

**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting held  
Thursday June 22, 2023, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC**

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**PRESENT:**

**Municipal Representatives:** Marie-Térèse Little (Metchosin, EP); Jeff Bateman (Sooke); Kimberley Guiry (Langford, EP); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Esther Paterson, Chair (Oak Bay); Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate, EP); Zeb King (Central Saanich); Mena Westhaver (Saanich, EP); Cynthia Day (Colwood, EP)

**Capital Regional District (CRD) Representative:** N/A

**School District Representatives:** Nola Silzer (School District 63 Trustee, EP); Trudy Spiller (School District 62 Trustee, EP); Cendra Beaton (School District 62 Alternate Trustee, EP).

**Resource Members:** Mia Golden (Mobile Youth Services Team); [Gord Magee](#) (Mobile Youth Services Team).

**CRD Staff:** Tamara Pillipow, (CRD); Jessica Dorman (CRD); Marnie Essery (Secretary)

**Regrets:** Krista Loughton (Victoria); Bill McElroy (C.R.A.T.); Ron Mattson (View Royal); Adam Flint (View Royal); Gord Irving (Central Saanich-Alternate); Darlene Rotchford (Esquimalt); Angela Carmichael (School District 61); Sara Duncan (Sidney); Jack McLintock (N. Saanich).

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:31 am.

**1. Territorial Acknowledgement**

**2. Welcome and Introductions**

Resource Agency Guests were introduced.

**3. Resource Agencies**

M. Golden provided an update regarding the Mobile Youth Services Team.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- M.Y.S.T. is extremely busy. Schools in the region sent out letters to raise awareness about the increased risk of gang activity in all municipalities, and reported increases in Saanichton, Oak Bay and West Shore. It is difficult to determine levels of gang recruitment or activity as many youths do not feel safe to build relationships with law enforcement contacts in schools or their communities. Relationship building is critical to containing or reducing gang recruitment.
- Committee members recommended that M.Y.S.T. prepare a presentation that gives an overview of their work with youth, with relevant statistics to support the information. Comm C. Day, Chair Family and Youth Matters Committee, volunteered to work with M. Golden in preparing the report for presentation at a future meeting.
- Constable Chris Dovell of West Shore RCMP has been invited to a future VFCYJC meeting to share about his work with youth.

**4. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOVED by M. McLean SECONDED by J. Bateman**

**That the agenda for Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of June 22, 2023 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**5. Adoption of Minutes**

**That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of May 25, 2023, be adopted with the following amendments:**

**On Pg 2 Item 5 where it speaks to resource personnel, the name of the person and the agency represented will be provided for clarity.**

**To Adopt Amended May 25, 2023 Minutes**

**MOVED by Z. King, SECONDED by J. Bateman**

**CARRIED**

**5.1 Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of June 8, 2023**

**MOVED by C. Day, SECONDED by Z. King**

**That the meeting notes of the Steering Committee of June 8, 2023, be received.**

**CARRIED**

**6. Chairperson Remarks** - Acting Chair E. Paterson thanked everyone who attended and assisted with the June 13<sup>th</sup> Reception.

**7. Presentations/Delegations**

There were no presentations or delegations.

**8. Committee Business**

**8.1. Priorities and Grants**

**Marcie McLean (Priorities Subcommittee, Chair)**

Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) Priorities Chair provided background information and Sub-Committee recommendations for the Cornerstone Youth Society, also known as Youth Sanctuary Centre, grant application received on June 14, 2023.

June 19, 2023 Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) Priorities Subcommittee (Sub-committee) recommendation(s) for the Cornerstone Youth Society also known as Youth Sanctuary Centre grant application received by the Sub-committee on June 14, 2023. The Sub-committee has reviewed the grant application and materials, posed some questions and received answers back by email from the applicant. Youth Sanctuary Centre's grant application funding request is for \$5,000.00. Their grant application is included in the June 22, 2023 VFC&YJC Agenda for the Committee's information. Brief background from their application: Sanctuary Youth Centre (Sanctuary) serves youth aged 14-22 years within the Capital Regional District who are actively seeking to exit hard drug usage and/or street life. Sanctuary has established a program called Wellness Wednesday Program (WWP), for 1 day a week on Wednesdays for up to 5 hours those days. To engage and mentor youth with outdoor recreational activities and provide a safe supportive supervised environment for street engaged youth providing opportunities for life skills and mental health and training skills curriculum, develop healthy relationships and lessen risky behavior and potential involvement with the judicial court system, which appears to be relevant to the VFC&YJC Mandate. The Wellness Wednesday

Program (WWP) also mentors, builds and reinforces protective factors against delinquency, lessening risky behavior and emphasizing skills for resiliency and coping, including conflict resolution skills. The WWP is an on-going recurring program for the foreseeable future. Therefore, the WWP does not appear to have an end timeframe and does not have stabilized funding. There is not full support for this application by the Sub-committee members, which obviously makes the recommendation decision a bit challenging.

Priorities Sub-committee Recommendation: does not support the full grant request of \$5,000.00. The Priorities Sub-committee recommends to the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee: That the Cornerstone Youth Society also known as Sanctuary Youth Centre be granted \$3,000.00 towards their 2023 Wellness Wednesday Program with the \$3,000.00 being directed to their Mental Health and Skills Training Curriculum for curriculum and classroom supplies funding. Sub-committee Rationale: The intent of the educational component of the Wellness Wednesday Program speaks more clearly to VFC&YJC Mandate.

Respectfully submitted, Marcie McLean, VFC&YJC Priorities sub-committee, Chair

The Sub-committee has reviewed the grant application and materials and received response providing further clarifications. Grant funding request is for \$5,000.00 to support the Wellness Wednesday program. The Sub-Committee recommendation is to award a reduced amount of \$3,000.00 for Youth Sanctuary Centre.

**The Priorities Sub-committee recommends to the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee: That the Cornerstone Youth Society also known as Sanctuary Youth Centre be granted \$3,000.00 towards their 2023 Wellness Wednesday Program with the \$3,000.00 being directed to their Mental Health and Skills Training Curriculum for curriculum and classroom supplies funding. Sub-committee Rationale: The intent of the educational component of the Wellness Wednesday Program speaks more clearly to VFC&YJC Mandate.**

**VFCYJC will request a year-end report from Youth Sanctuary Centre about the outcomes of the program.**

**MOVED by Z. King, SECONDED by J. Bateman  
CARRIED**

## **8.2. Meet and Greet for Resource Agencies and Committee Members**

**E. Paterson reported that 13 Resource Agencies and 3 Law Enforcement agencies attended the June 13<sup>th</sup> Reception. In total 34 people attended the reception.** VFCYJC members who attended commented on benefits of hosting the reception, including the opportunity to make connections and talk about issues, challenges and resources that support youth and families in the region. There was consensus for hosting similar events in the future.

## **8.3. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth- CRAT (Bill McElroy)**

B. McElroy was unable to attend the meeting and will be providing a report in September.

**8.4. Family and Youth Matters (Cynthia Day) - No report**

**8.5. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little) - No report**

### **8.6. Communications (Jeff Bateman)**

The June 13<sup>th</sup> reception provided an opportunity for members of the Communications Subcommittee to meet in-person. M. Bateman, Communication Chair reported that M.T. Little advocated for continued funding for M.Y.S.T. with Provincial representatives. The Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society has joined VFC&YJ Committee as a Resource Agency. Their representative, Tamara Allen, will be invited to speak at a future meeting.

J. Bateman will email a reminder to all resource agencies confirming dates for upcoming VFC&YJ Committee meetings, and the opportunity for resource agency guest speakers.

### **8.7. Treasurer – verbal report (Esther Paterson)**

VFC&YJ Committee account has a surplus balance of \$33,650 as of May 30<sup>th</sup>. A financial statement will be included with the September agenda package.

## **9. New Business**

### **9.1. Resource Agency Master List**

Resource Agency contacts and contact information was updated and verified at the June 13<sup>th</sup> reception. The information has been circulated to Subcommittee Chairs.

### **9.2. Administrative Support (Marie-Terese Little) – update**

This item will be carried to a future meeting.

### **9.3. Location and Dates of upcoming Meetings - future committee meetings on Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 23, 2023.**

Steering committee meeting September 14, 2023, Zoom and In-person – Serious Coffee, Sooke Road in Colwood. VFC&YJ Committee meeting on Sept. 28, 2023 will be held via Zoom and In-person in Central Saanich.

### **9.4. SD #61 Termination of School Police Liaison Officer (SPLO) program**

J. Bateman prepared a backgrounder on the issue for VFC&YJ Committee meeting.

#### **Discussion**

- In general, VFC&YJ Committee members considered SPLO programs provided benefits for kids/families and cancelling SPLO programs could have negative unintended or undetermined consequences. Youth cannot be turned away from SPLO programs, as may be the case with other agencies.
- Confidentiality of information makes it difficult to get this empirical data.
- SPLO programs foster building relationships and establishing trust with School Districts.
- Law enforcement, schools and the broader community needs to work together re youth exploitation and the concern re gang recruitment.
- The School Police Liaison Officer program often is the first line of communication to avoid youth entering justice system. If the funding is removed from the police budget, it will be very hard to get it reinstated.
- VFCYJ Committee members are interested in gaining understanding of School District 61 rationale for deciding May 31 to end their SPLO program.

**To receive this as information and continue the conversation in September**

**MOVED** by J. Bateman, **SECONDED** by Z. King  
**CARRIED**

To amend motion that School District 61 Trustees be invited to attend the meeting.

**MOVED** by K. Guiry, **SECONDED** by Z. King  
**CARRIED**

**9.5. Decision of the School Board Trustees of School District 61, Board of Education, to end the SPLO at School District 61 schools, for Committee discussion. (as above)**

**10. Notice of Motion-none**

**11. Correspondence-none**

**12. Roundtable (if time allows) – no further discussion took place.**

**13. To Adjourn at 1:00 p.m.**

**MOVED** by Z. King, **SECONDED** by K. Guiry  
**CARRIED**