

Presented January 16, 2019

Annual
Report

2018



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2018 Membership

- ❖ **Cynthia Day, Chair**, Councillor (Colwood)
- ❖ **Ron Mattson, Vice Chair**, Councillor (View Royal)
- ❖ **Bill McElroy, Treasurer & CRAT/SEY Chair (CRD*)**
- ❖ Georgia Peters, (CRD*)
- ❖ Helen Hughes, (CRD*)
- ❖ Geanine Robey, (CRD*) RJ Liaison
- ❖ Ranj Atwal (MCFD), (CRD*)
- ❖ Sigurd Johannesen, (CRD*)
- ❖ Melissa Hyland, (CRD*) Resiliency Rising Society, Wa Kata' Keri:te')
- ❖ Gillian Lindquist, Restorative Justice Victoria
- ❖ Jessica Rourke, Restorative Justice Victoria
- ❖ Lilja Chong, Councillor (Alternate Colwood)
- ❖ Beth Burton-Krahn, Councillor, (Esquimalt)
- ❖ Andy McKinnon, Councillor (Metchosin)
- ❖ Moralea Milne, Councillor (Metchosin)
- ❖ Matt Sahlstrom, Councillor (Langford)
- ❖ Tim Chad, Councillor (Sidney)
- ❖ Peter Wainwright, Councillor (Alternate-Sidney)
- ❖ Jack McClintock, Councillor (North Saanich)
- ❖ Geoff Orr, Councillor (Alternate-North Saanich)
- ❖ Michelle Kirby, Councillor (Oak Bay)
- ❖ Bill Warburton (Oak Bay Citizen Representative)
- ❖ Marilyn Holman, (Saanich Citizen Representative)
- ❖ Marcie McLean, Councillor (Highlands)
- ❖ Leslie Anderson, (Alternate-Highlands)
- ❖ Maja Tait, Mayor (Sooke)
- ❖ Jeremy Loveday, Councillor (Victoria)
- ❖ Sandra Sarsfield, (Victoria Citizen Representative)
- ❖ Alesha Doran, Indigenous Perspectives Society
- ❖ Pat Bryant, Mobile Youth Services Team
- ❖ Member, Saanich Police
- ❖ Cate Bennett (MCFD)
- ❖ Single Parent Resource Centre (vacant)
- ❖ Sylvia Burns, (MCFD, Director of Operations - Youth Justice)
- ❖ Suzanne Beavan, (Acting Youth Justice Team Leader)
- ❖ Member, Youth Probation Officer
- ❖ Sue Hendricks, Director, Aboriginal Programs and Relationships
- ❖ Daleen Thomas, Central Saanich
- ❖ Jen Shortt, Artemis Society & Thirteen Moon Farm
- ❖ Mia Golden, Crime Reduction Education Division of Pacific Centre Family Services Society
- ❖ Member, Saanich Police
- ❖ Tim Dunford, Trustee, Saanich School District 63
- ❖ Barb Menzies, Trustee, Saanich School District 63
- ❖ Ravi Parmar, Trustee, Sooke School District 62
- ❖ Jordan Watters, Trustee, Victoria School District 61
- ❖ Deb Whitten, Trustee, Victoria School District 61
- ❖ West Shore R.C.M.P., (vacant)
- ❖ Gord Irving, Boys' & Girls' Club
- ❖ John Howard Society of Victoria (vacant)
- ❖ Victoria Court Registry, (Vacant)
- ❖ Public Safety and Solicitor General (Vacant)
- ❖ Central Saanich Police (Vacant)

*CRD – the Capital Regional District appoints up to seven (7) members at large

Report from the Chair, Cynthia Day

As a committee of the Capital Regional District, we are blessed to live work and play in the traditional territories of the Coast Saalish Peoples. We meet at 11:30 on the third Wednesday of most months at the Victoria City Hall Antechamber in the traditional territory of the Esquimalt and Songhees People. Our job as the **Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice (VFCYJ) 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 - municipal, provincial and federal.

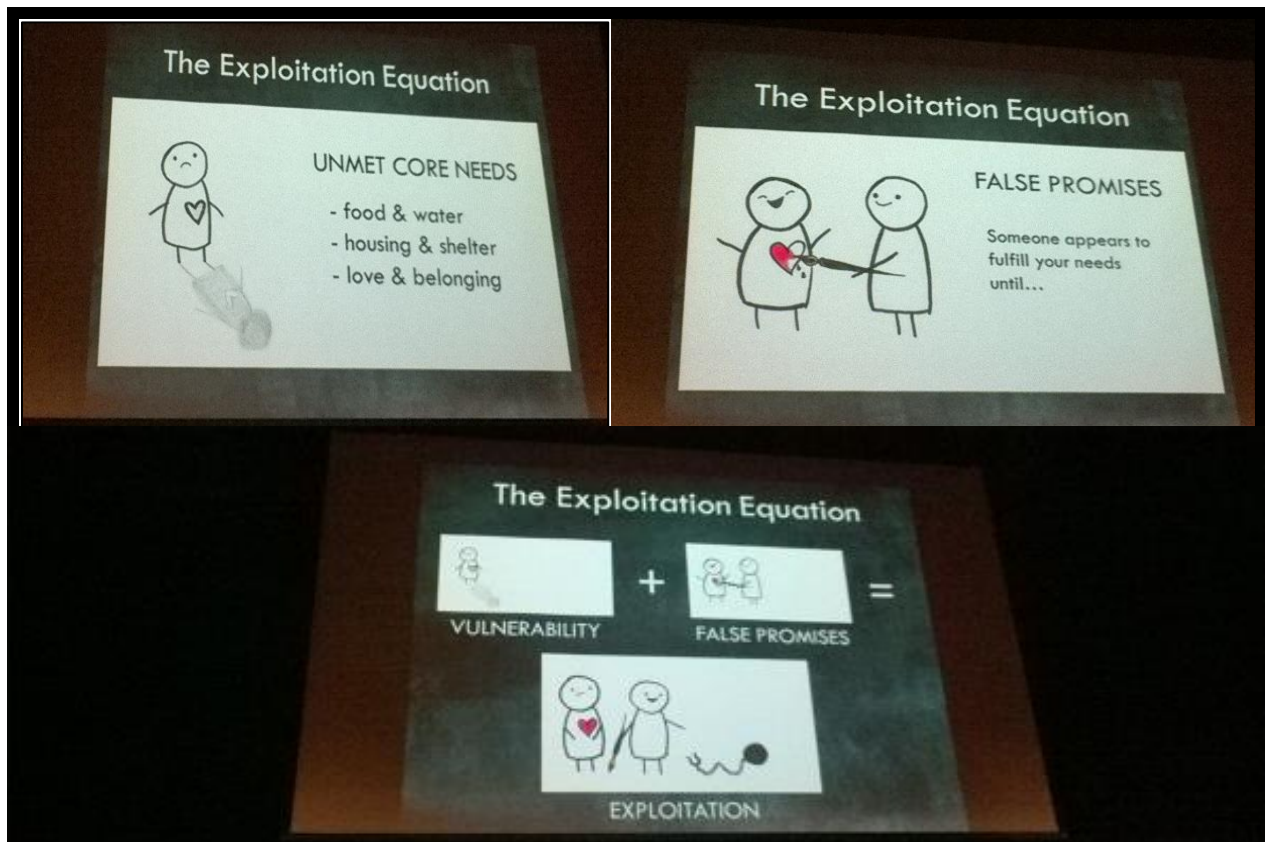
The Canadian Council for Refugees recognizes the Indigenous Peoples of Canada as its original inhabitants.

- The CCR recognizes that refugees, migrants and the Indigenous Peoples of Canada may share similar experiences with injustice due to persecution, oppression, colonization, discrimination, stereotyping and exclusion.
- Some refugees are historically or currently persecuted in their country of origin due to their status as Indigenous Peoples.
- Some refugees, like some Indigenous Peoples, are displaced by extraction of natural resources (oil, gas, timber, water).
- The CCR is committed to:
- Promoting education and raising awareness among our membership about historical and current issues affecting Indigenous Peoples. We believe immigrants and refugees in Canada should be provided with honest and accurate information about historical and current injustices relating to Indigenous Peoples.
- Recognizing and appropriately acknowledging the traditional territory of the local Indigenous Peoples at meetings and consultations.
- Initiating dialogue and striving to build respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples in order to learn about issues of common interest and discuss potential strategies and solutions.

All members of the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee have been encouraged to participate in **Cultural Training** to provide broader understanding of: The legacy of colonization, including inter-generational trauma, privilege and racism, and **what it means to the average individual** or organization wanting to build positive relationships with Indigenous people and communities; How to **create a Call to Action response plan** that turns ideas into meaningful action; Upon completion, the outcomes that participants can anticipate are: **Strengthening collaborative working relationships with Indigenous communities**; Applying anti-oppressive ideologies and methods into our work and daily life; Engaging in ongoing reflection on **how privilege and stereotypes impact our work** and relationships. The Indigenous Perspectives Society offer Cultural training through a blended learning model with 7 hours of in-person training and 8 hours of online/offsite training. Members will continue to be offered opportunities to do this training.

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We continue to support the Capital Region Action Team on Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT) to provide free educational sessions. **CRAT brings Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others, (TCO²) an interactive theatre style presentation 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 tools to prevent exploitation. Presentations are tailored to the audience, age appropriate and delivered with support from Mobile Youth Services (Police) and Crime Reduction Education (Professional Counselor).



We hear that the **primary focus of our youth workers is trying to find ways to bring them home.** Support workers reported that a large proportion of their workload was trying to assist drug addicted girls that chronically go missing from their foster or group home. Youth continue to be highly mobile within the Capital Region and resources that cross all boundaries like MYST and CRED are critical to their wellbeing.

Consistently available services are in short supply and it is hard to keep track of available services within the CRD. **BC211**, initiated by the United Way, is a resource now available on Vancouver Island that can help youth and families **navigate to services** available in their area. Vancouver Island Crisis Line is another resource and there are live chat options for counseling as well. Spreading the word about telephone and online resources is important because **when families are stressed, they may not think of these resources.**

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Presentations from **Vancouver Island Crisis Line** last year indicated that they welcome contact and have in some cases provided a regular check in for people who are not in crisis, but who needed a connection to community. **It's OK to call!**

- ★ 2017 United Way Greater Victoria funds and launches **Shelter & Street Helpline**
- ★ **Real time updates** on bed and mat availability
- ★ 100 calls made in December alone

BC211 Reported to us:

“We started to see a trend – **the top reason for people calling was housing and homelessness.** So United way convened a meeting with partners of the greater Victoria Extreme weather response plan and bc211 to find a better way to help people find a warm place to sleep for the night. United way provided extra funding. The shelter & street helpline launched November 30 just in time for winter and cold wet weather and the coldest night of the year apparently on February 24.



The shelter and street line is updated twice daily and helps people find a warm place to stay on any given night. The map and listing on bc211.ca shows which shelters accept pets, carts and women or men only or families. There are 1300 people living on the streets in Victoria and only 215 beds and mats on any night and additional 110 beds and mats when the extreme weather protocol is put into place. **Beautiful thing about the help line is that it also helps front-line providers – like police officers – be able to track down housing for people in need.”**

Housing for at-risk youth continues to be a problem, particularly in the Westshore. According to Police, there are some 100-youth living rough. CRAT continues to work with Threshold Youth Housing to establish youth transitional housing in the Westshore. The current **wait time for youth mental health services in the West Shore is one year.** Wait times vary throughout the Greater Victoria area, but continued fast paced growth in School District 62 continues to challenge available resources. The new Belmont Highschool has a school-based Youth Health Clinic with satellite service to Royal Bay Highschool, which this committee lobbied hard to create as far back as 2003.

We were pleased to assist in the creation of **Peninsula Youth Health Clinic.** The Committee provided a grant of \$12,400 to cover costs associated with providing the professional space and support services where dedicated Doctors and youth volunteers came together to promote and provide free medical services in a stigma free environment.

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Without this funding, I don't believe that this initiative would have been able to succeed. The funding allowed the clinic to operate long enough to demonstrate both the acceptance of and the need for these services on the peninsula where **transportation has been identified by many youths as a major barrier to accessing services**. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has recognized the increasing need for youth mental health services since the Millennium Report identified it as a major concern in 2001.

Shawna Walker, ED of Peninsula Medical presented to the committee on the **Saanich Peninsula Youth Health Clinic**. Youth as well as businesses had positive interactions based on coming together to support one another – a core group of students attended the street market to publicize the Clinic and found connections which offered support and accolades. Students came to volunteer at the clinic and offered a positive environment (pizza and snacks were often mentioned as a way to come together) to those who were waiting (sometimes the clinic was overwhelmed with students seeking support) but with student support and a positive atmosphere, the overall experience was good. **An initiative of the Saanich Peninsula Local Action Team** (a physician's group advocating for local solutions), the clinic received positive articles in the local newspaper and the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee was also recognized for our contribution to their success. There were struggles in getting and keeping the clinic operational with funding contingent on demonstrating a successful model. The clinic almost closed, but Family Court stepped in with bridge funding and a move was made to Peninsula Medical, where they managed to retain the core clinic group and now have 10 GP's. **33 youth were seen by a GP between March 15 and May 7. Mental Health Clinicians from CYMH have seen both youth and parents**. Some of the GPs went to Foundry Victoria to tour and speak with Medical Director Dr. Jen Lee. Brentwood is a potential location for a second clinic on the peninsula. Sidney donated an iPad for patient surveys. The clinic encourages you to check out the social media pages and to share the posts: Facebook is @PeninsulaYouthClinic and Instagram is saanichpeninsulayouthclinic Any youth group is encouraged to book a tour of the clinic. Youth volunteers designed and distributed help cards to students in school, identifying places to get help for a variety of issues, including the clinic.



Youthspace Online-Counselling (www.youthspace.ca)
Youthspace TEXT-Counselling Line 778-783-0177
Victoria Native Friendship Centre (www.vnfc.ca)..... 250-384-3211
Two-Spirit, Trans, Queer and Allied Youth Drop In & Family Support
250-475-7624
Kiwanis Youth Shelter (www.vyes.ca/programs)... 250-595-3133
Out of the Rain Night Shelter (www.outoftherainvictoria.ca)
250-884-3701

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Carly Bryson, Youth Outreach for **West Shore Parks and Recreation** presented to the committee on facilitating student support groups in the Community Room at **Royal Bay High School**. Unfortunately, due to a critical lack of classrooms these programs have now been temporarily displaced while the school awaits completion of an expansion project. Youth for Change was one group that came together in that area, and members were involved in supporting one another as well as community initiatives including a new community garden. Recreation Centres continue to provide important places for youth to come together, which is impactful in that they naturally support members once they get to know each other. Ms. Bryson explained how the groups may come together for one purpose but end up supporting one another in other ways such as identifying strengths they see in their members who may be struggling.

Since 2016, MP Arnold Viersen has been working to bring attention to the issues around youth access to violent pornography, sponsoring Motion M-47. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee also worked to address this issue and for our efforts to support M-47, MP Viersen delivered a certificate of appreciation to the committee.



Updates from Arnold Viersen:

2016 – Educating Politicians about Violent Pornography

On March 8, 2016, I introduced my Motion M-47 in the House of Commons which instructed the Health Committee to study the public health impact of violent pornography. Nine months later, on December 8, 2017, Motion M-47 was unanimously adopted by the House of Commons. By the end of the year:

- MPs from all five parties had endorsed Motion M-47
- Over 50 NGOs supported Motion M-47
- Over 7000 Canadians signed a petition

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Thank you for your support. The letters you wrote, emails you sent and petitions you signed, made all of this happen.

2017 – Health Committee Studies Violent Pornography

Throughout the first half of 2017, the Health Committee held 4 hearings on my Motion M-47 and heard expert testimony from 11 witnesses and received 23 briefs. While the final [Health Committee Report](#) and [Government Response](#) lacked meaningful action, many positive changes across Canada were inspired by the M-47 study:

- Libraries in Ontario updated their policies on access to explicit material.
- The Keg restaurant chain added filters to its free Wi-Fi.
- The Alberta School Boards Association voted to integrate the harmful impact of pornography into provincial curriculum.

The 2017 year ended with an open letter on Huffington Post: [Will You Help Us Protect Kids From Violent Pornography, Prime Minister?](#)

2018 – Fighting all Forms of Exploitation

This past year has held some incredible steps forward. At the **Coalition to End Sexual Exploitation's 2018 Global Summit**, the key message was [the need to combat all forms of sexual exploitation](#). The fact is:

Fighting exposure to violent pornography helps reduce child sexual exploitation. Fighting child sexual abuse helps to reduce sex trafficking. Fighting sex trafficking helps reduce violence against women.

So here is what we did this past year:

- We organized an **abuse awareness day** on Parliament Hill and held an all-party screening of Sheldon Kennedy's documentary on child sexual abuse with over 400 Parliamentarians, staff and community leaders.
- We launched Canada's first **All Party Parliamentary Group to End Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking** with co-chairs from each party and the Senate.
- We stood up for the 2014 Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act (PCEPA) which tackles sex traffickers and sex buyers.
- We prevented the new NAFTA deal from importing immunity for corporations to profit off sex trafficking.
- We held a briefing for Parliamentarians on the new **National Human Trafficking Hotline**.

Each of these initiatives was supported by your voices. Thank you!

In 2019, we must continue to speak out against all forms of exploitation and I look forward to your help to speak up for the vulnerable. **Arnold Viersen, MP**

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee
Three-Year Strategic Plan
2018-2021

Mission:

To facilitate connections between municipal and First Nations governments, school districts, service providers, and the broader community in order to educate and advocate on the challenges and shortfalls facing youth and families who may come into contact with the justice system.

Vision:

Families and youth have access to timely and appropriate supports within their communities so that they may achieve their full potential.

Goals:

1. Increase awareness of the issues facing families and youth involved with the justice system, and raise the profile of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee.
 - a. Identify gaps in services.
 - b. Support youth initiatives.
2. Pursue and promote meaningful reconciliation with the Indigenous community.
 - a. Committee members participate in Cultural Competency Training
 - b. Acknowledge and reduce the over-representation of Indigenous people in the justice system.
3. Advocate for policies and initiatives that improve outcomes for families and youth who may come in contact with the justice system.
 - a. Give a platform to youth/ amplify youth voices.
4. Support equity of access to resources across the region.
 - a. Help other organizations leverage their resources in support of families and youth.
5. Facilitate collaboration between community service providers and governance bodies in the interest of better supporting youth and families.

Guest Speakers 2018

January

Carly Bryson, Youth Programmer, West Shore Parks and Recreation
and Royal Bay Highschool, Colwood

February

BC211 Your Virtual Navigator Service

Marg Rose, Director of Philanthropy, Resource Development
Allison Nelson-Bruce, bc211 Outreach Coordinator and **Nikki Grobekker**,
Senior Resource Development Officer
www.BC211.ca

June

Mitzi Dean, MLA

Constituency: 104 - 1497 Admirals Road
mitzi.dean.MLA@leg.bc.ca
Phone: (250) 952-5885

September

Shawna Walker, Peninsula Youth Health Clinic

swalker@peninsulamed.ca

&

Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness

Kelly Roth (Youth Task Force), **Don Elliott** (Executive Director)
and **Emily Jackson** (Youth Engagement Coordinator)
1125 Pembroke Street, Victoria, BC V8T 1J3
www.victoriahomelessness.ca

November

Reimagining Masculinities Conference

Youth Matters Committee Initiative
Jeremy Loveday, City of Victoria Councillor
jloveday@victoria.ca



Communications Report 2018

Notable Accomplishments (2004 – 2018)

The Committee made significant progress this past June in re-assessing our mission, vision and mandate with a new strategic plan. This document will direct our work and hence, inform our communications plan going forward.

One significant challenge with our committee, comprised entirely of volunteers, has been maintaining continuity given that a significant portion of our membership changes yearly, often in the midst of ongoing work on any number of issues. Thankfully, our executive and a handful of other long-time members have been the constant through all the change. Inevitably, however, these individuals will also be replaced highlighting the importance of ensuring that new members are well informed on the scope of the committee's work, our historical and more recent accomplishments, our ongoing concerns regarding the youth justice system and community supports for youth and families.

For both our new members and the community at large, we decided to create a 'Notable Accomplishments' Report, 2003 – 2018 to provide a snap shot of the VFCYJC's work during the tenure of its longest serving current members. It was a rewarding experience to recollect and reflect on our achievements as well as the programs and initiatives we supported with seed grants. We will continue to update this communications document yearly to keep it current.

Millennium Project Reports (2001 and 2003) - VFCYJC Early History

We also searched through our archives and found the 2001 Millennium Project Report and its follow-up Final Report dated 2003 (attached with Supporting Documents). The Millennium Project identified and consulted 35 individuals and groups whose actions impacted on youth, including members of the judiciary, the legal profession, police and social services. Youth who had previously been or were presently involved in the justice system and their parents were also asked for their "perfect world" recommendations. Their feedback was used to report to appropriate provincial and municipal authorities, including the Ministry of Children and Family Development and the Ministry of the Attorney General, both represented on the Committee at the time.

The major issues addressed by the Millennium Report continue to require our attention today:

- **Prevention** - through expanded resources that strengthen youth (e.g., Boys and Girls Club mentors, substance abuse education and resources and, comprehensive life skills offerings through schools and in the community
- **Timeliness** – through faster responses to youth in the justice system

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- New ideas for handling individual cases – through **Integrated Case Management** and youth mentors/advocates appointed by the Court
- **Better communications** – among all youth and family serving agencies to enhance their effectiveness and; among all parties to court proceedings
- **First Nations** – formulating a plan with Indigenous authorities to reduce the disproportionately high number of Indigenous youth in custody and in care
- **Volunteers** - recommending measures to tap into a cross-section of volunteers and train them to augment service levels to help address chronic under-funding
- **Alternatives to the Criminal Justice system** – identified as gaining acceptance in Canada and requiring long-term funding and monitoring, namely Restorative Justice.

In all, twenty-eight issues were identified, but the seven above were the ones the committee chose to focus on. The subsequent Final Millennium Report, 2003 reported on the four task forces that arose from the 2001 consultations. These included:

1. **Legal Matters** – The FCYJC was the catalyst in bringing the Law Courts Education Society of BC crime prevention course and related offerings to CRD schools with staffing and funding assistance provided by the Ministry of Education and ICBC. Also, a plan was established to train volunteers to work with Crown Counsel and a local lawyer to familiarize youth and their families with the court system.
2. **Integrated Case Management** – The FCYJC encouraged the government to expand the ICM system for Youth Custody Services, MCFD (being tested at the time) and noted that some progress was underway. A 2010/11 Youth Custody Services report reiterated the Ministry of Children and Family Development's commitment to a process that "places an emphasis on youth, the involvement of families, and the primary responsibility of community-based services."
3. **Restorative Justice** – Thanks to several highly committed VFCYJC members as well as funding and support from the Committee, significant progress in securing funding for Restorative Justice training across the CRD was achieved by 2003 with implementation left to individual municipalities. *(Dec 2018 note: From this initiative and the leadership of former member Etta Connor, Restorative Justice programs were established in three jurisdictions, two of which are still in operation: Restorative Justice Victoria which serves Victoria, Esquimalt and Oak Bay police, Victoria and Western Communities Crown Counsel and Saanich and Victoria Probation and; Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice (formerly Peninsula Crossroads Community Justice Program) that serves police, RCMP, schools and community organizations in the region. Oak Bay Restorative Justice folded its operations several years ago but as noted above, RJ Victoria now receives referral from the Oak Bay*

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PD. West Shore RCMP's community justice program and the Saanich Community Justice Initiatives (John Howard Society) have always operated independently of the aforementioned programs.

4. **Medical Matters** – The Committee assumed both an advocacy role and policy direction respecting youth with complex care needs. A collaborative role for the FCYJC was identified for future work with a variety of Ministries.

Responding to Change

In examining the Committee's history, it's evident that much has been achieved over the years with the vast and varied expertise of committee members. It's also clear that new issues continue to emerge with the changing times. Since the Millennium Reports, some of these categories include:

- **Technology** - the development of social media platforms and their dangers such as cyber-bullying, easy access to internet porn and subsequent health (addiction) and relational effects (violence, objectification) and the facilitation of sex crimes **including sex trafficking**.
- **Cultural changes** - LGBTQ rights and visibility, the #MeToo movement, and the growing awareness and decreasing stigma around mental health issues.
- **Indigenous Rights** – The Truth and Reconciliation Commission 94 calls to action (2015), the fledgling National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women, settler communities acknowledging traditional territories and their people, increasing numbers of First Nations Courts (beginning in 2006), increasing delegation of authority to Aboriginal agencies for Child and Family Services, introduction of the Family Healing Court Conference (2016) and the world's first Law degree combining both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Law (UVic, 2018) among other developments.

FCYJC On-line Presence

The Committee recently approved a budget for updating our website. We have since selected a designer to help us roll out our vision for the site and designated members to easily upload new content. We look forward to unveiling the new site in 2019.

We continue to operate a Twitter account (@vfamcourt) **Please follow us for information on local resources, social and justice issues, community events, news, policy developments and more.** Your engagement helps to build a better, stronger community.

Geanine Robey,
Communications Chair



Notable Accomplishments 2004 – 2018

1. **Clothing, computer and bus tickets** for Sanctuary Youth Drop In to assist homeless youth
2. Funded **Girls Circle** training and sessions at Rockheights Middle School in Esquimalt
3. Furnishings for the Victoria Sexual Assault Health Clinic **Family Comfort Room**
4. Submission to the **Children's Representative Five Year Review**
5. Increased Indigenous Cultural Awareness: through promotion and acceptance of necessity for **Cultural Sensitivity Training**; attendance at **First Nations Court** in Duncan; education on **Impacts of Colonization and TRC obligations**;
6. Advocacy for **support of Federal Motion M-47**, addressing health outcomes of youth exposure to pornography
7. Funded Restorative Justice Resource Group **multi-media tools** to educate the public and to assist in training the region's first case facilitators
8. Funded the development and implementation of the Restorative Justice Resource Group '**Trainer of Trainers**' course to launch restorative justice in three communities across the CRD
9. Funded Restorative Justice Resource Group training for youth participating in Restorative Justice Victoria's **Youth Theatre Outreach Project** for schools in the CRD
10. Funded **Advanced Training of Restorative Justice** trainers and volunteers throughout the CRD to better equip programs for Crown and other complex cases
11. Funded Restorative Justice Victoria to develop, deliver and evaluate **Mentor Training** and to produce a manual for province-wide sharing on best practices and procedures
12. Advocated for **improved provincial funding for Restorative Justice** with the Minister of Justice and Attorney General

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13. Brought Children of the Street Society to present **Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others** annually in Schools for more than 10 consecutive years at no cost to the school districts
14. Advocated for **Youth Mental Health** with **Resolutions** to the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities
15. Advocated for **School Based Mental Health Clinics**
16. Advocated for the **first Youth Medical Clinic in a School Setting** (Belmont), de-stigmatizing mental health issues and increasing ease of access
17. Advocated for a **Youth Medical Clinic on the Peninsula** along the lines of the Belmont Clinic, with special interest in cultural sensitivity for Indigenous participants and, contributed essential funding
18. Identified gaps in services for youth, youth in care and **Youth Mental Health** and Addictions Services.
19. Identified **youth at risk situations** that exist in less visible ways, e.g., couch surfers and the inadequately housed
20. Advocated for **supportive youth housing**
21. Hosted five years of networking workshops for service providers and youth through the **Bright Ideas Conferences**
22. Co-hosted Training for Regional Police Services with the **Office to Combat Trafficking in Persons** on several occasions with a huge uptake in training
23. Supported the **Mobile Youth Services Team** with letters of support for additional resources.
24. Identified **Resource Listings** available to community members (CRAT website link)
25. Increased VFCYJC Profile through presentations of the **Annual Report** to Councils and Boards

Updated November 2018



Victoria Family Court

& Youth Justice Committee

Issue Communication Tool

- 1) The issue is:
- 2) Some Resources where facts can be checked are:
- 3) The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee had/would like a presentation from _____ (Date) _____

The issue affects (circle all that apply or add any we missed):

Parents	Teachers	Bylaw	Restorative Justice
Children	Counselors	Police	Courtrooms
Caregivers	Other Parents	Probation	Victim Services
Families	Social Workers	Lawyers	School Districts
Communities	Outreach	Judges	UBCM/FCM/STAA
Recreation Centres	First Nations		

- 4) The Authority to change this rests with:
- 5) We are asking municipalities/school districts to:
- 6) We would like the Regional District to:
- 7) **Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Action:** Member responsible for follow up is: _____ (list who will draft letters, follow up or present to council/board, draft resolutions for UBCM or School Districts. Minutes will note all who are going take an active role

ie: **ACTION: Members – CHAIR**, Draft Letter to share via email for editing, **Vice-Chair**, Draft Motion for Committee to forward to Councils targeting UBCM, or **Court Watch**, Supply Documentation on Court Statistics or **Communications**, Confirm that reference documents can be shared, or **SD rep**, Check with School Trustees Association for process to bring resolution forward and coordinate with SD's

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Correspondence from the Chair in 2018



September 5, 2018

VICTORIA-ESQUIMALT POLICE BOARD
c/o Victoria Police Department
850 Caledonia Ave.
Victoria, BC **V8T 5J8**

Dear Co-Chairs Mayor Lisa Helps and Mayor Barb Desjardins,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee have great concern about the loss of School Liaison Officers in Victoria and Esquimalt. I understand that the Police Board will be meeting on September 18 and would appreciate your consideration of our input at that time.

From your last meeting in July, it is clear that “digital technologies are producing unprecedented levels of online child abuse material and incidents of exploitation and trafficking. From 2012 to 2014, the number of webpages dedicated to the sale and trafficking, as well as the sharing of sexual abuse materials of children, increased by 147%, with children 10 years and under portrayed in 80% of incidents” and that “355 offenders were identified as actively engaging in the trade of child exploitation material on Vancouver Island, with almost half (149) of the offenders associated to Internet Protocol (IP) Addresses located in Victoria and the surrounding area.”

Our committee includes the Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT) and we are doing our very best to educate youth about the risks of online exploitation. The lack of Police Liaison Officers in our schools will not help to address this major issue and represents a considerable loss to our youth police relationships. Relationships are the greatest defence for our youth.

In February of 2019 we will again be bringing TC02 presentations free of charge to local schools, put on by Children of the Street Society and facilitated by CRAT and MYST. This major undertaking of the Family Court Committee has been accomplished annually for more than 10 years and represents our continued commitment to preventing child exploitation and increasing youth safety through education, which will now be even harder for us to do without partners like our school liaison officers. (Please feel free to share the attached poster.)

Sincerely,

Cynthia Day, Chair

Cc: Del Manak, Victoria Police Chief
Victoria City Council
Esquimalt Council

FREE School Workshops

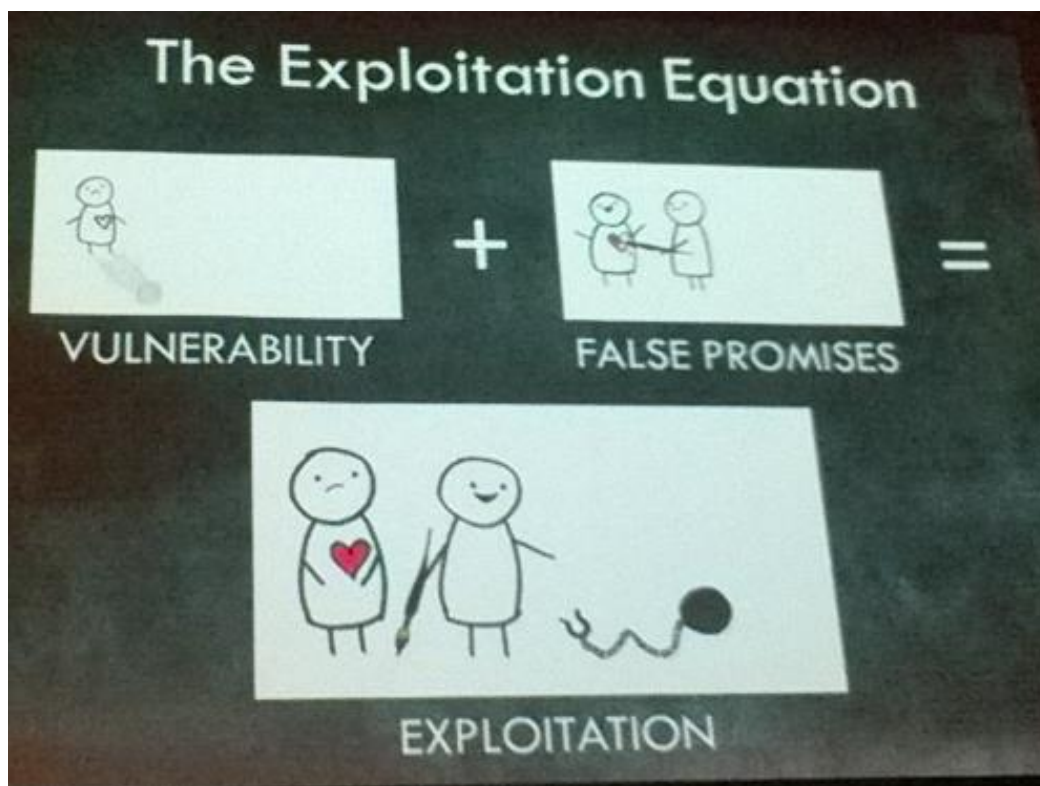
February 25 to March 1, 2019

TCO2 Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others

Brought to you by Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Children and



Live Interactive Theatre Presentations by Children of the Street Society



More info on what they do: <http://www.childrenofthestreet.com/tco2>

Book your session: mgolden@pcfsa.org or 250-208-2660

This is free to schools, and always gets a great reaction from the youth!



Backgrounder: School based Police Liaison Officers

Excerpt from the Youth Matters Subcommittee Oct 2012 Report:

"School Counsellors Caseloads Rising. School counsellors play an important role in ensuring every child has the best possible chance to thrive. But increasing workloads and a widening ratio of students to school counsellors means that counsellors in BC are facing difficult challenges in giving children the support they need. Carrie Swiggum highlights the problem in an article for The Tyee. In BC, the number of school counsellors has decreased by 11.2% over the last 9 years. Dr. Lynn Miller, professor of counselling psychology at UBC, says that prior to 2002 the BC government set the maximum number of students per counsellor at 360, but in 2002 teacher-student staffing ratios were removed from teachers' contracts, including school counsellor staffing ratios. According to Miller, this means that today a counsellor can have as many as 1,200 students in their care. Even though the bills passed to make these changes were deemed unconstitutional in April of this year by the BC Supreme Court, staffing ratios have not yet been put back into contracts, according to BCTF president Susan Lambert. **School counsellors are overstretched and their work has become reactive.** Miller says that: "A very significant part of your day is reacting to whatever the big problem is -- that day, that week, in that child's life -- rather than being proactive and preventive... we're trained to be thinking about preventive activities. So **teaching kids skills of emotional regulation, making good decisions, friendship development, conflict resolution. These are very hard to plan when you're reacting to a death, a crisis, a divorce, a fight or suicide threats.**" Counsellors have also seen their roles change. Jameel Aziz, president of the BC Principals' and Vice Principals' Association, says that their administrative responsibilities have increased, leaving less time for personal counselling."

<http://thetyee.ca/News/2011/09/08/Fewer-Counsellors-BC/index.html>

In 2012 both Youth Outreach Officer positions were cut from the Victoria/Esquimalt Police. The committee felt that the presence of Officers with whom youth had a trusting relationship was supportive of both the youth and the community and represented a continuum of care 'safety net'.

The Committee sent **a letter to the Police Board on January 8, 2013.**

The Chair met with Insp. Keith Lindner, Victoria Police Department, OIC West Division on January 22, 2013 to follow up on concerns that youth resources were critically important and cuts would result in less services to those youth in need and less trust in the resources that they did not have a relationship with.

The committee also heard from the Youth Matters in February, 2013 that "In liaising with community partners who have also tried to run youth focus groups, suggestions for better attendance include 'taking the groups to the youth' by holding the sessions in schools, malls or other locations where youth congregate." This supports having police participate with youth 'where they are' including at school.

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

Times Colonist, April 26, 2018 kderosa@times-colonist.com

On Wednesday he announced that all three school liaison officers, one intelligence officer, one reserve constable and one community services officer would be redeployed to patrol and a new alternative response unit that will handle calls over the phone.

"I have no choice," said Manak, a former school liaison officer.

"I have to prioritize. Do I not follow high-risk sex offenders or monitor high-risk offenders?"

"What about the illicit overdoses that are happening in our community?"

"Whichever way I look, there are no good options here."

Esquimalt Mayor Barb Desjardins slammed the move, saying the liaison officers are the first line of defence in preventing students from falling into criminal behaviour and are particularly crucial during the overdose crisis.

"We're extremely concerned about it. We value our school resource officers, we value our community policing approach," Desjardins told the Times Colonist.

"This is taking away the preventative measure that reduces your load in other ways."

Desjardins said she has already received emails from concerned parents.

Peter Kasianchuk, a member of Esquimalt High's parents advisory council, said parents feel "completely blindsided" by the news.

"We're exceedingly dismayed," he said. "The value of the school liaison officers can't be overstated."

The school liaison officer was particularly critical when the school was on lockdown in November due to a robbery in the area, Kasianchuk said.

Kasianchuk said it's "tone deaf" for Manak to mention the overdose crisis as a justification for the redeployment, pointing to the overdose death of 16-year-old Oak Bay High student Elliot Eurchuk as evidence this issue is affecting students.

"He's playing politics with our kids' lives," Kasianchuk said.

School liaison officers maintain a presence in a school, attend school and community events and are the main point of contact between Victoria police, students, teachers and parents.

Manak agreed that "school liaison officers are critical" and acknowledged that teachers rely heavily on those officers in dealing with at-risk students. Teachers often turn to liaison officers when a student is exhibiting worrying behaviour that might not be criminal but is above the capacity of a counsellor or teacher, Manak said.

"The police are in there to be able to guide and help and mentor and to bridge the gap and provide support. Unfortunately, that support will no longer be there," he said.

Victoria Mayor Lisa Helps said Manak had to make a tough decision to ensure that officers can quickly respond to emergency calls.

Helps said the school-liaison program "is a very valuable program, without question. But I think that the whole public should be concerned if they call 911 and it takes police a long time to get there because they're six officers short on the front lines."

"It's a very difficult position for the chief to be in."

Desjardins said school liaison officers and community resource officers were a key part of the 10-year framework agreement reached between Esquimalt, Victoria and the police department in 2014.

The agreement ensured the Township of Esquimalt received dedicated officers and laid out a funding formula after Esquimalt threatened to contract out to the RCMP instead.

In March, Esquimalt council voted 4-3 against spending \$40,778 to fund its share of hiring six additional officers. Esquimalt is responsible for about 15 per cent of the police budget, while Victoria covers the balance.

Several councillors were confused as to why the department needed new officers when quarterly police statistics have regularly shown reductions in calls and crime rates. Manak responded that disclosure requirements have made investigations more time consuming.

In January, the City of Victoria voted in favour of a \$528,000 increase to the Victoria-Esquimalt police budget to fund the new officers.

Victoria coun. Ben Isitt, who voted against any staffing increase, said the move to cut the school resource officers is a political one. "I hope the chief reconsiders his decision and maintains those positions and retreats from this political power play."

The province has been asked to step in and solve the dispute over the six officers, which is the process under the Police Act when two municipalities disagree on funding matters. The province has the power to overrule Esquimalt council's decision and force the municipality to pay for the new officers.

VicPD, which has about 240 sworn officers, hasn't had an increase in its ranks since 2010.

2018 Police Liaison Officers (PLO) Feedback:

Esquimalt High:

Our PLO supports our school with education around policing, drugs and alcohol and driving. Our PLO often does restorative justice with us to support students in moving forward. Our PLO will go with us to student homes to do check-ins and offer support with complex home situations. Students seek out our PLO with sensitive information because of the established relationship. When something significant occurs in community (death by suicide, overdose, car accident etc) our liaison officer contacts us to let us know so we can respond and support accordingly and then supports us through the critical phase that follows.

Rock Heights Middle School:

At Rock Heights Middle School, the police liaison officer is an asset. Overall, PLO presence in the school and at events allows all of our students to see police as trustworthy, caring and approachable community members. In a more focused way, the PLO is available to assist us when we have sensitive, timely or intense needs with our most at-risk and vulnerable student and/or their families. The PLO is broadly and deeply involved in the work we do to support and assist students and families, building a more powerful capacity because of the expertise and connections they possess. Our PLO is in the school several times per week and often daily, and is always available with immediacy.



The Honourable Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions
Parliament Buildings - Room 346, and
The Honourable Carol James, Minister of Finance
Parliament Buildings - Room 153
PO Box 9048, Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

September 5, 2018

Dear Ministers Darcy and James,

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee commend the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Judy Darcy, and Finance Minister, Carol James, on the opening of The Foundry in Victoria at 818 Douglas Street. It is part of a series of an umbrella of services for youth with a specific focus on mental health — a "one-stop shop."

It offers a seamless system of supports and where one asks for help, the result is a faster response and encompasses all aspects of need. Bernard Richard, Representative for Children and Youth, called for major improvements to B.C.'s mental health system last fall. Working with First Nations, cultural opportunities and safe programs are also included in these services.

As a Foundry centre, new ongoing provincial funding will build on and expand services to reflect the Foundry model and provide young people ages 12-24 with enhanced access to primary care, mental health and substance use services, social services and family and youth peer supports

Minister of Children and Family Development Katrine Conroy stated: "The new Foundry centres provide a warm, safe and inviting place for youth to come, ask for help and get the supports and services they need to get back on the road to health."

We applaud the government's actions to address an ever-increasing need in our communities and to support youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Day". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia Day, Chair
Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee



Annual Financial Statements 2017-2018
(for the period December 1, 2017 to November 30, 2018)

Opening Balance December 1, 2018: **\$ 30,499.39**

Expenses:

Lunches	\$	3,457.91	
Secretarial	\$	3,175.00	
Office Supplies (See Note 2)	\$	874.73	
Grants: (See Note 3)	\$	18,150.00	
Travel Advance:	\$	1,000.00	
Total Expenses:			\$ 26,657.64

Revenue:

Interest:	\$	17.00	
Annual Grant CRD	\$	14,364.00	
Travel Advance Return	\$	1,000.00	
Total Revenue:			\$ 15,383.49

Closing Balance November 30, 2018: **\$ 19,225.24**

Note 1: Accounts kept on a cash basis.

Note 2: Office supplies includes costs for Strategic and Communications plans

Note 3: Grants

Metchosin Foundation:	\$	250	
Cornerstone Youth	\$	1,500	
Sidney Youth Clinic	\$	12,400	
Reimagining Masculinities	\$	3,000	
CRAT	\$	1,000	
Total:			\$18,150

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.

A blue ink signature of Bill Warburton, consisting of stylized, overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Bill Warburton, Member, Audit Committee
Date: December 19, 2018

A blue ink signature of Andy McKinnon, featuring a series of tight, circular loops followed by a horizontal line.

Andy McKinnon, Member, Audit Committee
Date: December 19, 2018

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

Priorities Committee Annual Report

Committee:

The Priorities Committee (Committee) consists of the VFCYJC Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and one or two member appointed by the Chair. The Committee reviews applications received for extraordinary funding and grants to other agencies. Members of the Committee include: Cynthia Day, Ron Mattson, Bill McElroy and Marcie McLean. Ron Mattson is the Chair of the Priorities Committee

Committee Mandate:

The Committee's goals are outlined in the Priorities Purpose document. It represents 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. In 2019 the Committee will review its mandate to consider expanding its grants criteria. The Committee will also put in place a process to ensure reports (either written or verbal presentations at VFCYJC meetings) are provided on how the effectiveness of funded proposals.

Application Process:

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.

2018 Applications

Applications for funding assistance submitted for approval in 2018 included:

1. Cornerstone Youth Society (application attached)
2. *Metchosin Foundation (motion from the committee, Moralea Milne commemoration)
3. *Sidney Youth Clinic (funding approved in 2017, dispersed in 2018)
4. Reimagining Masculinities (application attached)
5. Capital Region Action Team (CRAT) (application attached)

*Please note, not all of the above organizations submitted Priorities Committee Applications. The Treasurer's report includes the approved funding amounts for each organization.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Mattson, Chair Priorities Committee

September 21, 2017 – Excerpt from the Minutes

Proposal for Pilot Project for a Youth Health Clinic in the Saanich Peninsula

There has been a Youth Clinic in Downtown Victoria for several years, as part of the Youth Empowerment Society. Last year, Wellness Centres were established in all 3 Secondary Schools in the Sooke School District. All of these clinics have a significant mental health component. The success of the 3 Westshore clinics is attributable to the Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator, Jen Harrison, who has acted as a liaison person between SD62, Teachers and Principals, Parents and Students. For the past year, Jen has been engaging Youth and Families in the Saanich Peninsula, and has been paid by the South Island Division of Family Practise (SIDFP). That funding will expire at the end of October 2017.

There have been challenges to establishing Wellness Centres in the 3 Secondary Schools on the Peninsula:

- there is no room in any of the Schools for a clinic.
- Principals are concerned about the time commitment because they are working to implement the recent Supreme Court ruling about class size,
- no funder is willing to fund such clinics until they know they will be successful.
- The Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator's position expires at the end of October, so there will be no one to work toward community engagement and liaison.

A youth clinic has been established in Sidney as part of an existing medical clinic, but the funds to use part of the clinic (\$200 per week) are not guaranteed. This clinic, which is well used by youth, has access to mental health personnel, including an MCFD Psychiatrist. It has become so successful that Doctors providing services to youth at this clinic, are able to get sufficient income to cover their salaries through normal billing to the Province. Currently the clinic is only open to youth on Thursday from 6:00pm to 8:00pm.

We are in a chicken and egg situation: funders appear unwilling to support this clinic until it is shown to be successful, but without ongoing funding, its success cannot be shown. There also has to be community support and liaison between the clinic and the community which can be provided by the Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator, Jen Harrison, except her contract expires at the end of October 2017.

The ongoing fee of \$200 per week includes access to equipment and examining rooms, services of a Medical Office Assistant, access to the patient record system, and a convenient location. Without such amenities, Peninsula health practitioners would not be able to provide one-stop medical services to local youth, as it would require significant capital costs. At the same time, the clinic has excess capacity. This is an excellent opportunity to blend these 2 circumstances to provide a needed service for youth.

Around 2008, the VFCYJC set aside \$10,000 for Youth Mental Health. To date, no applications have come forward to provide Youth Mental Health Services. When the Court Appointed Special Advocates Society (CASA) wound up its affairs last year, they gave the VFCYJC their remaining funds of about

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

\$5,133 with the understanding that it be used for youth services.

This proposal is twofold:

3. to fund the Youth Health Clinic in Sidney with expanded hours, as a pilot project until the end of the school year, June 2018, by covering the clinic rent (\$200 per week) for a total expense of \$7,400 and,
4. to carry on the services of the Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator for the month of November 2017, at a cost of \$5,000. (There are a number of promising initiatives to keep the Coordinator's position going until the end of the school year, but none of them are likely to take place before the end of October, when her contract ends and her experience and talent will be lost.)

This pilot project will cost \$12,400, which can come from the funds set aside for youth mental health, as well as part of the funds given to VFCYJC from CASA. The funds would stay with VFCYJC, and would be disbursed on receipt of an invoice, in much the same way as we operate now. If other sources of income are found, those funders can pay for some or all those costs, and we will spend only the funds needed to keep this pilot project going. Any funds remaining by June 2018, would go back into VFCYJC general revenue. Each Treasurer's Report would have a line showing the expenses for the month and the balance remaining. As two signatures are required for all cheques, and the expenditures would be itemized on each Treasurer's Report, there would be full accountability and the VFCYJC would still control all the funds.

Georgia and Tim shared that there are 95 people on a mailing list concerned with expanding youth mental health services in the Peninsula. The doctors are desperate to keep Jen.

VFCYJC Members enthusiastically endorsed Jen and said that no one can fill her shoes. She is a champion for youth and the youth clinics she has been involved in have been wildly successful. Bill will keep track of money and it will show each month in Treasurers Report. Jen will submit a monthly invoice to VFCYJC and a project evaluation to VFCYJC.

Recommendation: That an amount up to \$12,400 be allocated to the Peninsula Youth medical clinic, and that those funds be used as outlined above, with all remaining funds at the end of the school year in June 2018 be returned to the general VFCYJC account.

To Support the Recommendation

MOTION: B. McElroy/ Moralea Milne

CARRIED

From: Jennifer Harrison [mailto:harrisonatwork@gmail.com]

Sent: June-25-18 2:56 PM

To: Clay; Margi Bhalla; Bill mcelroy; tchad; Cynthia Day; May Woodburn; Ron Mattson; GEORGIA PETERS;

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Shawna Walker

Subject: Re: VFCYJC and Youth Clinic

I second that thanks to you Bill and to the whole VFCYJC and thought I would pass on some pics for you to see what the youth have been up to in the last few weeks. You have helped make this clinic something that youth in the community are incredibly proud of. The pics feature the youth handing out birth control supplies, Help Cards (www.thehelpcard.ca) and info about the clinic to youth during the Sidney Market. The second photo shows the youth sharing a booth at the market with Sidney RCMP. So many things to celebrate here that would not have been possible without your grant. Please stop in and see us sometime soon so we can thank you in person.

Jen Harrison

Youth and Family Engagement Coordinator, Foundry Victoria www.foundrybc.ca, www.victoriayouthclinic.ca

Facilitator and Coach, Youth Program Quality Initiative





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 and vfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

1. Date of Application: **February 14, 2018**
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying: **CRAT**
3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:

CRAT has been an organization for 20 years.

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

CRAT is a sub-committee of the VFCYJC. This funding will assist in our goal to have tco2 appear in Greater Victoria Schools and to support meetings of CRAT. The overall goal is to raise awareness of the issue of sexual exploitation of youth among students in the CRD.

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).

The CRAT grant from the CRD has been the same amount for the past 10 years, \$1500, per year. In that time, costs have increased significantly. The costs of bringing tco2 over from Vancouver have increased from \$1200 to over \$1500.

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- 9 Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:			
CRD Grant		\$1,500.00	
VFCYJC Grant		\$1,000.00	
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$2,500.00</u>	\$2,500.00
Expenses:			
CRAT meeting costs, including lunches, parking and copying		\$1,000.00	
Costs for tco2, including travel, meals and accommodations		\$1,500.00	
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$2,500.00</u>	\$2,500.00

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

Donated accommodation (too late for this year)

Grants from local funders, VanCity CU.

8. Catchment area served – target population:

Youth in the CRD, particularly Middle School Students.

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

Raise awareness among students of the issue of sexual exploitation of children and the dangers of online luring.

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

Bringing tco2 to the Victoria area. Although the presentations are free, CRAT is required to pay the travel costs to bring them to the CRD, plus their meals and accommodations.

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

February 2018 to June 2018. One time funding.

12. Evaluation framework:

Number of attendees and feedback from teachers.

FREE School Workshops

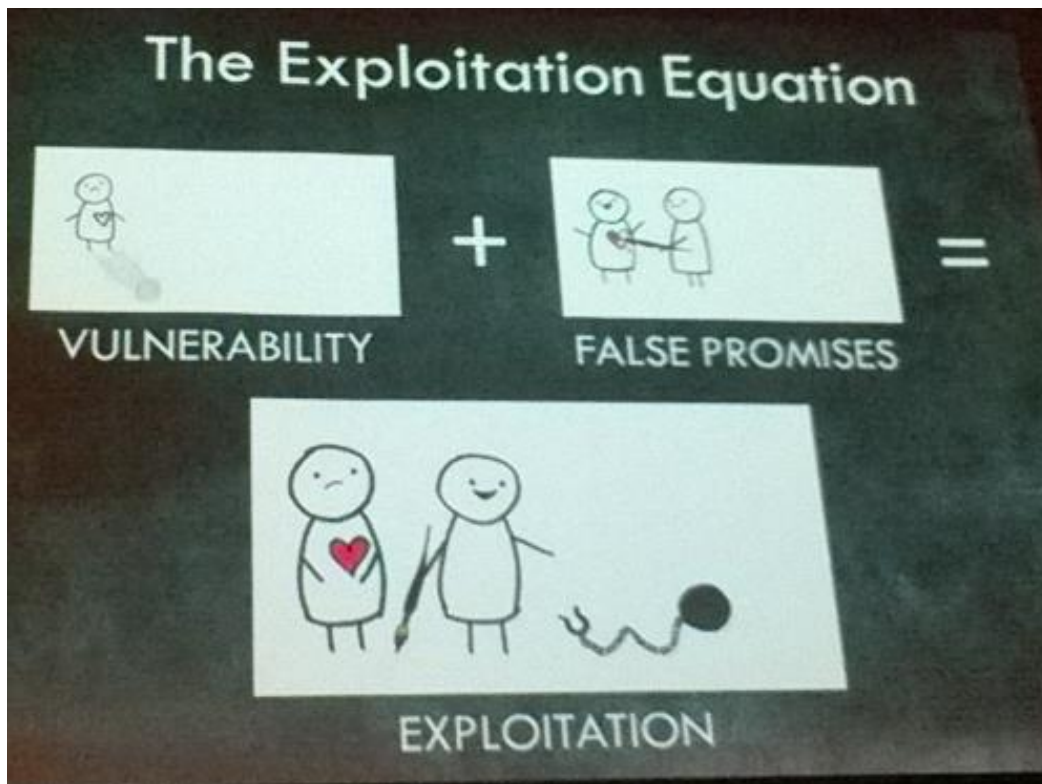
February 25 to March 1, 2019

TCO2 Taking Care of Ourselves: Taking Care of Others

Brought to you by Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Children and



Live Interactive Theatre Presentations by Children of the Street Society



More info on what they do: <http://www.childrenofthestreet.com/tco2>

Book your session: mgolden@pcfsa.org or 250-208-2660

This is free to schools, and always gets a great reaction from the youth!

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 and vfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

6. Date of Application:

Feb. 15, 2018

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

Youth Matters Committee on behalf of the Re-Imagining Masculinities Conference

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

This is a pilot project. The Steering Committee is made up of representatives from Island Sexual Health, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, as well as local business owners, and community activists.

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

This project addresses a core mandate of the Youth Matters Sub-Committee by supporting the delivery of a project for youth. Specifically, the funds will be used to livestream the Youth Hour of the Re-Imagining Masculinities Conference to youth in classrooms and across social media, and to create video assets that can be used long into the future by educators and youth service providers to engage youth on the issues around toxic masculinity and gender-based violence.

10. 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).

The project is topical in that it builds on the cultural moment we are experiencing in terms of #metoo and #timesup, as well as tying into the Federal Governments Gender Based Violence Prevention Strategy, and other burgeoning initiatives in the Greater Victoria School District. It also dovetails with advocacy being pursued to Union of BC Municipalities and the BC School Trustees Association.

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

6. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:			
<u>Total</u>			
Expenses:			
Livestream of youth component of the conference	Stream of Consciousness is producing the livestream including all cameras and production.	\$4,000 value, Stream of Consciousness is providing it at cost (\$2,000 in kind donation)	\$2,000
Support youth attendance at conference	Sponsor student registration (includes lunch) and transportation		\$1,000
Facility		\$	
<u>Total</u>			<u>\$3,000</u>

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

BCGEU

Island Sexual Health

Victoria Royals

Victoria Harbour Cats

Stream of Consciousness

Pursuing a variety of other corporate funders

8. Catchment area served – target population:

The target is youth, educators and youth service providers in the CRD, however, the assets will be used to reach youth across the country.

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

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Mental health and social- emotional well-being of boys and men. Toxic masculinity contributes to boys and men being more likely to be perpetrators of violence as well as at higher risk of being victims of violence and self-harm. The project also works to combat gender-based violence, and is intersectional in its approach addressing misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, and racism.

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

Livestream of the youth component of the Conference and supporting local youth in attending the conference in person by covering youth conference registration which includes lunch as well as transportation.

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

The event will take place May 11, 2018 and the assets developed will be leveraged online going forward.

12. Evaluation framework:

A complete report will be provided to the VFCYJ Committee in person, and in writing for inclusion in the Annual Report. The evaluation will include the engagement with the conference, with the livestream, and the overall impact of the conference.



ReImagining Masculinities Conference 2018 Final Report

Mission:

To cultivate meaningful conversations about healthy, non-violent masculinities to inspire empathy, action, and self reflection.

Summary:

On **May 11, 2018** the ReImagining Conference gathered and included seventeen speakers from across the CRD and from across Canada. We reached 200 individuals attending - including 100 youth from schools across the CRD - and as many as 100 individuals watching online.

The project was planned and executed by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from Island Sexual Health, Victoria Sexual Assault Centre, as well as local business owners, and community activists.

This project addressed a core mandate of the Youth Matters Sub-Committee by supporting the delivery of a project for youth. Specifically, we reached out to schools across the region through email and personal networking to inform teachers of this valuable resource. We had the tremendous support of Lorraine Murphy to market the conference and its Livestream on various social media platforms. Funding from the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee was used directly to fund the Livestream produced by Stream of Consciousness and to make 100 tickets available directly to high school students.

The ReImagining Masculinities Conference was topical in that it builds on the cultural moment we are experiencing in terms of #metoo and #timesup, as well as tying into the Federal Government's Gender Based Violence Prevention Strategy. The Conference also aligned with recent advocacy from the BC School Trustees Association and the Union of BC Municipalities calling for a Gender Based Violence Prevention Strategy for Youth. ReImagining Masculinities was a successful, volunteer-driven conference with significant support from our community. The overall budget including direct funding from sources like Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, corporate sponsors, donors, in-kind contributors, and volunteers was approximately \$45,000. As a well respected organization, your contribution added both leverage and credibility in delivering this project.

VFCYJC Impact:

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Funding from the VFCYJC committee made the youth component of the Relmaging Masculinities Conference possible. Youth from across the Region participated in the conference and were a part of this important conversation. The conference was greatly impactful and was executed as it was proposed to the VFCYJC.

Funding from the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee was used directly to fund the Livestream produced by Stream of Consciousness and to make 100 tickets available directly to teachers for their high school students. The “youth showcase” of the Relmaging Masculinities Conference included spoken word performances on the lived experience of young people, speakers from the Moosehide Campaign and White Ribbon Campaign, and a performance piece that used humour and audience participation to speak about consent.



Presented by Jeremy Loveday, Victoria City Councillor, on behalf of the Youth Matters Subcommittee and Co-Chair Jordan Watters, School District 61 Trustee.

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 and vfamcourt@gmail.com for distribution

1. Date of Application: **November 15, 2018**
2. Name of organization / person(s) applying: **Cornerstone Youth Society/Darin Reimer**
3. Background of organization / person(s) or applicable history of related projects:
We run a drop in Center for vulnerable youth of the City. We have had donations of backpacks so do not need to acquire any as originally planned.
4. Clear goals and objectives of the project – clear indications of relevance to the Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate:

Our vision is that we see a future when all youth are living healthy and fulfilling lives. We come alongside of youth in relationship so as to see a change or shift in their trajectory from life on the street to accessing services and supports and eventually gaining independence into adulthood.

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).
6. Budget: to include clear accounting with potential line items and accompanying narrative.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Detail</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Total Funder Cost</u>
Revenue:	\$1500 VFCYJC		\$1500
<u>Total</u>			
Expenses:	Laptop	\$500	
	Bus tickets	\$1000	

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Facility		\$	
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$1500</u>	<u>\$1500</u>	

7. Other funding avenues/partners being explored:

We also receive funding from our annual charity ride called the Ride for Refuge.

8. Catchment area served – target population: We have accumulated a list of over *200 different youth aged 14-22 who have visited our Center in 2018. They are from the Greater Capital Region*

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

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

We wish to purchase a new laptop for Center staff and youth use during drop in times. We also wish to purchase bus tickets with remaining funds as we acquire them at a price two for one from the Community Social Planning Council. To date we have purchased almost \$2250 worth of tickets to assist youth in getting to shelter, to appointments, or to work.

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

Ongoing.

12. Evaluation framework:

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report



2018 was the **20th Anniversary of CRAT**. During 2018 we met 3 times during the year in the Esquimalt Nation Room, which is provided for free by Victoria City Hall. We also had a joint meeting with the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee on June 20 in the View Royal Town Hall with MLA Mitzi Dean. The purpose of the meeting was to outline the gaps in services for youth in the Victoria Region. Our November meeting was cancelled as the City of Victoria needed our meeting space. We have reserved 5 dates for meetings in 2019, all in the Esquimalt Nation room, at Victoria City Hall, 12 noon to 1:00pm.

CRAT is a sub-committee of the VFCYJC and has **two main goals: raising awareness about the sexual exploitation of children and youth within the CRD and identifying gaps in services** available to those youth. Youth are now being groomed and stalked on the internet, which makes it more difficult to detect and help them. Gangs are increasing their presence.

At the January meeting, Bill McElroy was acclaimed Chair, and Melissa Hyland became Vice Chair. The District of Oak Bay keeps the financial records for CRAT: all funds given to CRAT are deposited with Oak Bay and they pay all expenses by cheque. Many **thanks to staff at Oak Bay for providing this service**.

We brought over **Taking Care of Ourselves, Taking Care of Others (tco2)** during the week of February 5-9. There were 11 presentations to a total of 1620 people, mostly middle and secondary school students. Although tco2 puts on their performances for free, we pay their way to and from Vancouver, and also provide accommodations and meals. In 2018 the costs were about \$1700, due to increased costs of travel, food and accommodation. We received additional funding of \$1200 from the VFCYJC to cover the shortfall.

We applied to VanCity for a \$500 branch grant, but we were unsuccessful. Bill has prepared 2 applications for funding from the Proceeds of Crime grants: One for the colouring book project and one to hold another day-long workshop on sexual exploitation/human trafficking.

Housing for at-risk youth continues to be a problem, particularly in the Westshore. According to Police, there are some 100 youth living rough. CRAT continues to work with Threshold Youth Housing to establish youth transitional housing in the Westshore. Drug use among youth living rough seems to be increasing, which leaves them vulnerable to exploitation. The **wait list for youth mental health services is increasing and is now about 1 year**.

Respectfully Submitted, Bill McElroy, Chair

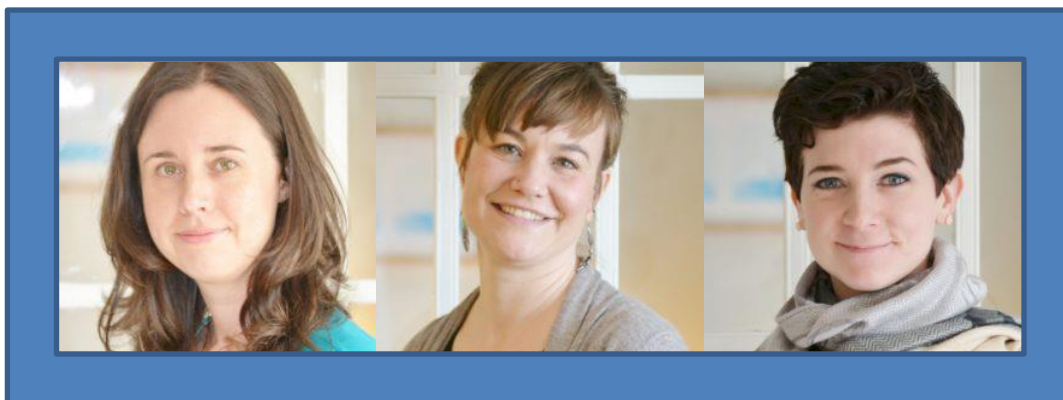
December 21, 2018



Case Statistics

Where referrals came from:

Referral Source	# of Cases Referred
Victoria Police	112
Victoria Crown Counsel	12
Western Communities Crown Counsel	4
Oak Bay Police Department	3
Community member (self-referral)	2
Saanich and Victoria Probation	2
TOTAL:	135



2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

Offences referred:

Type of Offence	# of Offences Committed
Theft \$5,000 or under	88
Mischief \$5,000 or under	24
Assault	18
Assaulting a Police Officer	3
Possession 30g and Under	3
Willfully resisting/obstructing a peace officer	4
Community referral (no criminal offence)	2
Break and Enter	1
Domestic Dispute – No Assault	1
Driving with Undue Care and Attention	1
Firearm Pointing	1
Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle	1
Assaulting a Police Officer with a Weapon	1
Causing a Disturbance	1
Intoxicated in a Public Place	1
Possession of Stolen Property Under \$5,000	1
Obstruction	1
Possession of a Weapon for a Dangerous Purpose	1
TOTAL:	153*

*Our database only allows us to input two types of offences per case. Some cases have more than two offences related to them. The number of offences we actually dealt with in 2018 was around 175.

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

Status and outcomes of referrals:

Case Statuses and Outcomes*	# of Cases
CASES THAT ARE PRE-APPROVAL OR IN-PROGRESS:	96
⇒ <i>Cases that are pre-approval</i>	21
⇒ <i>Cases in progress (pre-dialogue)</i>	21
⇒ <i>Cases in progress (post-dialogue)</i>	10
⇒ <i>Offender completed all terms as agreed</i>	27
⇒ <i>Offender completed all terms as agreed w/time extension</i>	7
⇒ <i>Offender completed all terms as amended</i>	0
⇒ <i>Offender did not complete any terms</i>	1
⇒ <i>Dialogue process only (completed - no agreement)</i>	9
CASES THAT DID NOT PROCEED	39
⇒ <i>Unable to contact the offender</i>	12
⇒ <i>Offender does not consent to the process</i>	10
⇒ <i>Other</i>	7
⇒ <i>Offender went missing after contact</i>	5
⇒ <i>Victim does not consent to referral being made</i>	2
⇒ <i>Offender unable to participate due to mental health/addictions</i>	1
⇒ <i>Offender disputes facts of case</i>	1
⇒ <i>RJV refuses to accept</i>	1
TOTAL:	135

*These outcomes were recorded as of December 21, 2018. The outcomes related to cases that are pre-approval and in-progress will change.

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Restorative processes used:

Restorative Justice Victoria (RJV) uses a variety of processes to meaningfully address an offence in a manner that best suites the needs, desires, and capacities of the participants. These are:

- **Restorative justice dialogue:** In this process the victim of the offence participates in some significant way. This typically means that they attend the dialogue in person. However, in some cases they may choose an alternate form, such as writing a statement or sending a representative on their behalf.
- **Community accountability dialogue:** This process is used when there is no victim participation. This is the case when the victim chooses not to participate (but still consents to the matter being dealt with in restorative justice) or when there is no identifiable victim (e.g. shoplifting offence at a large corporation). In these dialogues, 1 – 2 members of the community who have relevant lived experience attend to share their perspective on the offence, offer various view points, and help participants understand the impact.
- **Abbreviated dialogue:** This process is used when the offence referred is minor in nature and there is no victim involvement (e.g. shoplifting an item valued under \$30). In the other processes, considerable case development is conducted to prepare the participants, which entails multiple meetings with the restorative justice team. In the abbreviated dialogues, the matter is addressed via one meeting or through an intake and dialogue to shorten and simplify the process to reflect the severity of the offence.

Agreement Terms

The restorative justice agreements that were developed in 2018 provided outcomes catered specifically to the needs of participants. Some of the most common agreement outcomes in 2018 were:

- Financial restitution to victims
- Mental health supports
- Attending counseling
- Conducting volunteer work in the community
- Letters of apology to those impacted
- Art projects (to be used to develop insight into the offence, as an educational tool, or provided as a gift or donation)
- Employability training or skills such as resume writing or accessing local employment services
- Communication and conflict management skills training
- Mindfulness and mediation practice and referral to such services
- Addictions support
- Enrolling/continuing in education

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report



Client Feedback

RJV uses a three-point evaluation system that ensures thorough and rich feedback is gathered from clients at multiple points in the restorative justice process, as well as two months after the files are closed. This feedback is regularly reviewed and used to adjust the program to better meet client needs. In 2018, as in other years, RJV received positive feedback, with almost all clients reporting being “satisfied” or “extremely satisfied” with the services that they received.

Below are some comments that clients made in their evaluations from 2018.

- ⇒ *I was **surprised about how great the restorative justice system is and works**. I have never heard about it until this situation and I am very pleased with how it deals with these types of crimes and situations.*
- ⇒ *Thank you very much for the opportunity. I honestly think this process will change me for the better.*
- ⇒ *The RJ program is truly amazing giving a voice and opportunity to both the offender and person that was negatively affected in the event [victim].*
- ⇒ *Long process but it has proven to help me **feel more motivated to change**. I've had to look back why I'm in this situation in the first place so completely this will go a long way. RJV helped me.*
- ⇒ *Restorative justice helped me understand what I did wrong and how it affected people and the community. With help from the staff I was able to take full responsibility for my actions and worked towards fixing the problem that I caused.*
- ⇒ *As I take full responsibility for my actions, the incident was a wake-up call for my high stress life and shone a light on the fact that I was not taking very good care of myself. The restorative justice program helped me take a much clearer look at what was happening in my life and helped make some necessary changes*
- ⇒ *...The restorative **staff were exceedingly empathetic, organized & knowledgeable** and willing to listen attentively and offer input.*

In addition to the above statements:

-  ⇒ **100% of victims and 95% of offenders said that they would recommend restorative justice to others.**
-  ⇒ **100% of victims and 100% of offenders said that their state of mind regarding the offence has improved as a result of the restorative justice process.**

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Volunteers

RJV is incredibly grateful to its volunteers, who contribute in so many ways. Currently there are 99 individuals volunteering with the organization, filling the following 132 positions:

- 49 facilitators and mentors
- 38 community members
- 28 scribes
- 17 other (board members, committees, admin, baking, etc.)

Beginning in 2015, RJV created the Hali Award in honour of a volunteer who passed away shortly after she finished her facilitator training and had a significant impact on the staff, volunteers, and clients. The award is given to an outstanding volunteer, and the 2018 recipient is Judi Morin. Congratulations Judi!



Funding

Stable, consistent, core funding continues to be a major challenge for RJV. In 2018, RJV received funds from the following sources:

- Victoria Foundation – project specific
- BC Gaming – core funding
- Victoria and Oak Bay Police Departments – core funding
- Community Accountability Program – core funding
- Sisters of Saint Anne – core funding
- Civil Forfeiture – project specific
- Federal Government – project specific

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None of the above funding sources provide ongoing or multi-year funding. Each requires some form of application or submission and none are guaranteed, meaning staff are spending considerable time writing applications and the organization is facing a great deal of financial uncertainty. All of this at a time when RJV is receiving a record number of referrals, many with significant complexities and requiring substantial resources.



Other Projects

In 2018, RJV engaged in the following projects:

- ⇒ We received funding from the Victoria Foundation for **Complex Caseworkers** to assist in files where there was significant violence related to the offence and/or where one or more of the participants has complex mental health/addictions related challenges. Having a Complex Caseworker on these files provided important safeguards to the participants and improved the quality of the process. The grant also provided funds to deliver three advanced trainings to the volunteers and “on-the-job” training by our Complex Caseworkers in the form of supervised casework experience.
- ⇒ We received a Federal grant from the Victim Fund through the Department of Justice for a project that **supported victims and survivors** of crime in the restorative justice process. The project entailed developing and delivering an online course, followed up with a 4-day training in Victoria, on improving the quality of restorative justice services to victims.

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- ⇒ We received funds from Civil Forfeiture to **recruit volunteer mentors and facilitators** and deliver two of our fifty-hour initial volunteer trainings. ***As a result of these funds we were able to recruit and train 24 new facilitators and mentors to assist us with our rapidly increasing referral rate.***
- ⇒ We received funds from Civil Forfeiture to **hire two experts in mental health and wellness** to review our forms, meet with our staff, and sit in our intakes, preparation meetings, and dialogues, to assess how well our services support those facing mental health challenges. This project is currently in progress and the two experts will be delivering a training to staff and writing a list of program recommendations to improve our services in the winter of 2019.

A distracted driving initiative that we did in 2017 involving RJV, the Victoria Police Department, and the Traffic Injury Research Foundation **Drop it and Drive**, was such a success that we did it again in 2018. This initiative came as a result of reports that now show distracted driving as causing more deaths than impaired driving. This pioneering approach was designed to reach people at a deeper level and encourage a change in behaviour that would be long lasting. The process first entailed Victoria police issuing traffic violations to distracted drivers. At the time, drivers were told they could either pay the fine or attend a 3-hour information session on the topic. If interested, they were provided an information sheet and asked to register. In the 2018 event, 50 tickets were given and 39 people attended the session.

Participants expressed high levels of satisfaction with the initiative. Surveys were completed at the end of the session and 97% said they would change their behaviour as a result of the session. The following are quotes from participants:

- ⇒ *Thank you for forcing me to change my bad habits. This has been a problem for me for years. No longer. I appreciate all the time you've put into this. This is way **more effective then ticketing.***
- ⇒ *I was aware but this really put everything into perspective and made it sink in and feel real. Put the phone out of reach and do your job...*
- ⇒ *Incredibly **powerful presentation.** The sequence and delivery of info to inform and educate created inspiration to believe and make better decisions.*
- ⇒ *The intensely **compelling combination of story as well as statistics** - not just "solo" storied etc. Had a much more profound effect on my stance then had I simply paid a fine and been handed a punishment. To be honest those would have an almost opposite rebellious effect than being given a real set of statistics and research to root firmly in my mind.*
- ⇒ ***Will change my life and possibly many more.***

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

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.
5. Representatives of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Education, Children and Family Development, Public Safety and Solicitor General, Health, Housing and Social Development and police forces and First Nations may be invited to attend as non-voting resource members.
6. 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.
7. 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.

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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
- Court Watch

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.

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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.

Oath of Confidentiality

I, _____ do promise and swear not to disclose or make known any matter or thing which comes to my knowledge by reason of my involvement with the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee, except insofar as my official duties require me to disclose, make known, report upon, or take official action regarding the same, or except insofar as I may be duly authorized to disclose or make known the same.

SWORN before me at the City of

Victoria, British Columbia

This ____ day of _____

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

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.

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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

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- 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.

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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

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Form for Priorities Submissions (Grants and extraordinary committee expenses)

Please send your submission to rmattson@shaw.ca **AND** vfamcourt@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.

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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.

MILLENNIUM PROJECT

THE VICTORIA FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

FINAL REPORT

October 2003

2018 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Annual Report

Introduction

1

Since the presentation of the original report in April 2001 (attached) the Steering Committee formed four task forces to recommend action. This report discusses the findings of these four task forces and then comments briefly on the 28 original suggestions.

First Task Force - Legal Matters

We decided to try to accomplish two things:

- Bring some of the Law Courts Education Society of BC (LCES), mainland projects to the Capital Regional District.

Thanks to Rick Craig, Executive Director of LCES, crime prevention course, etc. will start soon in Capital Regional District schools, with staffing and funding assistance provided by the Ministry of Education and ICBC.

- Establish a Court House project to attract volunteers to help youth and families feel more comfortable with court procedures before cases commence.

Thanks to Crown Counsel Anne Wallace, and lawyer Shannon Buchan volunteers from the University of Victoria and Camosun College, etc. will start this fall to familiarize youth and their families with the court system, replacing court employees that have been released by the Provincial Government for financial reasons.

Lee Curtis (from our Steering Committee) and Suzanne Bell (Court Services) have also contributed to the above successes.

Second Task Force - Integrated Case Management (ICM)

Users of the justice system that we interviewed complained that there were too many different people dealing with their cases. It appeared that coordination was lacking. We were aware that the Provincial Government was testing ICM.

We encouraged the Government to expand the system quickly and are glad to see that MCH is now moving ahead; thanks in part to the efforts of our Steering Committee member Gord Irving.

Third Task Force - Restorative Justice

Thanks to the efforts of the past Chair FCYJ Committee Bill Bird and FCC member Etta Connor, plus others, there has been significant progress in providing funding and training across the Capital Region for restorative justice. The implementation of programs has been left to individual municipalities and, as a result, much of the CRD is preparing for increased caseloads that no doubt will result from the directives emanating from the new Federal Criminal Youth Justice Act that came into effect last April.

Fourth Task Force - Medical Matters

Under the leadership of Steering Committee member Dr. Basil Boulton, contact has been made with the Queen Alexandra Centre for Children to urge early diagnosis and management of younger children with complex behavioral and developmental problems. The Committee believes it has highlighted the problems and provided valuable public advocacy and support, but the lead role

should be taken by the Centre and the Vancouver Island Health Authority. Together with Lee Curtis and Gord Irving, further collaborative approaches will be directed to the Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, as well as the Vancouver Island Health Authority and the Queen Elizabeth Foundation.

UPDATE ON ORIGINAL 7 MAJOR TOPICS PLUS OTHER SUGGESTIONS

As a voluntary group, with modest resources, we could not follow up on all 28 suggestions; however, we believe it is worthwhile to comment on all suggestions before concluding this report.

Major Topics

1. Prevention Our major accomplishment is getting the LCES project up and running in cooperation with the local school districts. However, we continue to urge:
 - 1) schools to teach more life skills
 - 2) the establishment of more anger management outlets for both youth and parents, and
 - 3) more emphasis on drug/alcohol clinics, especially for those who have yet to be in trouble with the law.
2. Timeliness
We recommend that a task force be struck to find ways to speed up the youth justice process.
3. Integrated Case Management (ICM)
Much progress has been made in this area, but we believe a task force should take a serious look at the American Guardian Ad Litem system where a volunteer mentor is assigned to help steer each youth through the various phases of the justice system.
4. Better Communications
Every subject that we considered needs good communications. Why not approach some professionals from the local communications industry to strike a small committee to make some important strides in this area?
5. First Nations
We encourage the Law Courts Education Society's tested programs for aboriginal youth be started here as soon as possible. Also; there is a need for the FCYJ Committee to consult with the First Nations community to see if the FCYJ Committee can play a useful role.
6. Volunteers
As noted above, volunteers will soon become involved in explaining the court process. As the Provincial Government reduces resources that impact on youth, we believe that a small task force should ascertain if trained volunteers could be useful.
7. Restorative Justice
Much hard work has paid off in this increasingly important area (see Third Task Force)

Other Suggestions

1. Mental Health
See Fourth Task Force. We are pleased that Dr. Boulton will head a small committee to approach the Youth Mental Health section of the Ministry of Health regarding FCYJ Committee concerns and suggestions.
2. Court School

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Regular meetings could be scheduled at the court house for youth and their families in connection with our new volunteer program (see First Task Force).

3. Technology

We encourage the Ministry of the Attorney General to expand the practice of allowing your children to give evidence on video hookups in order to avoid the pressures in the courtroom.

4. Abused Parents/Guardians

We encourage the Ministry of the Attorney General to take positive steps to improve communications in order to avoid future problems in this area.

5. Useful Observing

Some local police forces should test the taking out of youth on patrol to see the dark side of crime, a suggestion from one of our interviewees.

6. Monitored Accommodation

A police suggestion. Victoria needs more monitored accommodation for youth who won't/can't live at home. There seems to be several places that offer unsupervised accommodation, but some are reported to have drug-related problems.

7. Fetal Alcohol

This subject has received considerable attention since our investigations commenced in 2000. No doubt it will be covered in meetings with the Youth Mental Health section (see Fourth Task Force).

8. Adoption Pitfalls

A small task force should review current practices and make recommendations.

9. Handling Violence

This subject ties in with Major Topic No. 1.

10. Custody/Access

There appears to be a need for a simple language handbook which would be useful for parents involved with these subjects. A volunteer is needed from the legal community.

11. More Court Help for Youth

There may be a need for a greater role for social service agencies with less legal involvement in the rehabilitation of youth, particularly first offenders (see Second Task Force).

12. Court Protection Notices

A thorough review of this subject is recommended, with representatives from those receiving the notices participating in the review.

13. Family Problems

The relationship between troubled youth and dysfunctional families needs a thorough review.
Could trained mentors be useful?

14. Bullying

This subject is receiving considerable attention by many organizations.

15. Resources for Sexually-Exploited Youth

We recommend that new attention be devoted to those less than 12 years of age.

16. Immigrant and Refugee Youth

We should consult the local immigrant/refugee organization to see if the FCYJ Committee could be of assistance.

17. Separation and Divorce Resource Centre

This organization now provides space where individual parents can make contact with their children. The Centre needs toys, games and other equipment to help make these contacts more productive. If anyone knows of any sources to acquire the aforementioned, please contact the Centre.

18. Employment

Meaningful employment motivates many youth to not get into trouble. This is not possible for everyone, but the subject is worth further examination in consultation with the Youth Employment Project.

19. Local Accommodation

More attention should be given to acquiring foster homes close to the relatives of troubled youth, so that families can play a more effective role in rehabilitation.

20. Stay in School

The Ministry of Education should ensure that troublesome youth who are expelled each September have funds follow them to new alternative schools so that the latter can operate successfully and provide important continuing education for these high-risk youth.

21. Internet

Volunteers could help monitor what others around the world are doing in all aspects of youth justice so that Victoria is on top of successful programs.

My thanks, to all who contributed to this project. The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is pleased to see some of our suggestions producing positive results. We are confident there are more to come.

Barry Thomas
Chair of the Millennium Project

MILLENNIUM PROJECT

VICTORIA FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

APRIL 2001

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BACKGROUND

In June 2000 the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee (Appendix A - Powers and Duties) commenced a special project to see how services to youth, particularly those in trouble with the, law, and their families might be improved. As a volunteer group, with no "axes to grind", we believed we could be quite objective about the information discovered.

A sub-committee (panel) was formed with the following members:

Barry Thomas, Chair (representative for the City of Victoria)
Bill. Bird (Councillor for North Saanich)
Dr. Basil Boulton, pediatrician (Councillor for Esquimalt)
Dr. Jim Hackler, sociologist, University of Victoria (representative for Saanich)
Vivian Muir, (Member at large)

More than 35 groups or individuals whose actions impact on youth were consulted, including members of the judiciary, the legal profession, police and social services. We interviewed youth who have been, or are in the justice system now, and parents of youth who have been through the system. Each group was asked how they could be more effective "if the world were perfect". We received many interesting and thoughtful ideas, over and above "we could use more money".

We do not pretend that our investigations were exhaustive, involving in-depth research, but we are quite confident that we have captured the mood of what's happening "in the trenches". Our suggestions will be sent to appropriate provincial and municipal authorities. We received full cooperation from the two ministries that we interact with on a regular basis, the Ministry for Children and Families and the Ministry of the Attorney General. Both have representatives that attend our Family Court Committee monthly meetings.

The panel recognizes that these Ministries that deal with youth are under funded, with the result that many front-line workers in particular, have difficult, stressful jobs.

OUR OBJECTIVE

The whole focus of this project is on youth and their families and how can the system be made more effective.

MAJOR TOPICS

1. Prevention. Many organizations do excellent work helping to prevent young people from sliding into trouble but much more needs to be done. As one group said, "for every dollar spent in prevention it will cost seven dollars to send someone through the criminal system."

Unfortunately prevention does not get its fair share of the public (and thus government)

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attention but crime does. Efforts to keep youth out of trouble must not slacken but instead increase, if prevention is to play its proper role. To cite just one example, there are currently about 85 young boys in the Capital Regional District (CRD) on the waiting list for a Big Brother. In addition a lack of resources is forcing Big Brothers/Big Sisters currently to refuse applications from all boys 11 years and older, so in all likelihood many in need of a steadying hand during their formative years will never have the positive influence of a Big Brother, and thus will be more susceptible to negative temptations.

Here are just three specific 'prevention' ideas that we received:

- a. Schools should be asked to teach more life skills on how youth could relate better with their peers and families
- b. More information on anger management courses for parents and youth needs to be publicized
- c. More drug/alcohol information as well as resources should be readily available to help those youth who are beginning to develop substance abuse difficulties but are not yet in trouble with the law. This is particularly necessary for children in elementary schools.

2. Timeliness. Delay in getting decisions can be very frustrating and potentially damaging for young people in particular as well as their parents. Here are some examples:

- a. After a court decision is rendered it is sent to the registry office. It is our understanding that youth and adult decisions are handled as received. Could youth decisions not be given priority so that there is the shortest possible delay before youth are released?
- b. Often there is a long period before custody/access decisions are forthcoming. The wait is particularly hard on young children.
- c. Could mediators be used more to help speed up the justice system?

3. New Ideas for Handling Individual Cases. Youth and parents alike said that the whole youth justice system is often bewildering. More effort should be made to have those who impact on each youth case (e.g. police, social workers and health authorities) meet together to discuss and coordinate the best plan for each individual. We understand that Integrated Case Management has been tested in Langley. What next? (More in Appendix B).

The appointment of a mentor or advocate, whose main job is to follow all aspects of a young person's case from start to finish, is suggested. This would provide welcome continuity for both the youth and his/her family during the several stages of court proceedings and their aftermath.

Court appointed volunteers known as Guardian Ad Litem who look out for a youth's best interests have been common in many parts of the U.S. for some time. We understand the system works well.

4. Better Communications.

- a. There are many organizations concerned with youth. It is only natural that each of

them would not be completely familiar with what the others do. At our first meeting in June 2000, agencies that made presentations had the opportunity to hear others describe their background and how they could become more effective. It was a useful exchange. We suggest semi-annual meetings for all groups concerned with youth and their families. We would be pleased to host such events if requested.

b. It is suggested that lawyers involved with youth court could have better communications with the Court Registry, so that courts are used more efficiently with less down time. When cases "go down" for any reason there is obviously a waste of resources. Also, parents who book time off from work to attend their offspring's court cases are understandably frustrated, or sometimes lose wages they can ill afford, when there is a late change for the case.

c. It is suggested that judges involved with youth meet with government ministries on a regular basis in order to maximize the healing of young people going through the court system. As an aside, we heard many negative comments about breaches of probation; e.g. some say "they're a joke", others say breaches are not monitored properly by overloaded probation officers. Perhaps some remedies should follow the gathering of reliable statistics on the subject. (More in Appendix B)

d. Those parents or guardians who are genuinely concerned about the welfare of their children should be "brought into the loop" better. We heard complaints that parents were not informed in a timely fashion of the court orders for their children. There also were instances where parents were not kept properly informed of results of health related tests. There may be good reasons for this but the fact is that some parents feel "left out of it". There appear to be several initiatives to help parents, but unfortunately many parents are unaware of them. (More in Appendix C)

5. First Nations. The Victoria Youth Custody Centre frequently has in residence a disproportionately high number of First Nations young people. We recognize that this is not just a local phenomenon. However, there should be no excuse for not addressing this serious situation. A comprehensive plan is needed, in consultation with the Victoria Urban Aboriginal Steering Committee Society and others.

As a starter, a concerted effort should be made to augment the number of First Nations Probation Officers. It is only common sense that trained aboriginals should handle this important job, if possible. Also, special help was suggested for single aboriginal parents of youth in trouble.

6. Volunteers. A vast majority of those whom we consulted agreed that more money and more people would help improve their effectiveness. Obtaining more money will be a continuing problem until the public demands more resources for youth.

With regard to the need for more people, we suggest greater use of trained volunteers. Victoria is blessed with a large number of retired people, many in their 50's and 60's who together with

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aboriginal elders, university students and others, have much to offer. Perhaps it is time to make some bold moves in this area, especially as this is the International Year of the Volunteer.

7. Alternatives to the Criminal Justice System. Many agree that the last thing a young person charged with a minor crime needs is jail - unless it is for shock purposes for one night! Victoria has a higher incarceration level than Quebec and some countries. Why? (More in Appendix C).

Diversion programs, built on restorative justice, appear to be gaining acceptance in Canada as an alternative to the criminal justice system. However, at this time CRD community justice associations, which implement restorative justice, are currently experiencing some growing pains. There is a need to sort out both ongoing long-term financing and a monitoring system for those involved. We believe the latter is important if police and Crown Counsels are to have confidence in diverting cases away from the court-based criminal justice systems.

Perhaps one overall administrative committee could oversee youth restorative justice for the CRD with forums conducted by local communities.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS

The majority of the following points, in no priority, were raised mainly by those organizations that participated in the project. Others came from youth and parents interviewed and from our panel. In some cases we have added a suggested course of action.

1. Mental Health. Many troubled youth have mental health problems and need special treatment so that courts and social workers can be more effective. More mental health resources for adolescents are needed so they can get help before becoming involved with the criminal justice system. (More in Appendix B)
2. Court School. Court School is currently available in New York City which teaches young people what to expect before going into court. This idea should be investigated to see if it could be successfully replicated here, and we suggest should include families.
3. Technology. There should be a rapid expansion of technology to help very young children in particular, testify electronically in order to avoid the pressures from being in court. We applaud progress on this matter so far.
4. Abused Parents/Caregivers. Courts should establish tighter rules to protect abused mothers (mainly), especially in cases where parents do not live together. More care is required to not reveal the location of the parent with whom the children are living, in cases where violence or kidnapping is a risk.

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5. Useful Observing. Young people experiencing their first brush with the law, or otherwise at high risk might spend a useful evening travelling with police to see first hand some examples of serious crimes and their consequences.
6. Monitored Accommodation. There should be more monitored places for youth to sleep when they leave home for any reason. Currently there are too many unmonitored places where youth can be tempted into deviant behaviour.
7. Fetal Alcohol. There is a need for a fetal alcohol assessment team in Victoria. More general public knowledge of fetal alcohol syndrome is needed so that those afflicted receive more compassion and understanding. (More in Appendix B) Further, more attention should be paid to warning women of the dangers of using drugs or alcohol during pregnancy.
8. Adoption Pitfalls. There is a need to explain more fully the important legal consequences of adoption in order that adopting parents avoid future painful misunderstandings.
9. Handling Violence. Greater public knowledge is needed of existing alternatives to violence organizations. In addition, more youths and parents should be encouraged to enrol in anger management courses, and such courses should be easily accessible and affordable.
10. Custody/Access Disputes. Parents need more help to understand problems that may arise in custody and access disputes. We applaud a new mandatory three-hour course that is now required before parents can proceed legally with separation or divorce. A handbook on this subject might also be useful.
11. More Court Help For Youth. Social service agencies need to be educated in how they can best use the court system in cases where they think this would be beneficial to a young person they are helping. We understand this practice is currently underused.
12. Court/Protection Notices. Notices to non-custodial parents need clarification. Also more sensitivity is needed when dealing with the so-called "uncooperative" parent.
13. Family Problems. A substantial majority of youth criminal acts appear to have at least some of their roots in family problems; hence the absolute necessity of attacking this subject on a broad scale soon. (More in Appendix B)
14. Bullying. This subject is of major concern these days. Authorities should try their best to include help for both the bullies, as well as those bullied.
15. Resources for Sexually Exploited Youth. More resources are needed. Also more continuity is suggested, whether it is accommodations, social workers, schools, etc. (this is true for all troubled youths). Special attention should be paid to youth under 12, who often are particularly fragile and do not receive their fair share of services.

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16. Immigrant and Refugee Youth. As recently noted by Children's Commissioner, Paul Pallan, these youngsters need special attention in order to integrate successfully with other youth. Could volunteer counsellors be one answer?
17. Separation/Divorce Centre. This group is embarking on an important project; that of funding a safe place for children of separated/divorced parents to meet each of the parents separately, with support and supervision where needed. Such a place does not exist today. We heartily support this project. There is also considerable interest by several organizations in seeing this overextended agency expand its service.
18. Employment. Youth on probation said they would rather be working temporarily for financial and self-worth reasons rather than be involved in court-directed programs. This may not always be possible, due to a lack of skills. A pilot project should be considered.
19. Local Accommodation. A plea was made to have youth that are assigned to foster homes be accommodated in their local area more often so there can be more community/family support.
20. Stay in School. Changes should be made so that schools cannot suspend troublesome youth in the fall and still retain financial grants given for these youth. The grants should follow the child. More effort should be made to find some education alternatives for these young people in order to keep them in the system'. Otherwise there is an obvious danger that they will "fall between the cracks" and get into trouble.
21. Internet. The Internet should be employed on a continuing basis to track developments in youth justice from around the world. Why not use volunteers?

FUTURE ACTION

We recommend that a citizens committee be formed to address these issues, with participation from municipal and provincial governments. Small task forces should be considered to tackle the various subjects.

We would be pleased to assist in setting up the committee. However, our current mandate does not call for a leadership or ongoing roll in such a committee.

THANKS

We express our sincere thanks to all those who shared their thoughts with us. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee is pleased to have undertaken this project in the hopes that our endeavours will lead to positive steps to improve the lives of our young people.

Appendix A

POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE FAMILY COURT AND YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Victoria Family Court Committee is one of several such committees that have operated in British Columbia since 1984, under Provincial mandate.

The Family Court Committee may:

- a) Be a force in educating the public on issues related to Family Court;
- b) Sit in on court hearings to monitor the actions of all officials concerned with the welfare of youth and assist judges upon request;
- c) Report to the Capital Regional District Board and member municipalities of problems which are of concern;
- d) Enter and monitor both open and secure custody facilities;
- e) Comment upon legislation concerning families and youth; and
- f) 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.

The Family Court Committee is constituted under the Provincial Court Act, Section 57 24-2. In addition it has been designated by the Attorney General of British Columbia (June 27, 1984) to be the Youth Justice Committee, under Section 69 of the Federal Young Offenders Act, Bill C61 (See Sections 4.2 and 4.3)

Appendix B

**A UNIFIED APPROACH TO THE MANAGEMENT OF PROGRAMMES
FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Basil C. Boulton, MD, FRCP, FAAP

The Family Court and Youth Justice Committee mandate is to ensure court procedures are fair and appropriate and to advocate for children and families who encounter the justice system. Not only is a watchdog role required for children who enter the justice system but it is as important that the antecedent causes that bring young people into the judicial system and cause children to be antisocial are addressed. In order to review how issues surrounding children are being met in our community a survey of service providers, professionals, children and youth was undertaken.

Problems Encountered by Children and Youth

In the course of many presentations there were a number of common themes. These included a lack of resources, lack of integrated and accessible expertise in certain child health care areas, and a lack of an integrated approach by responsible ministries because of administrative bottlenecks and regulations. We heard that there were not enough of the right services to support children and families in their own homes, and that foster parents were not listened to, not given adequate information, and often not supported by Social Workers. ,

How Does the Justice System Affect Children and Youth?

The courts are neither child or family friendly and too frequently procedures are not timely and frequently there is insufficient information on which to base knowledgeable decisions. In the words of the kids who had experienced 'court Orders "they don't know us so how can they know what to do with us". The youth often found sentences irrelevant to their personal situation because the court procedure was often far removed from the time of offence and because they have learned how to manipulate the system it becomes a "joke". While our sample was small, it was striking that family conflict and abuse seemed to be common themes. One is led to ask why, if the root cause is so often in family conflict and violence, will a system based on legal arguments be effective in dealing with the very real problems encountered by young people and their families? In fairness most people involved in the various systems do everything in their power to divert children and youth from the courts and from being incarcerated but often in spite of, rather than because of, the laws and regulations which govern them.

Predisposing Conditions.

It is important to examine the predisposing conditions that lead children to encounter the legal and judicial system. These include developmental problems such as the fetal alcohol syndrome, narcotic abstinence syndrome, attachment problems in infancy, the effects of family violence and emotional abuse, neglect, and a host of mental health issues including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Pervasive Developmental Disorder, as well as poverty, family breakup, social isolation, school failure, immigrant and racial minority issues, etc.

How Do We Address The Problems?

Early identification, diagnosis, comprehensive assessment, and appropriate family support will assist in intelligent and compassionate intervention with the best chances for the prevention of delinquent and criminal behaviour. The best chance of diverting young people from a penal system is through evidence based pragmatic processes which offer better long-term outcomes that may decrease the desirability and need for incarceration both for youth and for adults. It makes little sense to jail an individual with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome who is not capable of appreciating either the consequences of his or her actions or the punishment that is meted out. Similarly an individual with a severe learning disability or a significant mental health problem who commits a crime is unlikely to benefit from incarceration although confinement may protect society temporarily.

Why is Early Child Development so Important?

The capacity of young children to absorb information of all kinds from their environment is phenomenal. Their learning includes values, attitudes, expectations of love and nurturing or oppositely of coldness, cruelty and insecurity. A complex machine may fail if only one critical part malfunctions and similarly the psyche of a child can become distorted and deviant if there is failure early in a child's development. A child changes from day to day and week to week in a series of developmental phases which if not successfully mastered will result in maldevelopment. How a child imprints and attaches successfully to parental figures or surrogates affects their ability to trust, to interact with attention rather than indifference and to be capable of returning love rather than hate. It affects their later ability to explore their world, to be creative and productive, and to parent and to nurture. An adult who may be traumatized does so against a background of strengths and weaknesses which leave scars and hurts, but children who are traumatized not only carry scars but their very being becomes damaged often with voids in learning, emotional development, growth and their sense of self or ego. They are much more likely to become abusive adults. The formative years of a child are a critical interwoven chain of events and experiences because of the developmental processes that are occurring. It is against the background of child development that interventional strategies and processes must be designed if we expect to increase adult potential and decrease delinquent and criminal behaviour.

The Critical Importance of Timeliness.

In both court and health service settings the importance of timeliness in relation to the child's changing and developmental processes is too often given short shrift. A two year old child who is not referred for services in timely fashion and who then remains on a waiting list for several months or a year for an assessment, treatment, remedial education, or for court services may beliened to a building left to burn for two hours before the fire department is called followed by an even longer response time before supplying water to put out the flame. Three months in the life of a toddler awaiting placement may be more significant than three decades to an adult and therefore more damaging because critical stages of development and attachment which do not take place at the appropriate time never properly develop. Delay resulting from inadequate resources must be ranked as one of the major problems for children and youth. Lack of timeliness for prevention, correction and remediation of problems increase problems for children and youth and lead to later, problems which may predispose to emotional disturbance, crime, and antisocial behaviour and failure to achieve their potential. Delay within the court system adds to the problem and puts the life of young people on hold. It interferes with the relevance of sentencing and any lessons the youth should learn from court procedures. When the time lapse of sentencing is too far removed from the offence it has a much reduced impact on the ability to change behaviour. Because critical developmental processes are happening, it is particularly important to be timely in service provision for children. Decisions regarding child placements in foster or adoptive homes should be made expeditiously, and every effort should be made to avoid keeping children waiting in service queues or waiting for permanent home placements or court decisions.

Children are Unique Individuals With Unique Needs

Children live with their expectations centered around parents and home and in the case of youth, also with friends. Every child needs a secure home and should not be expected to have their needs met by a multiplicity of strangers and service agencies. Infants need to become attached to their parents or surrogates. They signal their needs with no more than a cry or a whimper. When they are older and begin to explore their world they require the security of a home to which they return for food, shelter, and to meet and satisfy their physical and emotional needs. Even a fully grown teenager behind his or her bravado is looking for love, acceptance and reassurance. Children and youth accept that they belong in their home and want their parents to love them because they belong and because they are bonded or attached. Consider the emotional needs of a child as a unique individual with special gifts and needs in contrast to the organizational goals of a modern society with its multiplicity of standardized and bureaucratized procedures. Government services operate from a system orientation which provides services by organizational lines in the areas of Child Protection, Youth Justice, Health, and Education rather than as in a family where the orientation is around the unique and comprehensive needs of the child or youth based

on their individual personalities and talents. Advocates and watchdogs include the Child Advocate, the Ombudsman, the Children's Commissioner, and the Provincial Health Officer but each have different jurisdictions or responsibilities and seldom have the power or resources required to respond to the needs of the whole child in the context of his or her day to day life.

Change In Service Delivery Required To Meet the Needs of Children and Youth

Services are organized budgetarily and for reasons of accountability, but a better approach is to deliver services comprehensively according to the needs of the child. Thinking must be shifted from the turfs of Health and Medicine, Education, Social Services, and the Justice System to a child and family centered approach which provides continuity and respects the integrity of the child and adapts care to the community where the child lives. Service delivery requires professional support even when individual services may be delivered by lay people or volunteers. The service continuum should include assessment and diagnostic services as well as treatment, educational, and community living or recreational services. As one senior police official stated, the aim should be to rectify or prevent problems rather than to impose penalties or incarcerate youth. Problems should be anticipated, identified, and corrected early in the life of the child whenever possible. It is much more sensible to provide treatment early rather than to use greater resources when the problem has become unmanageable or the child is in trouble with the law as a teenager or has become an unhappy and unproductive adult or a hardened criminal.

The Rights of Children and Youths

In general interventions can be directed toward education, prevention, detection, and screening, diagnosis, assessment, treatment, and correction. They may be applied in the home, the community, health and social service milieus, schools, court settings or in correctional programmes. To be useful they must be effective, available, and timely, but because resources are finite there must be prioritization. Children are vulnerable and impressionable and remain so through their formative years. They may become badly warped if their environment is not secure, nurturing, and stable. An error in a compass course at the beginning of a journey becomes more discrepant the further distance that is travelled and so a child will be more and more deviant as a teen or an adult if problems are uncorrected in the early years. If change is to be effected it should begin as early as possible. Unfortunately, children are not enfranchised and do not vote. Although they elicit sympathy, children have little meaningful political impact in resource allocation because they do not lobby for themselves and they do not support political parties. Their needs often go unmet or remain low On the priority list in contrast to identified political constituencies such as the women's movement, environmentalists, or identified minority groups.

Summary.

In summary, it is evident that children and youth services need and deserve a greater share of resources, and it is also evident that changes are required in the delivery of services provided to children. We must do a better job of educating those who are involved in making decisions which impact on the lives of our children. We need to adopt community based and focussed models of service. We must ensure that those who are caring for our children as caregivers, volunteers, or professionals are appropriately trained, skilled, and supported. It appears that there is a great deal of agreement about where the problems are

and what is needed to correct or alleviate them. Government must show leadership and have the will to put sufficient resources into the childhood years where there is a real ability to create change. We should be saving or improving the utilization of resources by reducing the incarceration of youth and wherever possible diverting costly unhelpful court procedures which too often result in incarceration into more relevant, effective, and efficient programmes aimed at treating the underlying causes of the child's problem. We should not be soft on crime nor should we allow youth to escape the consequences of their misdemeanours but must apply resources more effectively. Redirection at top bureaucratic levels to create more unitary and inclusive programmes for children and youth combining health, educational, social, protection and court and justice services and eliminating administrative silos that fragment service delivery and diminish accountability are challenges that must be met. We should address the needs of children and youth in a coherent manner that is evidence based but we cannot permit inaction until every detail of a solution is proven and tested. Life is too dynamic and change is too rapid to allow us that luxury. We must look at both costs and reallocation of resources to realistically address the needs of children and youth. Achievement of even some of these goals will benefit all age groups and will lead to a healthier society.

Appendix C

Achievable Juvenile Justice Goals in Victoria - Jim Hackler¹ and Vivian Muir²

It is difficult for a citizen's committee to make recommendations on a complex topic like delinquency. We begin with some of the existing limitations.

The Limitations of Good Will.

Good intentions are not enough. Well meaning efforts do not necessarily decrease delinquency. Some, in fact, do harm. Even when juveniles in programs believe they were helped, sometimes the evidence shows that they were not. Essentially, the opinions of both the subjects of a program and the professionals involved are unreliable assessments of the actual impact. Fortunately, the professionals that we interviewed are aware of these problems, are not naive, and have realistic expectations of what can be accomplished.

Dealing with Fads

Another problem faced by citizens committees is the attractiveness of the latest fad. Community enthusiasm can be generated around new ideas. This can be positive as well as negative. Popularity is not a guarantee of success. Three areas might serve as illustrations.

Outdoor activities. Programs featuring hiking, mountain climbing, canoeing etc. are still offered as delinquency cures. Professionals with advanced degrees, usually in recreation, still swear by them. But 40 years of evidence is very clear. Outward Bound types of programs do not reduce delinquency. We should have interesting activities and experiences for all juveniles, but we should not expect them to prevent delinquency.

Alternative measures. Diversion was seen as an innovation about 35 years ago. Researchers in Quebec and elsewhere have noted that diversion often leads to "net widening". Juveniles who would normally be screened out by the police are now brought into "alternative measures programs." Diversion was probably done more effectively in an informal manner in the past.

Drug courts. Currently drug courts are being lauded in many places, although sophisticated evaluations are just beginning. Whether they will be an effective response to delinquency or another fad remains to be seen.

Our committee is in no position to assess the merits of each fad or specific program, and although our mandate is limited to that stage of the juvenile justice system where intervention is least effective, we make the following recommendations:

Suggestions

- 1) **Supporting parents.** Parents with problem juveniles are often treated with little respect. Professionals blame them, judges look down on them, and the public assumes that everything is the parents' fault. True, parents play a major role in socializing children, but there are many things outside of their control. The difficulties parents face are often exacerbated by the criminal justice system and social service bureaucracies.

Parents with problem children should receive more support.

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¹ Dr. Hückler has studied juvenile justice in several countries for 30 years. His latest book, *Canadian Criminology: Strategies and Perspectives* was published in 1999.

² Vivian Muir, B. S., MSC, LIB.

2) Exclusion of parents. Parents of young offenders are often talked about but seldom talked to by the officials involved in the court process. Some players, particularly the child's defense lawyer, specifically exclude the parents from discussions.

Parents should be included in court proceedings involving young persons.

3) Flexibility in the system. Our system demands that people appear at 9:30 in court even though they might wait all day to make a five minute appearance which resolves nothing. Is it unreasonable to expect family court conferences, court appearances, etc. and other bureaucratic functions to be scheduled on some evenings or weekends? The assumption that parents have nothing else to do characterizes our system. Placing the convenience of those in authority above those who are being served may be doing considerable damage.

Flexibility should be created in timing bureaucratic services, such as court hearings, to facilitate parent participation.

4) Informing parents. A booklet that might help parents "Your teen has been arrested" was prepared as part of a social work practicum. Prosecutors, police, and many professionals contributed extensively to this document. Similarly, "What Happens in Youth Court," was developed by the Attorney General's Department, and approved by many bodies throughout B. C. but was set aside because of budget constraints. These two documents are complementary. These modest publications to help parents would cost very little compared to the effort that has already been expended to produce them. It might also save considerable court time. The two documents which have already been prepared to provide information for parents should be printed and distributed.

5) Regional variations. There are custodial differences within Canada which are worth noting. Quebec seems to respond to juveniles more effectively than the rest of Canada. In B. C. some areas, such as Vernon, avoid putting many juveniles in custody. By contrast, Victoria seems to incarcerate higher numbers of juveniles. We do not understand why.

Simple analyses should be made of current data to see if it helps to understand the local systems which generate major differences in incarceration.

6) Looking at more successful systems. Considerable research shows that teams of people, such as those in court systems, perform better when the players are better acquainted.

To promote consistency, judges, clerks, sheriffs, and crown should be assigned to juvenile and family courts for at least one-year terms. In addition, there should be an administrative judge who sees family and youth matters as her primary concern.

Canada now incarcerates more juveniles per capita than the United States. European countries recognize that imprisonment tends to increase delinquency. Therefore, they devote fewer resources to custody and concentrate instead on activities that deal with those issues that gave rise to the delinquency.

MCF should consider a pilot project that uses a non-adversarial approach in youth court matters to

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enable all parties to cooperate in resolving the issue.

Furthermore, delays decrease the effectiveness of many remedial actions. In France a juvenile picked up by the police at 3:00 pm would probably be processed through the prosecutor and appear before the judge the same day. The vast majority of cases do not go on to court and the judge foregoes any punitive powers. However, the judge has flexibility and extensive helping powers. Since she has no power to coerce, she must persuade. It seems that French judges persuade juveniles more successfully than our judges who rely on threats and punishment.

A fast track system is needed, possibly using a restorative justice approach, which minimizes incarceration, particularly for disobeying administrative decisions such as breaches of probation.

This flexibility is possible under our system. A short description of a "social service judge" role has been described in the Provincial Court Judges Journal (Fall 1996). Section 68 of the Young Offenders Act also encourages flexibility and creative initiatives, but this section has been underused.

These are not earth shaking suggestions; they are achievable and inexpensive.

APPENDIX D

Participants

1. Alternatives to Violence
2. Big Brothers/Big Sisters
3. Boys and Girls Club (including Nexus & Turnabout)
4. B.C. Child and Youth Advocate
5. Child Abuse Prevention and Counseling Society
6. Cascadia Foundation
7. Canadian Bar Association (Family Law Subsection)
8. Canadian Bar Association (Youth Subsection)
9. Dallas Youth and Family Services
10. Fetal Alcohol Group
11. Foster Parents
12. Girls Alternative Program (GAP)
13. HiliHouse Transition House
14. Immigrant and Refugee Centre
15. John Howard Society
16. Military Family Resource Centre
17. Nisika Family Community Services
18. Native Friendship Centre
19. Peninsula Community Services
20. Probation Officer
21. Parents of youth who have been in custody
22. Prostitutes Empowerment, Education & Resource Society (PEERS)
23. Pacific Centre Family Services
24. Rock Solid
25. R.C.M.P. (West Shore and Sidney)
26. Saanich Police (Youth & Family Counselling)
27. Saanich Child/Youth Mental Health
28. School District 961 - Alternative Programs .../2
29. Separation and Divorce Resource Centre

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- 30. Single Parents Resource Centre
- 31. TAPS - Together Against Poverty
- 32. Victoria Youth Empowerment
- 33. Volunteer Victoria
- 34. Victoria Judiciary
- 35. Victoria Police
- 36. Victoria Bar Association
- 37. Youth Employment Project
- 38. Youth on probation

