

**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Meeting held Thursday  
September 28, 2023, Council Chambers, Central Saanich Municipal Hall, 1903 Mount  
Newton Cross Road**

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**PRESENT:**

**Municipal Representatives:** Marie-Térèse Little (Metchosin); Adam Flint (View Royal); Mayor Ryan Windsor (Central Saanich); Corey Wood, (Central Saanich); Zeb King (Central Saanich); Mena Westhaver (Saanich); (EP) Jeff Bateman (Sooke) (EP); Kimberley Guiry (Langford) (EP); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Esther Paterson (Oak Bay); Sara Duncan (Sidney) (EP); Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate); Jack McLintock (North Saanich) Cynthia Day (Colwood); (EP)

**Capital Regional District (CRD) Representative:** Bill McElroy (EP).

**School District Representatives:** Nicole Duncan (School District 61 Chair) (EP); Karin Kwan, (School District 61 Trustee) (EP); Teri Vanwell (School District 63 Alternate Trustee); Cendra Beaton, (School District 62 Trustee) (EP); Trudy Spiller, (School District 62 Trustee) (EP)

**Resource Members:** Gord Magee and Mia Golden (Mobile Youth Services Team).

**CRD Staff:** Steven Carey, Senior Manager, Legal Services & Risk Management; (EP); Sharon Orr (Senior Committee Clerk) (EP); Donna Kroker, (EP); Marnie Essery (Secretary) (EP).

**Regrets:** Krista Loughton (Victoria); Ron Mattson (View Royal); Gordon Newton, (Central Saanich).

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am.

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the unceded traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples, on whose traditional territories we are blessed to live, work and play.

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair thanked Central Saanich for hosting our meeting and the warm welcome by Mayor Windsor, Councillor King and staff. She also welcomed newly appointed representatives to VFCYJC joining us today.

All committee members and resource agency representatives also introduced themselves.

**3. Resource Agencies**

M. Golden and G. Magee provided an update on the Mobile Youth Services Team.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- There is a large number of youth being groomed for gangs from the mainland. It is happening in all school districts. There are no boundaries. The MYST team is being flooded by calls from parents who want help. Parental education is critical in helping these individuals navigate their feelings of helplessness. More staff is required for this kind of work in addition to all else facing the region's one team. It is a massive task. Prevention is key. Malls have been a concern as targets for exploitation. Youth identified as gay on social media are being targeted by predators.

- G. Magee is working on a report for VFCYJC. C. Day offered to help with this report. She can share what was presented at the Union of BC Municipalities Conference and advocate C. Peters to create action items for municipalities.
- The Chair encouraged VFCYJC Members to take this information back to their Councils and School Boards.
- Communications Chair J. Bateman shared that on the VFCYJC website there is a history of M.Y.S.T. advocacy.

#### **4. To Approve the Sept 28 Agenda as Amended to add Coroners Update under 9.6**

**Recommendation: That the agenda for September 28, 2023 meeting of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee be approved.**

**MOTION: E. Paterson/ T. Vanwell**

**CARRIED**

#### **5. Adoption of Minutes**

**Recommendation: That the minutes of June 22, 2023 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.**

**MOTION: E. Paterson/ A. Flint**

**CARRIED**

#### **5.1 Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of Sept 14, 2023**

**Recommendation: That the notes of the Sept 14, 2023 meeting of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.**

**MOTION: R. Stanton/M. McLean**

**CARRIED**

#### **6. Chairperson Remarks**

The Chair is delighted to see committee members in Central Saanich. Thanks to those of you joining us online as well. Welcome to our new Central Saanich representative Corey Wood and alternate Jim Rondeau. Corey worked with youth in Calgary for 20 years.

#### **7. Presentations/Delegations**

There were no presentations or delegations.

#### **8. Subcommittees**

##### **8.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)**

Update by Chair Marcie McLean – no new grant applications. M. McLean will follow up with Youth Empowerment Society and Cornerstone about presentations to VFCYJC.

##### **8.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (Bill McElroy)**

Chair B. McElroy updated that C.R.A.T. has been trying to meet online but attendance has been sparse. There has been a lot of turnover in agencies. An attempt to restructure is underway and this is a work in progress. B. McElroy hopes to have more to report soon.

**8.3 Family and Youth Matters (Cynthia Day)**-Chair C. Day would welcome committee members who want to help. This subcommittee makes connections with youth in the community and brings forward issues important to youth.

**8.4. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little)**

Chair M.T. Little shared that this subcommittee used to be very active before Covid, a group of VFCYJC committee members went to Duncan to observe in an Indigenous Court. VFCYJC would welcome suggestions on possible legal contacts to link to this committee.

**8.6. Communications (Jeff Bateman)**

Chair J. Bateman continues to update the website. Please visit the evolving website and he welcomes your feedback and suggestions.

An updated backgrounder on the school police liaison officer program was prepared for this meeting. Thanks to Nicole Duncan, School District 61 Board Chair for accepting invitation to attend our meeting today and discuss the School Police Liaison Officer Program termination. K Loughton and D. Ratchford are colleagues on this subcommittee as well along with Vice-Chair Adam Flint.

**9. Treasurer – report (Esther Paterson)**

R. Stanton volunteered to work with E. Paterson to create a budget.

**To accept the Treasurers Report as presented.**

**MOTION: E. Paterson/ C. Day**

**CARRIED**

**10. Committee Business**

**10.1** Committee discussion re: decision of School District 61 Board of Education to end the School Police Liaison Officer Program at School District 61 Schools

- N. Duncan clarified that there was correspondence received over 3 years not just before the School Board meeting. SD 61 took seriously the Human Rights Commissioner Report, world events and it was time for a review as factors in the decision re the end of the School Police Liaison Officer Program in School District 61 Schools.
- Important to keep open dialogue. Priority that schools are a safe and inclusive places.
- There are gaps and students are struggling. The work that M.Y.S.T. is doing is valued.
- The relationships that police form with children is important.
- M. Westhaver expressed sincere appreciation of the Hockey Heroes Program for marginalized youth which is predominantly Indigenous youth. Police Officers make a huge contribution to this program.
- C. Beaton shared that School District 62 is creating a video about its continued positive involvement with the SPLO program for posting on its website. Schools are an extension of the community so SD 61 is grateful for police involvement.

**10.2 Fall 2023 MYST advocacy letter for sustained funding as per request of Ministers Dean and Lore (Marie-Terese Little)**

**To write a letter of support for sustained funding for M.Y.S.T.**

**MOTION: R. Stanton/ T. Vanwell**

**CARRIED**

**10.3 Resources for Administrative Services (Steve Carey)**

The Chair has received an email from S. Carey re admin support.  
M.T. Little will follow up on this.  
Thank you to S. Orr and M. Essery for their support.

#### **10.4 Qualification Matrix Update (Marie-Terese Little, Esther Paterson)**

**Resolution: WHEREAS the Youth Criminal Justice Act, Provincial Court Act BC and CRD Bylaw 4453 stipulate the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee ensure a majority of members have experience in education, health, probation, or welfare, and the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee approved the Experience Qualifications Matrix contained in the Meetings Sub-Committee Report dated May 15, 2022,**

**BE IT RESOLVED that the Chairperson issue a letter requesting VFC&YJ Committee Appointed Members confirm, by October 6 2023, their professional or related experience as referenced in the Matrix.  
Reply to vfamcourt@gmail.com email address**

**E Paterson is willing to help with the creation of the report.  
We still have 5 spots for CRD Board appointments. If you know anyone who might be interested, please let us know.**

**MOTION: E. Paterson/ A. Flint  
CARRIED**

#### **10.5 Resource Agency Master List**

- **Master list + additions (Esther Paterson, M. McLean)**
- **Addition of agency overviews + links to reports/statistics (Jeff Bateman)**

Thank you to E. Paterson and M. McLean for their work. It was an arduous task. This updated contact list will allow VFCYJC to check in with these agencies annually. Covid created a lot of disconnection. This is a great opportunity for our committee to reconnect and foster relationships with those doing the outreach and providing services to children, youth and families.

#### **11. Coroners Statistics**

R. Stanton shared information from the following report.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/life-events/death/coroners-service/statistical-reports>

#### **12. Location and dates of upcoming monthly meetings: Oct. 26, Nov. 23, 2023 at the CRD, 625 Fisgard Street.**

The Chair encouraged people to attend steering meetings on zoom. They are informal and are to set the agenda for the next meeting. VFCYJC steering meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month from 11:30-12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

#### **13. New Business-none**

#### **14. Notice of Motion-none**

#### **15. Correspondence-none**

#### **16. Roundtable (if time allows)-time did not allow**

#### **17. To Adjourn at 1:05 pm**

**MOTION: A. Flint/ R. Stanton  
CARRIED**