



**Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held
Thursday, April 23, 2026, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street**

PRESENT

Committee Members: M. Little (Chair), K. Guiry (Vice Chair), J. Bateman, J. Crawford, S. Kim, C. Lervold (EP), K. Marshall (EP), M. McKay (EP), M. McLean, T. O'Keefe (EP), M. Olsen (EP), E. Paterson (EP), M. Westhaver (EP)

Staff: T. Pillipow, Senior Committee Clerk, Legislative Services; M. Essery (Secretary) (EP)

Regrets: D. Brown, C. Day, B. Gash, J. Hunter, K. Petersen, S. Riddell, R. Stanton

Guests/Resource Members: M. Golden, MYST; L. Nelson, Executive Director, Pacific Centre Family Services Association

EP - Electronic Participation.

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

K. Guiry provided a Territorial Acknowledgement.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

That the agenda for Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of April 23, 2026 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Meeting of February 26, 2026

MOVED by J. Bateman, **SECONDED** by J. Crawford

That the minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of February 26, 2026 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

- 3.2. Notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee Steering Committee meeting of February 12, 2026

MOVED by K. Guiry, SECONDED by J. Bateman

That the notes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Steering Committee meeting of April 9, 2026 be received for information.

CARRIED

4. Chairperson's Remarks

Chair Little shared that Oak Bay representative B. Gash has stepped down from the committee due to a health crisis. She expressed the committee's concerns and thanks, noting that a card will be sent. The Chair asked members to look at their calendars to see whether May 19, 2026, or June 2, 2026, was better for them for the Open House. A date will be selected at the end of today's meeting.

5. Presentations/Delegations

5.1 Resource Agencies

5.2 Presentation: M. Golden and L. Nelson, Pacific Centre Family Services Association Re: Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Update

MYST counsellor M. Golden shared urgent news of the latest funding shortfalls that once again threaten to end Golden's critical work with Greater Victoria's MYST. A two-year lifeline from the federal Department of Justice's Victims Fund ends this fall with no opportunity for renewal. Now a bid to the federal Youth Justice Fund has been declined.

As such, Ms. Golden's 12-year relationship with MYST is set to end abruptly on September 30, 2026, breaking her established ties with vulnerable youth and their families while leaving a caseload of 250 files solely in the hands of her Saanich Police partner Constable S. Bainbridge.

The Committee unanimously agreed that we must double down again on advocacy efforts highlighted by a specially commissioned report and a 2024 Times Colonist opinion piece. Stable, long-term funding for Golden's role remains as essential now as then — all the more so, she told us, with the rise of a predatory on-line entity known as the 764 Group that is wreaking unspeakable harm on children and teenagers. This is in addition to issues of perennial concern including existing predators, gang recruitment and entanglement, homelessness, sexual exploitation, domestic and street violence, mental health issues and drug addiction.

Members noted that a new round of VFCYJC advocacy efforts will require a solid set of MYST case file statistics as first presented during the Committee's October 23, 2026 panel discussion. These are deemed critical in moving ahead.

With consent from the committee, sensitive and disturbing content was shared by M. Golden. Chair Little emphasized the importance of mental health care due to the

nature of the information that was shared with the committee and asked that members reach out to her to discuss further if needed.

As a start on new advocacy, the Committee will extend invites to the Hon. Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development, and South Island MPs Greaves, Kibble, May and the Hon. McLean to attend our June 25, 2026 meeting to learn directly from M. Golden and Constable Bainbridge about MYST's current challenges both on the street and in funding circles.

6. Committee Business

7. Subcommittee Business

7.1. Priorities and Grants (M. McLean)

7.1.1. Shoreline Medical Society Grant Application

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by S. Kim,
That Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice (VFC&YJC) endorse Shoreline Medical Society receive funding in the amount of \$6,000.00 for their Saanich Peninsula Youth Clinic Project in Sidney for a part-time mental health and substance registered clinical youth counsellor as outlined in their application to VFCYJC of April 8, 2026.
CARRIED**

M. McLean noted that a grant report from Human Nature Counselling will be presented at the June 25, 2026 VFCYJC Meeting.

7.2. Capital Region Action Team (CRAT) for Sexually Exploited Youth (R. Stanton)

The Chair shared that steps for the transfer of CRAT website financial costs to the VFCYJC is underway. Content development of this site will remain a responsibility of CRAT.

7.3. Family and Youth Matters (R. Stanton)

There was no report.

7.4. Court Watch (M. Little)

7.4.1. Law Day in Victoria – April 18, 2026

M. McLean shared that she went to this event and it was well attended

7.5. Communications (J. Bateman)

The 2025 Annual Report has been circulated by Secretary Essery.

7.5.1. Letter to Central Saanich Police Board

M. Essery sent the requested letter to the Central Saanich Police Board regarding the October, 2025 panel discussion.

7.5.2. Guest Speakers for Future Meetings – June 25, 2026, September 24, 2026, Feb. 25, 2027 AGM

Regional Members of Parliament (MPs) and the Hon. Jodie Wickens, Minister of Children and Family Development, and/or their designates will be invited to the June 25, 2026 VFCYJC meeting to learn about MYST funding challenges.

The short list for future guest speakers includes representatives from the Victoria Law Association (re: Law Day and related educational initiatives); the province's Child & Youth Mental Health division; the Victoria Native Friendship Centre; The Rainbow Kitchen; Colin Tessier, Executive Director, Threshold Housing Society; writer/researcher Erin Blondeau; and the Hon. Nikki Sharma, Attorney General and Deputy Premier.

It was clarified that the Annual General Meeting has been moved to February 25, 2027 and that booking a speaker should be arranged as early as possible. No speaker will be booked for the November 26, 2026 meeting as this will be an orientation for newly elected and returning appointees.

8. Treasurer's Report (J. Bateman)

J. Bateman will organize a meeting with M. Medland and E. Paterson to discuss a formal policy for VFCYJC financials. A Notice a Motion to develop this policy will be brought to a future VFCYJC meeting.

9. New Business

9.1. VFCYJC Annual Open House

**MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by K. Guiry,
That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee's Annual Open House
will take place on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at Victoria City
Hall's Antechamber
CARRIED**

9.2 Outcomes Arising from October 23, 2025 Panel Discussion

This item was deferred to a future meeting of this committee. It was suggested that a doodle poll could be circulated regarding a special meeting to discuss options further given regular meeting time constraints. S. Kim volunteered to help this proceed.

9.3. Future VFCYJC Meeting in Central Saanich

The CRD Boardroom is being renovated and is not available for the June meeting. The June 25, 2026 VFCYJC meeting will either take place in Central Saanich, Metchosin or Victoria City Hall's Ante Chamber.

9.4. Cuts to BC Community Gaming Grants Program

M. McLean spoke to Item 9.4.

The 2026 BC Budget has cut \$1.4M from the BC Community Gaming Grants Program, reducing it to \$138.6M this year. As a result, an increased number of applications may flow into the VFCYJC grant program. Members stressed that gaming grants are essential for many nonprofits operating on razor-thin budgets and that even this small cut will be impactful.

Members suggested that the topic be deferred to the next meeting so we can gather more information. M. McLean will submit a Notice of Motion for the June 25 meeting.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

11. Notice(s) of Motion

11.1 Notice of Motion: Electronic Restrictions for Youth Advocacy Letter

M. Little proposed the following Notice of Motion with same day consideration: "That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee write regional MPs and the Federal Ministers of Justice and of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Transformation regarding predatory online influencers and needed regulations for digital platforms."

MOVED by J. Bateman, SECONDED by M. McLean

That same day consideration be applied to the Notice of Motion.

CARRIED

MOVED by M. Little, SECONDED by J. Crawford

That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee write regional MPs and the Federal Ministers of Justice and Artificial Intelligence & Digital Innovation regarding predatory online influencers and needed regulations for digital platforms.

CARRIED

11.2 Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Funding Advocacy Letter

M. Little proposed the following Notice of Motion with same day consideration:
“That Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee renew advocacy efforts regarding the Mobile Youth Services Team.

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

MOVED by M. Little, SECONDED by J. Crawford,
That Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee renew advocacy efforts regarding the Mobile Youth Services Team.
CARRIED

12. Adjournment

MOVED by S. Kim, SECONDED by J. Bateman,
That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of April 23, 2026 be adjourned at 1:11 pm.
CARRIED

Chair

Committee Clerk