

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee **Steering Committee Notes – February 8, 2024**

Attendees: Marie-Terese Little, Adam Flint, Marcie McLean, Esther Paterson, Rose Stanton, Mena Westerhaver, Marnie Essery, Bill McElroy, Jeff Bateman.

Marie-Terese called the meeting to order at 11:30 AM

* Agenda for Feb. 22, 2024 regular meeting discussed and drafted. **Action: Marnie and Adam**

* Guest speaker will be Caileigh Owen, staff family lawyer at the University of Victoria Law Centre. honorarium. Thanks to Steve Carey for making this possible.

* No treasurer's report this month. CRD financial statements will be shared as available in future.
Action: Esther.

* Subcommittee participation. A line reminding members to volunteer with one of the five subcommittees will be added as a standing item to agendas.

* Added under New Business for Feb. 22:

1. 2024 orientation to be presented. Marcie suggested that the Committee's Terms of Reference and Constitution be added as related agenda attachments. **Action: Marie-Terese and Steve.**

2. Preliminary discussion re: whether the UVic Law Centre might be interested in taking on the VFCYJC Court Watch function via regular reporting back to the Committee in return for an honorarium.

3. Results to date of CRD call for citizen appointees with its Feb. 26 deadline. **Action: Steve** (Suggestion was made that a CRD staff report could be added as a standing item to agendas.)

4. MYST update to include any news re: 2024/25 funding status; Gord Magee's MYST backgrounder; a link to the True Blue podcast; and any response received to VFCYJC's Jan. 25 motion offering \$5k to CRED/MYST to fund an ROI analysis to be used in its advocacy efforts

5. Open House planning for a TBD date in May. Jeff has invited Minister Sharma and asked her staff to advise us of her preferred dates on a weekday afternoon if she is available. Need to confirm this ASAP.
Action: Jeff.

* Future guest speakers tentative for later this year: Cathy Peters, anti-human trafficking advocate with the Be Amazing campaign and Jennifer Charlesworth, BC Representative for Children and Youth. Bill recommended we invite a rep from Foundry BC, and he'll look into it. Other potential guests recommended to date include Victoria PD Chief Dal Manak and Solicitor General Mike Farnworth.
Action: Jeff and Bill

* Finalize cover letter to accompany distribution of annual report to municipal councils and the Attorney General. Adam is adjusted a few minor errors in the Annual Report. **Action: Marie-Terese and Jeff**

Meeting adjourned: 12:12 PM