

ATTACHMENT 2

VFC&YJC WORK GROUP SUCCESSION-MEETINGS REPORT AUGUST 16, 2021

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Since membership in this committee is non-remunerated and voluntary, there is very little that can be formally required of anyone. Each member is encouraged to be:

- aware of our Bylaws and prepared to give time and energy so as to make the work of the committee effective
- an active participant in the affairs of one or more subcommittees
- continually watchful as to the welfare of the children and youth involved in the justice, protection, divorce and custody systems
- involved in discussion, workshops, visitations to open and closed custody facilities, and in communication with other Family Court and Youth Justice Committees and –

Each member is required to take the oath of Confidentiality and to respect the terms of the *Young Offenders Act*.

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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

<i>Provincial Court Act</i> Chapter 57 42-2	<i>Young Offenders Act</i> Section 69 Bill C-61	Commissioner of Corrections Sec. G-2 Par. 101 Manual of Operations Youth Correctional Program
Examine community resources for family and children matters. Assist and make recommendations to the court	Attorney General appointment to make youth justice committees more effective service as Youth Justice Committee	Signed agreement to be the 'community committee' of the Victoria Youth Custody Division

SUB-COMMITTEES

Under the Committee's constitution, there are six sub-committees, each representing aspects of the three distinct pieces of legislation under which the Committee operates. The Chairperson of the main Committee appoints the chairperson of each sub-committee, who must also be a member of the main Committee. The chairperson of each sub-committee can determine the membership of that sub-committee and the members need not be members of the main Committee.

The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee sets the Agendas at a Steering Committee meeting one week prior to the main committee meeting, consisting of the executive, sub-committee chairs and any member who chooses to attend. The sole purpose of the meeting is to determine a time appropriate agenda and schedule guest speakers, as well as to discuss the Annual General Meeting Agenda and issues to be brought forward, including notice of motions. Changes to subcommittee structures are considered at the AGM and notice of a motion to amend is required.

Two subcommittees have been added to the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee: The Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRATSEY) and CASA for Children (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Canada.

It was determined at the 2011 Annual General Meeting that we would discontinue the Custody subcommittee, but that continued liaison between the Youth Containment Centre and the Committee was most valuable. It is noteworthy that in 2012, female youth were no longer received at the Victoria Youth Containment Facility and instead are transported to the mainland. While we advocated for continued containment options for girls here on Vancouver Island (and supported the same for northern municipalities with similar concerns), we understand that these changes have been made with additional supports for female youth and their families. We have a good relationship with the staff including their attendance at our meetings and, continue to be offered tours of the facility whenever we feel it appropriate or necessary.

The Family Matters subcommittee has been inactive due to the difficulty in finding dedicated members to investigate the family and family court issues. Our long time chair continues to report to the main committee on issues of concern to families, but larger committee work has not been required and therefore the need to create reports for the main committee is relieved by the ability of our secretary to capture issues brought to the attention of the committee on an 'as needed' reporting basis.

The Court Watch Committee has regular observation at the Court House and offers tours for members as they are able to attend, to help the main committee understand the routines and shortfalls experienced by our service providers, families and youth.

Communications/Planning

Responsible for bringing community youth issues and resources to the attention of members, and for promoting Committee initiatives in the community. The Communications/Planning Committee is responsible for website, correspondence and print material development, with the assistance of the main committee.

Youth Matters

Concerned with matters involving youth at risk in the community or in the court system. Under the *Federal Young Offenders Act*, the mandate for community involvement falls to the youth justice committees.

Priorities

Responsible for assessing applications for support of appropriate youth initiatives in the community, and making recommendations to the full Committee for consideration.

Court Watch

Concerned with monitoring any matters pertaining to youth or family in the court system. Members will attend youth, family or aboriginal court, follow-up and report on concerns, assist judges and other officers of the court.

CRATSEY – Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth

Advocate for youth who are or may be at risk of sexual exploitation through education of both youth and adults and, advocacy to mitigate those risks. CRAT is inclusive and the members come from the three levels of government, the health region, school districts, police forces, youth-serving agencies, parents, former sexually exploited youth and individuals with a commitment to helping solve the problem of a growing number of underage (under 19) youth who were trading and selling sex for survival. You can learn more about CRAT at www.crat.ca

CASA- Court Appointed Special Advocates

CASA became a subcommittee of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee in 2010, modeled after the U.S. CASA ceased operations as a separate entity as of June, 2016 and remaining funds (provided by VFCYJC to assist in startup) were returned to the committee. Advocacy for youth has continued under the Court Watch Committee. CASA had sought “To support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy for abused and neglected children so that they can thrive in safe, permanent homes.”

There is no subcommittee for **Restorative Justice**, however, we do have resource members and CRD appointments from Restorative Justice Agencies who assist the sub and main committees. We have advocated for stable funding of Restorative Justice Alternative Measures as these measures serve the community, victims and offenders, and relieve pressure on the Court System. The Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee has supported numerous Alternative Justice development programs over the years, including multi-jurisdictional training and training materials.