

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee

Steering Committee Notes – Jan. 11, 2024

Attendees: Marie-Terese Little, Adam Flint, Marcie McLean, Esther Paterson, Rose Stanton, Trudy Spiller, Marnie Essery, Jeff Bateman. Regrets: Krista Loughton, Mena Westhaver

Marie-Terese called the meeting to order at 11:33 AM

- * Agenda for Jan. 25, 2024, AGM discussed and drafted
- * Agenda for Jan. 25, 2024, regular meeting discussed and drafted
- * Executive Election: Marie-Terese and Adam will discuss their respective roles with the committee going forward. Esther indicated she will again stand for Treasurer in 2024.
- * Subcommittees: Marcie (Priorities), Bill (CRAT) and Jeff (Communications) indicated they would stand for Subcommittee chairs. Marie-Terese noted that the Court Watch committee would best be led by a lawyer versed in family law. **Action: Jeff to send a reminder note to the membership re: participation in subcommittees.**
- * Oaths of office by VFCYJC members are no longer required now that the committee is a delegated commission of the CRD. **Action: Marie-Terese to mention the CRD Code of Conduct and its application to members during her AGM remarks.**
- * The year-end financial report prepared by the CRD will be presented at the AGM.
- * Adam is designing and assembling the 2023 annual report, which is largely complete pending a few missing pieces. A motion is required at the AGM to approve the draft annual report.
- * Dr. Jennifer Charlesworth, BC's Representative for Children and Youth, has been invited to attend the AGM as guest speaker. Reminders have been sent, and we await word on her availability.
- * Meeting dates: Reconsideration of our regular fourth-Thursdays schedule given that it conflicts with that of our City of Victoria representative. Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1 PM might be a broadly acceptable alternative date for 2024 meetings. To be discussed under New Business on Jan. 25. **Action: Marie-Terese to check with Steve Carey about possible availability of CRD boardroom on Tuesdays.**
- * Orientation: To be presented at the February meeting. **Action: Chair**
- * CRD staff will be advertising for open appointments this month. **Action: Steve Carey & Sharon Orr**
- * Open House 2024: Esther suggested we begin planning ASAP for an encore open house for resource agencies. It would be modelled after the 2023 event, and held on a TBD weekday in May or June from 4 to 6 PM. A guest speaker would draw attendees, and it was suggested an invite be sent to Attorney General Nikki Sharma inquiring about her availability. **Action: Jeff**

- * It would be helpful for members if, as an ongoing practice, first names were included in meeting minutes rather than an initial and last name only. **Action: Marnie.**
- * A formal roll call of attendees at the start of meetings is a recommended best practice. **Action: Chair**
- * Appreciation for Rose's report on coroner's data at the November meeting. She will present the next set of data at our regular meeting as available in either February or March. **Action: Rose**
- * Cathy Peters of the Be Amazing Campaign to stop sex trafficking in Canada will be invited as guest speaker at the February regular meeting. **Action: Jeff.** Other potential guests include Victoria PD Chief Dal Manak and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth.
- * The Priorities sub-committee has received a grant application from the Village Initiative for consideration.
- * Recommended that First Nation representatives be invited to future VFCYJC meetings.
- * If time permits, roundtable discussions at the end of meetings are a valued way for members to share information, ask questions and deepen their participation in the committee.
- * Pizza will continue to be ordered for meeting attendees. Gluten-free options will be made available.

Meeting adjourned: 12:22 PM