



**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday
June 26, 2025, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street**

PRESENT:

Committee Members: M. Little (Chair), K. Guiry (Vice Chair), S. Kim, C. Lervold, K. Marshall, (EP), Bill McElroy, (EP), M. McLean, T. O'Keefe, (EP), M. Olsen, (EP), E. Paterson, S. Riddell (EP), T. Vanwell,

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

Regrets: K. Armour, J. Bateman, D. Brown, C. Chaytors, A. Holeton, S. Rapoport, M. Westhaver

Guests/Resource Members: M. Golden, MYST; S. Bainbridge, Saanich Police Officer; R. Nelems and L. Lee; D. Segal, Executive Director, Human Nature Counselling Society; Alicia and Kris, John Howard Society

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 am

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

Chair Little provided Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED by E. Paterson, **SECONDED** by K. Guiry,

That the agenda for June 26, 2025 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

**3.1. Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting of
April 24, 2025**

MOVED by T. Vanwell, **SECONDED** by S. Kim,

That the minutes of April 24, 2025 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of April 10, 2025

MOVED by S. Kim **SECONDED** by K. Guiry,

That the notes of the April 10, 2025 Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee be received.

CARRIED

4. Chairpersons Remarks

The Chair had no remarks.

5. Presentations/Delegations

5.1. Resource Agencies

M. Golden introduced Shauna Bainbridge, Saanich Police Officer, newly appointed to the MYST organization.

5.2. Dr. Rebecca Nelems, author of the Sept. 2024 MYST Business Case Report. See VFCYJC Chair's letter dated Dec. 23, 2024 and Collaboration for Change: Addressing Youth Gang Exploitation in Greater Victoria.

Dr Rebecca Nelems presented with colleague, Laura Lee.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- roles and responsibilities of the Police Board
- success of MYST and their model of their unique support to youth
- early intervention is essential to prevent higher costs in adulthood.
- long-term impacts of not supporting youth include increased criminal justice, healthcare, and mental health expenses.
- the importance of prevention
- long term funding challenges related to MYST programming

Representatives from the John Howard Society were in attendance and provided an update on their work in the community.

5.3. Ryan Labelle, Pixel Makers Creative re: proposal for enhancing digital engagement and website infrastructure

Ryan was unable to attend today. This will be tabled until a future meeting.

5.4. David Segal, Executive Director, Human-Nature Counselling Society re: outcomes report on 2024 VFCYJC grant.

D. Segal highlighted the outcomes of 2024 grant provided by VFCYJC.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- observations related to the state of parks in the region
- strategies to deal with climate anxiety in youth
- barriers to access parks and natural areas and how elected officials can build opportunities to enhance the programming

6. Sub-Committee Business

6.1. Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)

6.1.1. Victoria Youth Empowerment Society application

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by T. Vanwell

That the Priorities Sub-committee recommends to Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee, that the grant application request of \$8,000.00 (the full amount) from the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society (YES) be approved for YES's temporary pilot project as outlined in their grant application of June 11, 2025 for the Alliance Club Youth Pathways Project Support Worker with a proposed completion date of January 15, 2026.

CARRIED

6.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (CRAT) (B. McElroy)

6.2.1. B. McElroy presented item 6.2.1. for information.

6.2.2. B. McElroy presented item 6.2.2. for information.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- graphic novel images
- adding the committee logo to the novel

The Chair stated that the position for the Chair of the CRAT committee will expire at the end of 2025. Bill shared that CRAT is looking for a new Chair. This will be his last year as Chair.

6.3. Family and Youth Matters

There was no update.

6.4. Court Watch

Chair Little stated that the sub-committee shall remain intact for future reporting of Court Matters when they arise. The committee may revisit this again in the future. The committee is interested in learning about trends that impact youth and families.

6.5. Communications

6.5.1. Chair Little provided an update stating that the letter to Attorney General Sharma was sent.

6.5.2. M. McLean provided an update re Calls to Action for Children, Youth, Students and their Families on matters pertaining to safety, education, health, poverty and prevention. This draft letter will be reviewed at the Communications Subcommittee meeting in early July.

6.5.3. Access Pro Bono's Jamie Maclaren presentation at the April 24 VFCYJC meeting is on VFCYJC's website for your information.

6.5.4. Open House 2025 - Chair Little spoke to Item 6.5.4. and stated that the Open House was a great success with 26 people in attendance, 11 from the committee, 15 from local resource agencies and law enforcement. She stated this is an importance interchange of information between the agencies and looks forward to future open houses.

7. Committee Business

7.1. Treasurer's Report (Esther Paterson)

E. Paterson presented Item 7.1. for information.

7.2. Discussion about VFCYJC website

This item was deferred to the October 23, 2025 meeting.

8. New Business

There was no new business.

9. Correspondence

9.1. Email from Cathy Peters, dated June 11, 2025 re: VFCYJC Advocacy was received for information.

10. Notice(s) of Motion

10.1. Notice of Motion – In Person Panel Discussion (M. McLean)

**MOVED by M McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That same day consideration be applied to the Notice of Motion.
CARRIED**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- location of the in-person panel discussion
- commitment to have one meeting per year in Central Saanich
- rationale for inclusion of law enforcement to the panel
- potential involvement in Community Safety Well Being Conference in January 2026 to promote MYST and impact of the committee
- communication sub-committee to organize the panel
- September 18th the CRD Board room is not available
- On October 23rd, Central Saanich has invited us to host our meeting there.

T. O'Keefe left the meeting at 1:02 pm.

**MOVED by M McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
"That Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee (VFC&YJC) hold an in-person Panel Discussion on one of the following 2 (two) 2025 dates: A Special meeting on Thursday, September 18th, 2025 for only the Panel Discussion and no other VFC&YJC other unnecessary business, or on Thursday October 23, 2025 a scheduled meeting. The purpose of the proposed Panel Discussion would be to have invited representatives from the current 3 Integrated Regional Units/Teams being the: Integrated Regional Mobile Crisis Response Team (IRMCRT)(Island Health), the Integrated Regional Domestic Violence Unit (RIDVU), and, the Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) as it is these 3 specific Units/Teams that the District of Central Saanich Police Board and, the Westshore RCMP Commander are planning to withdraw funding of the tax payer's financial portions for the police officers to these 3 Integrated Regional Units/Teams. The panel discussions intent would focus on their Units/Teams, purpose, work and need throughout Greater Victoria plus, the future of these Units/Teams and/or impacts, and to increase awareness and educate VFC&YJC members. VFC&YJC would also invite Police Chief Ian Lawson from the District of Central Saanich Police Board or, an alternate from the Central Saanich Police Board and, Westshore RCMP Superintendent Todd Preston or, an alternate, to also attend in-person to each speak to their rationale for withdrawing from these 3 above noted Unit/Teams including providing accurate Unit/Team data such as call outs for 2024 -2025 and financial data as well such as accurate "municipal financial contributions" for the police officer staff for these 3 Integrated Regional Teams/Units. VFC&YJC would also invite Chief Constable Fiona Wilson Victoria/Esquimalt Police Department or, an alternate, to participate in-person for perspectives on each of these 3 Integrated Regional Unit/Teams for the Greater Victoria Areas."**

CARRIED

Opposed: K. Guiry, M. Little

Chair Little left the meeting at 1:00 pm and Vice Chair Guiry assumed the role of Chair.

10.2. Notice of Motion - collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system (M. Little) (with same day consideration)

MOVED by M McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That same day consideration be applied to the Notice of Motion.
CARRIED

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of the following recommendation raised with the Committee by Access Pro Bono's Jamie Maclaren, namely Recommendation #4 from his 2019 report for the Attorney General titled Roads to Revival: An External Review of Legal Aid Service Delivery in British Columbia: Task and support an independent body, like Access to Justice BC, the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence or the Office of the Auditor General, to coordinate the collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system.

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That the main motion be amended by adding the following wording:
"and, Recommendation #15: Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children and Family Development intervention and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters."
CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

THAT Chair Little write BC Attorney General Niki Sharma in support of the following recommendation raised with the Committee by Access Pro Bono's Jamie Maclaren, namely Recommendation #4 from his 2019 report for the Attorney General titled Roads to Revival: An External Review of Legal Aid Service Delivery in British Columbia: Task and support an independent body, like Access to Justice BC, the Access to Justice Centre for Excellence or the Office of the Auditor General, to coordinate the collection and analysis of standardized performance data across BC's justice system, and, Recommendation #15: Create a Child Protection Clinic to help parents before child protection concerns have reached the level of Ministry of Children and Family Development intervention and to serve as a practice resource centre for lawyers representing parents in contested child protection matters.
CARRIED

11. Adjournment

MOVED by E. Paterson SECONDED by S. Kim,
That the June 26, 2025 Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee meeting be adjourned at 1:30 p.m.
CARRIED