poverty.html>) Given the financial and human resources of the program to date, its results and successes are highly significant, reflecting how effectively the program has harnessed and facilitated the coordination of expertise and resources already available in the community.

Further, while gang presence on Southern Vancouver Island is increasing and the influence of Seattle and lower mainland gangs is on the rise, no other programs such as this are available to youth in the CRD region. With the growing need and number of referrals, it is recommended that the program be expanded and current funding of the program be increased. However, at this point in time, the program does not have any funding to continue operating past the fall of 2014.

Funding to continue and/or build on the program will capitalize upon the significant investment already made by PCFSA leadership and CRED staff during the past year and a half with respect to the achievement of strong results, the growing profile of the program amongst gang-entrenched youth or youth at risk of entrenchment and their families, and increased awareness of the program amongst a range of community actors, including police, school boards, and community agencies. ***An investment in our community's youth who are most at-risk of a life of gang entrenchment is an investment in the future of our community.***

The continuation of the CRED Program will also ensure that its lessons learned about effective and successful practices at gang prevention and intervention amongst youth are captured and built upon by the wider community far beyond the CRD region.



**PACIFIC CENTRE**  
family services association

*Since 2012, the Crime Reduction and Education Division (CRED) Program has offered critical and unique support to dozens of gang-involved youth – as well as youth at risk of gang involvement – in BC's Capital Regional District (CRD), with support from BC's Ministry of Justice.*

3. ***Gang presence in Southern Vancouver Island is on the rise. There is a clear need for the CRED program.*** Gang-related violence and risks for youth within and across the 13 municipalities of the CRD region are real and growing. While many Vancouver Island residents are not aware of their presence, multiple gangs – with extensive networks in Seattle and Vancouver and beyond – have made inroads into our communities. In the last year alone<sup>1</sup>, 217 police files were created concerning the activities of the “WCGF” gang in the CRD area. This presence not only puts our youth at risk, it puts our whole community at risk.

***“I get to start fresh.”***

- From a youth who was supported by the CRED program to successfully exit from a leadership role in a CRD-based gang. With CRED program support, he also participated in a restorative justice healing circle with members of his community,

4. ***The CRED Program is making a difference in the lives of youth, their families and their communities.*** The program has seen a direct reduction of youth engagement in violent or gang-activity as a result of their participation in the program. Program staff has also noted an increase in the well being of youth and their families, friends and communities. ***In the past six months alone, several youth have successfully exited gangs with support from the CRED program, institutional partners and communities.*** The program's impact has been felt by peers, communities and those members of the community who work with youth at risk.
5. ***No other programs in the CRD provides services and supports such as the CRED program.*** Unique features of the program include the strength-based, holistic support of youth and their families, and the coordination of inter-institutional services and supports to them and their families.

<sup>1</sup>

Between January 2013 and 2014

## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

*The CRED program has facilitated a modified “wraparound” approach that has enabled inter-institutional collaboration and exchange in the identification, engagement and support of gang-involved youth.* It is challenging to coordinate efforts and organizations within and across 13 different municipalities, multiple school districts, police departments, NGOs and community groups. Due to their commitment to serve youth across jurisdictional borders, the CRED program and its institutional collaborators and partners have managed to do so by providing a modified “wraparound” approach. CRED program staff have also been mentored by the Surrey Wraparound project, through formal assessment training, mentoring and ongoing information-sharing. Inter-institutional partners include the BC Ministry of Justice, MCFD, municipalities, school districts, law enforcement agencies and community agencies. Through the program, participants have gained access to a range of pro-social activities and opportunities – such as community recreations centres and participation in a boys’ group.

*Engagement of, and offering support to families and caregivers has been a key program strategy that has been critical to the program’s success to date.* By addressing not only youth needs, strengths and risks, but working with families and caregivers as partners in the program, the CRED program has had a bigger impact on the lives of youth, by also impacting upon their home environments, building on these as a potential strength and supportive environment in their lives.

6. *Ongoing Support for the CRED is needed!* Funding for the CRED program is coming to an end this summer. But the need is only growing. Given the tremendous success of the program to date, long-term sustainability of the program is key to securing its impact in the long-term. It is critical that ongoing support to youth and the communities who need this support the most are not jeopardized by a break in funding.
7. Long-term support for the program will ensure that the significant investment made by the CRED Program and PCFSA leadership in building inter-institutional collaborations and linkages with a wide range of agencies and institutions will be capitalized on and continue to be leveraged to support youth in the CRD region. This collaboration has been highly time consuming but absolutely critical to the success of this project, which has relevance for 13 municipalities, 3 school districts, CRD level institutions, 8 law enforcement agencies and multiple community agencies.
8. *Gangs don’t operate within municipal boundaries. Support to our gang-involved or at risk youth can’t either.* Please join us: Pledge your support to the well being of our youth and communities by becoming a partner and contributing to the CRED Program. We all need to be part of the solution. Our youth – and our communities – need our continued and collaborative support. This program has been operating for two years as a result of investment of \$200,000 from the Provincial Government. To be able to continue we need ongoing commitment from Government to fund this program.

*Interventions such as the CRED program have a positive impact upon not only the youth participating in the program, but upon the hundreds of youth who are part of their networks – and ultimately preserves and enhances the well being of their communities also.*

## Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

### Priorities Sub-committee

#### Form for Goods and Services Submissions

(Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to [Councillorday@shaw.ca](mailto:Councillorday@shaw.ca) for distribution

1. Name of organization / person(s) applying:

Crime Reduction and Education Division (CRED) of Pacific Centre Family Services Association.

2. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:

Gang activity in the South Island area is on the rise and takes place in all parts of the CRD. Our program works closely with local Police throughout the Capital Region to support and offer exit strategies for gang-involved youth.

3. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:

The CRED program has been very successful, but the funding runs out in October. The purpose of this application is to provide seed money to partner with Municipalities, Service Clubs and community groups to continue this project while permanent funding is secured. The next round of funding applications will take place in November and December. This funding will allow the CRED Program to continue on a part-time basis through to November and December, by leveraging this grant into matching grants from other organizations.

4. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application:

Youth Gang activity in the CRD is just starting to become known, largely through the work done so far by CRED. CRED works closely with MYST and agencies working with youth at risk to identify vulnerable youth and get them the help they need. If the program is terminated now, the trust and contacts made will be lost and it will be necessary to start all over again.

5. Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. In the Greater Victoria area or within your organization).

CRED works with local Police, social service agencies, school Districts and other community organizations to help youth avoid gang activity and to assist those who have

## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

become involved with gangs. There is a growing youth culture that glamorizes gang activity, but the impact of this activity is not as well known. Often gangs from the lower Mainland come to Victoria to avoid enforcement in the lower Mainland and recruit local youth to engage in gang activity. Identified activities include drug dealing, extortion, sexual exploitation and theft. Once youth become entrenched in gang activity, or become victims of gang activity, it is very hard to get out. It is more cost effective to work on the preventative side of this issue.

### 6. Budget:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
<b>Revenue:</b>			
Pacific Centre Family Services Assoc.	Confirmed in kind.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
VanCity	Applied	\$500.00	\$500.00
VFCYJC	applied	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Municipalities		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Community Organizations		\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$9,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,000.00</u>
<b>Expenses:</b>			
Rent and supplies	In kind	\$500.00	\$500.00
Admin, organization	In kind	\$500.00	\$500.00
Salaries and benefits CRED Coordinator (part-time)		\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$9,000.00</u>	<u>\$9,000.00</u>

### 7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

VanCity, Service Clubs, Municipalities.

### 8. Catchment area served – target population:

Youth throughout the CRD.

### 9. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:

Youth Gang activity is on the rise throughout the CRD. CRED works with Police and other community agencies to help youth avoid gang activity and to help them leave

gang activity. Many youth are bullied or coerced into joining or carrying out gang instructions. By working with youth and building trust, CRED has helped youth who do not want to be involved with gangs.

10. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):

This funding will be leveraged to help CRED continue its successful program on a part-time basis, until permanent funding is secured and avoid the necessity of starting the program from scratch.

11. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)

This will be one-time funding and will allow CRED to operate from October 15 to December 15.

12. Evaluation framework:

Feedback from Police and youth serving agencies.

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### Youth Mental Health Task Force

In 2001 the Victoria Family Court completed a survey of community agencies, the Millennium Report. In 2002, as a follow up to the Millennium Report, the Victoria Family Court investigated the circumstances for youth in our Youth Custody Facility via a survey. The results indicated a large majority of the youth self-identified as having a primary or secondary mental health issue. A Youth Mental Health Task Force was created, headed by Dr. Basil Boulton, pediatrician and representative from Esquimalt.

2006 the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee suggested a resolution which was successfully put forward to the Union of British Columbia Municipalities through the District of Metchosin and the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities. The Youth Mental Health Initiative proposal was refined and another resolution brought forward in 2008 requesting government ministries to work together to provide the pilot projects. In 2012, after the pilot project was still not realized, another resolution was brought forward requesting support for integrated services and to work with local governments and school districts to provide and evaluate youth mental health services in schools.

#### **2006 - B153 - Mental Health Services for Children and Youth – Metchosin**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Ministries of Education, Health and Children and Family Development work together to develop integrated identification, diagnosis and mental health management services for children and youth in local schools, along the lines of the Community Based Mental Health Pilot Projects proposed by the Capital Regional District Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.**

#### **2008 – B51 – Community Based Mental Health Project – Metchosin**

**WHEREAS** the Capital Regional District Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has developed an integrated identification, diagnosis and mental health management service Pilot Projects to be delivered to children and youth at Rock Heights Middle School (S.D. #63) and Belmont Secondary (S.D. #62); **AND WHEREAS** the Union of British Columbia Municipalities passed resolution B153 in 2006 to encourage the development of mental health services along the lines of the Pilot Projects proposed by the Capital Regional District Family Court and Youth Justice Committee: **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **UBCM request the Ministries of Education, Health and Children and Family Development work together to fund the Community Based Mental Health Pilot Projects.**

#### **2012 – B37 – School Based Youth Mental Health Services – Colwood**

**WHEREAS** youth mental health services need to be conveniently located for vulnerable youth and their families; **AND WHEREAS** the number of youth who are supported by youth agreements increased by more than 152% between 2007 and 2010, demonstrating the increasing numbers of youth for whom school may be the most consistent point of accessible community contact: **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the **Province support integrated services and work with school districts and local governments to provide and evaluate youth mental health services in a school setting.**

Burnaby, Vancouver, Bulkley-Nechako Regional District, Sechelt District, Cache Creek, and the Capital Regional District have submitted resolutions on Youth Mental Health over the years. (Search resolutions at [www.ubcm.ca/resolutions](http://www.ubcm.ca/resolutions)) The committee continues to hold \$10,000 in reserve for the creation of school based youth mental health services.

Cynthia Day, Chair, Youth Mental Health





### Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee **Constitution**

1. The Family Court Committee shall consist of:
  - a) One elected representative appointed by each of the following jurisdictions:
    1. City of Victoria
    2. City of Langford
    3. City of Colwood
    4. Municipality of Oak Bay
    5. Municipality of Saanich
    6. Municipality of Esquimalt
    7. Municipality of Central Saanich
    8. Municipality of North Saanich
    9. Town of View Royal
    10. Town of Sidney
    11. District of Sooke
    12. District of Highlands
    13. District of Metchosin
    14. School District #61
    15. School District #62
    16. School District #63
  - b) Notwithstanding a) above, each jurisdiction may appoint a non-elected alternate representative to the Committee.
  - c) Up to seven members at large shall be appointed by the Capital Regional District for a minimum of two years.
2. From among the voting members, the Capital Regional District shall appoint a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Treasurer according to Sub-section 3 of Clause 4 of the Provincial Court Act. Nominations to be submitted by the Family Court Committee for ratification.
9. Representatives of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Education, Children and Family Development, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Health, Housing and Social



## **2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report**

Development and police forces and First Nations may be invited to attend as non-voting resource members.

10. It shall be the duty of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee to submit annual reports and budgets to the Capital Regional District, the participating municipalities and to the Ministry of the Attorney General as per Clause C of Sub-section 4 of the Provincial Court Act.
11. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee shall develop terms of reference for the conduct of its affairs.

Approved by Committee January 18, 2010

## Terms of Reference

### A. General Meetings

1. Whereas the Capital Regional District electoral year ends November 30, and whereas the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the Committee) year ends June 30, therefore, appointees from the municipalities shall hold their positions until the first of January following the November municipal elections.
2. The Committee will normally meet monthly but no fewer than four times a year with additional meetings at the call of the Chair.
3. A quorum shall be seven (7) voting members.
4. The rules of order shall be the same as those outlined for Municipalities in the Local Government Act
5. A vote in abstention is a vote in favour
6. The chair shall exercise a vote and, in the case of a tie, the motion is defeated.

### B. Amendment of Terms of Reference

A proposed amendment shall be presented at the meeting previous to the meeting at which it is to be discussed. It shall be circulated also to all the committee members in advance of the meeting. One-half plus one of the voting members is required to approve an amendment.

### C. Amendments to the Constitution

A proposed change to the Constitution may be initiated by a member of the Family Court Committee or by a participating municipality. The same procedure for amending the Terms of Reference shall apply. Amendments to the Constitution approved in committee will be communicated to participating municipalities and the Capital Regional District for Ratification.

### D. Officers of the Family Court Committee

1. The Chair and Vice-Chair and Treasurer shall be appointed by the Capital Regional District under Clause 2 of the Constitution. A nominating committee will be formed in September comprised of retiring members and/or one or two members of the Committee whose responsibility will be to solicit nominations for the Officer's positions as well as to appoint a chair for the Annual General Meeting (someone not running for the executive, such as a past president or long time member).
2. If an Officer or Member of the Committee is unable to complete their term, their appointing agency will be requested to make a new appointment. In the case of an Officer, the committee will be requested to make an interim appointment (from the membership available) to perform those duties until the next AGM.

### **E. Duties of Officers**

8. The Chairperson shall:
  - a. Chair all the meetings of the Committee
  - b. Appoint sub-committee chairpersons
  - c. Prepare all agendas for Committee Meetings
  - d. Have charge of all correspondence
  - e. Be an ex-officio member of all sub-committees
  - f. Have signing authority for funds jointly with the Treasurer
9. The Vice-Chair shall:
  - a. Undertake duties of the Chair in his or her absence
  - b. Be an alternate signing authority for funds
10. The Treasurer shall:
  - a. Have charge of all monies
  - b. Prepare monthly statements of expenditures and revenues
  - c. Have signing authority for funds
  - d. Prepare annual financial statements and budgets for year ending March 31
11. The Secretary shall have responsibility for:
  - a. Recording of minutes
  - b. Distribution of agendas
  - c. Notices of meetings, and
  - d. Any other secretarial duties as required through the Chair.

### **F. Committees**

Each sub-committee or task force chair shall be appointed by the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Chair at the Annual General Meeting or the nearest possible meeting. The Chairs of the sub-committees may invite interested persons to serve on his/her sub-committee who are not members of the main Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. The sub-committee Chairs will make reports to the main committee and will recommend speakers, agenda items or other projects be included through the steering committee.

The sub-committees are:

- Communications/Planning
- Youth Matters
- Family Matters
- Priorities
- CRATSEY
- CASA for Children
- Court Watch

## **2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report**

The Youth Mental Health Task Force was created in 2005 and is still functioning to support the creation of a school based medical clinic pilot project that could address youth mental health issues.

The Steering Committee will be comprised of the sub-committee chairs, the executive and the secretary who may meet physically or electronically to plan the agenda.

Ad Hoc Committees may be created from time to time to study and report on specific matters.

### **G. Annual General Meetings**

The AGM will be held in January to receive the annual report and the annual financial statements for the previous year. The financial statements shall be provided to the Capital Regional District to be included in their Audit. The Annual Report shall be approved prior to distribution to the Attorney General, other ministries, and the Capital Regional District and the participating Municipalities.

The Chair of the AGM will open the AGM with an approval of the Agenda. If there are not seven voting members present for quorum, the AGM shall be postponed to the next regularly scheduled meeting date and notification of the postponement shall be sent to the municipalities and the CRD with a list of those absent from the meeting.

The first order of business shall be a call for Nominations from the floor. Officer's Positions require only one member to make a nomination. If there is only one nomination for a position, no election will be held but the committee shall make a motion to appoint the Officer(s). If there is more than one nomination for the Officer(s) positions, the vote shall be taken via a secret ballot where each member present shall write the name of their preferred candidate(s) on a slip of paper which the Chair of the AGM shall collect and count with the supervision of the recording secretary. If there is any dispute, a recount will be taken in full view of all voting members. Once the election process is complete, the Chair will declare the election results and the committee will make a motion to appoint the Officers as per the election results.

The Chair of each subcommittee and task force shall be appointed by the Chair of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee at the AGM, or the nearest possible committee meeting.

### **H. Membership**

If a vacancy occurs during the year, the body represented by the departed member should appoint a new representative to complete the term. If there is an alternate, they may continue to represent the body that appointed them.

If a member is absent for more than two consecutive meetings, without notice, a letter will be forwarded to that member soliciting future intent. If no response, or a third absenteeism, a letter will be forwarded to his/her sponsoring agency advising of the lack of representation.

### 9.1 TRAVEL EXPENSE POLICY AND PROCEDURE DOCUMENTATION

#### A. Conferences and Seminars - Authorization

Authorization for attendance at all conferences and seminars for which expenses will be claimed is to be obtained in advance in accordance with the following:

##### 1. Committee Member

Approval is to be obtained in advance from the Committee by motion at a regular meeting.

#### B. Seminars, Conferences and Meetings for which over Twenty-Four Hours absence from Place of Residence will be Required.

##### 1. Per Diem Allowance

Where the absence from place of residence will be in excess of twenty-four hours, an approved per diem allowance will be provided to cover the following:

- a. Meals
- b. Gratuities
- c. Taxi Fares – excepting extraordinary expenses
- d. Cleaning Expenses
- e. Parking Expenses
- f. Telephone calls but not long distance phone calls

Where the common carrier departs after 12:00 noon or returns before 12:00 noon, one half of the per diem rate shall be paid providing the absence is in excess of one-half day.

Adjustments will be made to the per diem rate only where any meals are included in conference registration fee.

##### 2. Accommodation

Accommodation or lodging expenses will be paid based on single occupancy rates.

##### 3. Transportation

##### a. Lower Mainland to Hope and Vancouver Island including the Sunshine Coast:

Travel by automobile will be paid in accordance with the current automobile expense reimbursement rate. Travel by bus, train, ferry or air-economy class will be paid for the actual expenses incurred.

b. Travel outside of the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island:

Travel allowance will be paid on the basis of economy class air fare equivalent plus ground transportation when applicable or current automobile expense reimbursement rate where the overall travel cost will be more economical by automobile.

4. Other Expenses

Registration fees for conferences, conventions, seminars, etc., will be paid for single participation only.

C. Seminars, conferences, and Meetings for which Less than Twenty-Four Hours Absence from Place of Residence will be Required.

Where absence is less than twenty-four hours, actual out-of-pocket expenses, including mileage in accordance with the current automobile expense reimbursement rate will be paid. No per diem will be paid.

The daily maximum limit for meals and gratuities is as established from time to time by the Committee.

Meal expenses to the above maximum level will be paid if departure from place of residence is before:

7:00 am – breakfast

12:00 pm – lunch

6:00 pm – dinner

Expenses to the above maximum levels will be paid if return to place of residence is after:

12:30 pm – lunch

6:00 pm – dinner

Reimbursement will not be made for any meals included in conference registration fees.

D. Receipts

Receipts are required in support of the following types of expenditures:

1. Fares – air, bus, train and ferry
2. Accommodation
3. Miscellaneous:

- a. Registration fees
- b. Extraordinary taxi expenses
- c. Long distance telephone calls
- d. Parking

#### 4. Per Diem Expenses

Receipts are not required to support those expenditures covered by per diem allowance.

#### F. Claims Procedure

Claims for travel expenses are to be submitted to the Treasurer of the Committee within thirty days of the period in which the expenses were incurred.

#### G. Advances

To obtain a travel advance, a written request must be completed and approved by the Treasurer at a regular meeting in advance of the date for which the funds are required.

## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

### *Priorities Sub-Committee*

#### **Philosophy:**

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (FCYJC) will consider support in the form of seed money for community agencies or persons who provide services for youth and/or families having contact with the justice system.

#### **Purpose:**

Evaluate applications to the FCYJC for goods and services using set parameters and criteria.  
Make recommendations to the FCYJC on applications for goods and services.

#### **Structure:**

- \* Three or more members of the FCYJC
- \* Chair to be appointed by FCYJC Chair
- \* Meet as required

#### **Process:**

- \* Meet at request of Chair on receipt of application(s) to the FCYJC for goods and services seed money. (May communicate via email for simplicity)
- \* Review application using criteria as set by the FCYJC
- \* Enlist resources from outside the sub-committee as necessary to answer any questions prior to making a recommendation to the FCYJC.
- \* Provide summary of review including recommendations, with rationale, to the FCYJC - the recommendations will include a budgeted amount.
- \* Project liaison to provide accountability of project progress to the FCYJC

#### **2014 Membership:**

Cynthia Day (VFCYJ Chair)

Ron Mattson (VFCYJ Vice-Chair)

Kerrie Reay, Councillor (Sooke)

Bill McElroy (Treasurer)



## 2014 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

### Form for Priorities Submissions (Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to [rmattson@shaw.ca](mailto:rmattson@shaw.ca) AND [yfamcourt@gmail.com](mailto:yfamcourt@gmail.com) for distribution

1. Date of Application:
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying:  
Contact person for follow-up:
3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:
4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:
5. Any features of the project you believe are pertinent to this application:
6. Will the project dovetail with other similar work? (ie. in the Greater Victoria area or within your organization)
7. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative, please include funding from other sources and feel free to attach a spreadsheet if needed:
8. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:
9. Catchment area served – target population:
10. Needs/problems to be addressed through the project work:
11. Deliverables (goods and services to be provided):
12. Timeframes (eg. Intended start date of project, length of time from start of project to deliverables, one time project or on-going?)
13. Evaluation framework (How will you know if your project has been a success and how will the Family Court Committee know?)
14. Would you be able to present to the committee upon completion of your project?

This form is intended for your convenience and that of the FCYJC. Please use it for your submission and as a guide.

*(Form updated; Jan, 2015(C. Day)*

### **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE**

The Family Court Committee may:

- be a force in educating the public on issues related to Family Court
- sit in on court hearings to monitor the actions of all officials concerned with the welfare of youth and assist judges upon request
- report to the Capital Regional District Board and member municipalities problems which are of concern
- enter and monitor both open and secure custody facilities
- comment upon legislation concerning families and youth and –
- make recommendations to appropriate legislative bodies concerning any matters deemed to be covered by our several mandates

In addition, the Family Court Committee must report annually to the Ministry of the Attorney General and its member municipalities.

### **AUTHORITY OF THE FAMILY COURT COMMITTEE**

The Family Court Committee is constituted under the *Provincial Court Act* with powers and duties as listed under Section 4.1 in addition, it has been designated by the Attorney General of British Columbia (as of June 27, 1984) to be the youth Justice Committee, under section 69 of the *Federal Young Offenders Act*, Bill C-61 (see Sections 4.2 and 4.3).

The Victoria Family Court is authorized by the Ministry of Children and Families to the Community Committee that reviews the circumstances of youth in custody in our local containment centre, and physical environment and programs provided them. To that end, we are assured entry to the youth Containment Centre and access to all necessary information. Centre staff attends the committee as resource people as they are able.

### **FINANCING AND STRUCTURE OF THE FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

Since the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (the Committee) services the Greater Victoria area, it is responsible to the Capital Regional district (CRD) from whence it receives its funding (see Sections 4.5 and 4.6 for CRD Bylaws). The budget is submitted and approved each year in December. However, grants are not received until August of the next year.

One representative is appointed annually by each of the Municipalities of Esquimalt, Oak Bay, Langford, Colwood, Central Saanich and North Saanich, the Districts of Saanich, Metchosin, Highlands and Sooke, the City of Victoria and the Towns of Sidney and View Royal. We also have appointed members from the School Districts of Victoria (61), Sooke (62) and Saanich (63). Up to seven members at large may be appointed by the CRD (selected from nominations received from the Committee and other interested organizations). In total there are up to 23 voting members.

The Committee's mandate involves working with the Ministries of the Attorney General, Public Safety and Solicitor general, Education, Children and Family Development, Social Development, and Health Services. Resource People from these ministries attend general meetings as non-voting personnel, and have also been expected to assist at the sub-committee level. With the increasing workload, only specific projects can expect to receive assistance from Ministry staff, whose assistance is most appreciated.

### Memorandum of Agreement Between Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Victoria

#### Program

The intent of this memo of agreement is to specify the relationship between the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (FCYJ) and CASA Victoria in order to provide high quality services to vulnerable children and their families within the Greater Victoria area. The FCYJ is incorporated under the Capital Regional District (CRD). Pursuant to FCYJ policy CASA has submitted an application which was approved September 8, 2010 following recommendations from a Task Force comprising the FCYJ Youth Justice Sub-Committee and CASA representatives.

The CASA Mission Statement states that:

CASA: Greater Victoria advocates for the best interests of at risk children who are before the provincial court pursuant to the *Child, Family and Community Service Act*. The safety and well being of children is the major concern and a stable family is the preferred environment for the care and upbringing of children. The child's best interest and where feasible the views of the child will be heard and represented to the court. This will be achieved through trained volunteers with notice and disclosure to all parties.

This is consistent with the mandate of the FCYJ Committee to serve youth at risk through issues handled in court under the *Child, Family and Community Service Act* (CFCSA).

CASA Victoria started through a community needs project by volunteer members of Leadership Victoria who consulted with many local groups and individuals followed by a conference of community leaders who confirmed the need for a CASA program in Victoria. CASA is a well established in the USA and the development of CASAVictoria has been supported throughout by the National CASA organization.

The FCYJ and CASA Victoria agree to the following:

1. CASA will operate as an independent sub-group of the FCYJ but be part of the FCYJ family. Eventually CASA may develop its own Board of Directors under the Society Act (B.C.) but initially will be guided by a CASA Development Group comprised of members of the community.
2. Following agreements, CASA will pilot the program in an agreed upon jurisdiction. At the end of the pilot term, CASA will undertake an evaluation of the pilot for presentation to the FCYJC prior to expanding into other jurisdictions.
3. CASA will report monthly to FCYJ meetings. A delegate from CASA will be selected by CASA and will be appointed to the FCYJ Committee by the Capital Regional District.
4. CASA will keep its own accounts and operate its own budget. Seed money may be allocated by FCYJ at their discretion. CASA will seek other sources of funding that do not conflict with FCYJ. CASA will prepare an annual report for inclusion in the FCYJC Annual Report.