



Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday January 23, 2025, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street

PRESENT:

Committee Members: M. Little (Chair), K. Guiry (Vice Chair), J. Bateman, D. Brown (EP), C. Chaytors (EP), C. Day (for M. Olsen), S. Kim, C. Lervold (EP), M. McKay (for S. Riddell) (EP), M. McLean, T. O'Keefe (EP), E. Paterson, T. Vanwell

Staff: S. Orr, Senior Committee Clerk, Legislative Services; M. Essery, Recording Secretary, (EP)

Regrets: K. Armour, A. Holeton, K. Marshall, B. McElroy, M. Olsen, S. Rapoport, S. Riddell, M. Westhaver

Guests/Resource Members: There were no guests or resource members in attendance.

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 12:53 pm.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

A Territorial Acknowledgement was provided in the preceding meeting.

2. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and Introductions were done in the preceding meeting.

3. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by E. Paterson, **SECONDED** by T. Vanwell,

That the agenda for the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of January 23, 2025 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of Minutes

4.1. Adoption of the November 28, 2024 Minutes

MOVED by J. Bateman, **SECONDED** by E. Paterson

That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of November 28, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

4.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of January 9, 2025

MOVED by K. Guiry, **SECONDED** by J. Bateman,

That the notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee meeting of January 9, 2025 be received.

CARRIED

5. Chairperson's Remarks

There were no Chair's remarks.

6. Presentations/Delegations

Cheryl Chaytors provided an update on the Boys and Girls Club.

7. VFCYJC Orientation

Chair Little presented the VFCYJC Orientation.

8. Committee Meeting Schedule

This item was considered in the preceding AGM.

Location and Dates of upcoming meetings in 2025: January 23, April 24, June 26, and October 23 to be held in person and electronically from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, in the CRD Boardroom and special meetings to be at the call of the Chair.

9. Sub-Committee Business

9.1. Priorities and Grants

M. McLean spoke to Item 9.1. and explained the what the sub-committee purpose.

Chair Little thanked M. McLean for organizing the tour of the Youth Empowerment Society If there are other resource agencies you would like to tour please let us know.

9.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth

B. McElroy submitted the Report on MYST Planning Group to be circulated to the committee in his absence:

The MYST ad hoc planning group has met twice since November 28, 2024. The meetings were chaired by Dr. Rebecca Nelems, the author of the MYST report. In attendance were Mia Golden and Gord Magee from MYST, Dr. Nelems, Liz Nelson, ED, Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Julie and Sara, PCFSA. We were introduced to the new MYST Saanich Police Officer, Shauna Bainbridge. Gord McGee has left the position and has returned to regular duties. Liz informed the group that a grant has been approved from the Federal Government until September 2027, for sexual assault and exploitation prevention. How this will tie into MYST has not been sorted out with the funder. Another CRED application has been submitted with the final decision on that application in April 2025. Dr. Nelems presented to SD61 in November 2024 and was approached by one of the parents who wants to start a letter writing campaign in support of MYST, to MP's, MLA's, City Councillors, Police, and other policy and decision makers. The planning group is assisting this endeavor by supplying data and statistics. Discussion ensued regarding compiling MYST stats and data. With the urgent needs of the MYST team, it has been difficult to keep stats about the work and impact of MYST. The group will meet again in February 2025. VFCYJC representative to the MYST Planning group: A further update that on March 19 there will be a meeting with Superintendent Todd Preston. VFCYJC believes that the West Shore RCMP will continue funding MYST to the end of 2025 for the police officer position on MYST.

9.3. Family and Youth Matters

C. Day shared information about the Youth Nights at West Shore Parks and Recreation, The Village Initiative and again raised concerns about a minimum of a 1 year wait time for Youth Mental Health Issues.

9.4. Court Watch

Discussion about need, feasibility and future of this sub-committee.
This was tabled until a future meeting.

9.5. Communications

J. Bateman thanked K. Loughton for her passion and efforts on the Communications sub-committee. She will be missed.

The following updates were provided:

- Website update – J. Bateman confirmed that VFCYJC now has a monthly retainer with Honeycomb Services.
- Future meeting speakers - J. Bateman stated that future meeting speakers will be Dr Rebecca Nelems, Jamie McLaren, Cheryl Chaytors, Jennifer Charlesworth, and the Victoria Native Friendship Centre.
- Youth Issues panel discussion report – next steps for advocacy?
- SPLO backgrounder updated January 9, 2025.

10. Treasurer's Report

E. Paterson presented the draft 2025 budget for information.

11. New Business

- Qualification Matrix Update (Marie-Terese Little)
- Updated fillable PDF version of the Qualification Matrix
- Committee members are encouraged to share their background and experience via the qualification matrix.

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

13. Notice of Motion

13.1. Motion with Notice – M. Mclean

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by C. Day,

“That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) directs the Communications sub-committee to prepare letters to the various BC Ministers listed below but not limited to, for a Call to Action(s), to address some of the many provincial shortfalls in providing services and/or gaps in services including integrated services which indeed are the responsibility of the Province of BC for children, youth, students and their families’ at risk including but not limited to: their mental health, health, including potential addictions and addictions to illicit drugs, poverty, safety including public & community safety, education and support needs including lack of funding and/or removed funding for such provincial responsible services.

For example, services such as provided by the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Criminal Reduction & Exploitation Division (CRED), through Pacific Centre Family Services Association, Victoria BC and, currently City of Victoria/Esquimalt Police Departments who function within the Greater Victoria area including Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations, as well as the Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RDVU) also involved with youth and families at risk.

And further that specific core members of VFC&YJC request to meet with the Ministers to speak to the concerns in the very near future as these matters are critical and urgent due to the current issues within the Capital Region for youth, vulnerable youth, youth at risk and their families within the Capital Regional District”.

These future letter(s) to be sent to:

- *Premier David Eby,
- *Attorney General & Deputy Premier: Niki Sharma,
- *Minister of Public Safety & Solicitor General: Honourable Gary Begg,
- *Minister of Health: Honourable Josie Osbourne,
- *Minister of Children and Family Development: Honourable Grace Lore,
- *Minister of Education and Child Care: Honourable Lisa Beare,

***Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation: Honourable Christine Boyle,**
***Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction: Honourable Sheila Malcolmson,**
***Minister of Finance: Honourable: Brenda Bailey**
***Minister of State for Child Care and Children and Youth with Support Needs: Honourable Jodie Wickens,**
***Minister of State for Community Safety and Integrated Services: Honourable .Terry Yung,**
Cc: Jennifer Charlesworth, Representative for Children and Youth BC,
Cc: Integrated Police Units Regional Governance Council
CARRIED
Opposed E. Paterson

13.2. Notice of Motion – J. Bateman

J. Bateman provided the following Notice of Motion to be considered at the next meeting of the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee:

“THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of recommendations raised with the Committee by the Be Amazing campaign's Cathy Peters, namely:

1. Funding/training for law enforcement to better enforce the federal Protection of Communities and Exploited Persons Act.
2. A BC provincial public awareness campaign.
3. A human trafficking task force in BC similar to those in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Ontario.”

14. Adjournment

MOVED by J. Bateman, SECONDED by E. Paterson,
That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting of January 23, 2025 be adjourned at 1:56 pm.
CARRIED

Chair

Committee Clerk