



Minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting held Thursday June 27, 2024, CRD Boardroom, 6th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC

PRESENT: Municipal Representatives: Marie-Térèse Little (Metchosin); Krista Loughton (Victoria); Kimberley Guiry (Langford); Marcie McLean (Highlands); Esther Paterson (Oak Bay); Sara Duncan (Sidney) (EP); Cynthia Day (Colwood); (EP).

School District Representatives: Christine Lervold (School District 62 Trustee) (EP); Karin Kwan (School District 61 Trustee) (EP); Teri Vanwell (School District 63 Trustee).

Capital Regional District (CRD) Representatives:

Resource Agencies: Kisae Petersen, (Operations Manager, Victoria Youth Empowerment Society)

Guests: The Honourable Grace Lore, (Minister of Children and Families)

CRD Staff: Sharon Orr, (Senior Committee Clerk; CRD); Tamara Pillipow, (CRD) and Marnie Essery, Secretary & Recorder (EP)

Regrets: Rose Stanton (Highlands-Alternate); Cheryl Chaytors; Samantha Rappaport; Bill McElroy (CRAT); Micayla Hayes (Saanich; Ron Mattson (View Royal); Mena Westhaver (Saanich); Darlene Rotchford (Esquimalt); Jim Rondeau (Central Saanich); Jack McClintock (North Saanich); Andrew Holeton (CRD Appointee) Jeff Bateman (Sooke).

EP - Electronic Participation

The meeting was called to order at 11:37 am.

1. Territorial Acknowledgement

K. Guiry provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.

Welcome and Introductions were made around the room and online.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Request to move 5.1 on the Agenda to top of agenda to hear Minister Lore's presentation first.

MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by K. Guiry, That the amended agenda for

Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of June 27, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED

3. Adoption of Minutes

3.1. Adoption of the May 23, 2024 Minutes

Amend minutes to read that Rose Stanton is the Chair of Family and Youth Matters subcommittee. VFCYJC's Vice Chair Adam Flint's Celebration of Life will take place this Saturday, June 29 at 2 p.m. at the Sequoia Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive.

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by E. Paterson,

That the amended minutes of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee meeting of May 23, 2024 be adopted.

CARRIED

3.2. Receipt of the Steering Committee meeting notes of June 13, 2024

MOVED by E. Paterson, SECONDED by K. Guiry, That the meeting notes of the Steering Committee of June 13, 2024 be received.

CARRIED

4. No Chair Remarks

5. Presentations/Delegations (All presentations shall be limited to 10 minutes unless a longer period is approved by a majority vote of those Members present. Resource Agencies may present during this item.)

5.1. Presentation: The Honourable Grace Lore, Minister of Children and Family Development gave a PowerPoint presentation titled Youth Justice Services Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment (SAJE) to our committee. This presentation will be emailed out to our committee members after today's meeting. To learn more, visit:

- www.gov.bc.ca/SAJE
- To check eligibility, fill out:
 - Request for SAJE Eligibility Check
- To ask questions and request a referral:
- call 1-866-623-3001

- email MCF.SAJE@gov.bc.ca

[SAJE \(Strengthening Abilities and Journeys of Empowerment\) - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

[Ministry of Children and Family Development - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#)

The Minister was thanked for her work and for being with us today.

6. Committee Business

6.1. Mobile Youth Services Team Funding Request

MOVED by K. Loughton, SECONDED by T. Vanwell,
That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee recommends the Governance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that the CRD Board Chair send an advocacy letter to the Province to encourage renewed support for the Pacific Centre Family Services Association’s Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and its Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion (CRED) program.
MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by K. Loughton,
That the main motion be amended by adding the following words at the end of the motion: “with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families within the CRD.”
CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

That the Victoria Family Court & Youth Justice Committee recommends the Governance Committee recommends to the Capital Regional District Board that the CRD Board Chair send an advocacy letter to the Province to encourage renewed support for the Pacific Centre Family Services Association’s Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) and its Crime Reduction and Exploitation Diversion (CRED) program, with consistent and sustainable funding for the MYST youth counsellor position in the very near future due to the critical and urgent work with vulnerable youth and their families within the CRD.
CARRIED

6.2. Financial Report (Esther Paterson)

The Treasurer verbally indicated that an updated report is not available until the end of June. A report will be provided for the September 26th VFCYJC Meeting. Open House costs yet to come.

6.3. Adam Flint & Celebration of Life – Saturday, June 29, 2024-2 p.m. at Sequoia Centre at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive and everyone is welcome to attend.

VFCYJC might want to consider setting up a scholarship in his name. We will put this on our September 26 agenda to talk more about.

7. Sub-Committee Business

7.1. Priorities and Grants (Marcie McLean)- Two grant applications were received one in late May with some incomplete/missing information which had not been received yet upon request, and the other was recently received mid June which was too late for processing for this June meeting. Both applications require some scrutiny and both applicant programs are already underway, with a Summer break, both applications appear to have adequate funds for their programs and are awaiting on additional grant funds they have applied for.

Therefore, the Chair wrote to each applicant to suggest that if they are still in need of funds in early September the Priorities Subcommittee will commence the “initial” review of their separate applications. The Chair expressed that she felt this process was reasonable based on the information contained within the 2 separate grant applications.

7.2. Capital Region Action Team for Sexually Exploited Youth (Bill McElroy)-no report

7.3. Family and Youth Matters (Rose Stanton)-Rose is not here today but C. Day shared that the City of Colwood did host a Safer Schools Presentation.

7.4. Court Watch (Marie-Terese Little)-no report

7.5. Communications (Jeff Bateman)- J. Bateman is absent today, however without Adam Flint’s expertise and assistance with the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee website plus the preparation of our required Annual Report, we would like to seek members of the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee that may have experience with websites. Noting that the CRD’s IT Dept have indicated through S. Carey that they will not administer a website that is just for the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. E. Paterson provided some verbal information about the website on back ups and recoveries. Chair Little indicated that budgeting for the website will need to take place in September. Member C. Lervold has offered her help and reported that she found our website to be a valuable resource.

8. Correspondence-none

9. Notice(s) of Motion

9.1. Motion with Notice: Advocacy Action Regarding Pedophilia and Online Grooming of Youth (K. Loughton)

MOVED by K. Loughton, SECONDED by M. McLean

That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee requests that the Committee Chair, Mayor Marie-Terese Little, write to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, and all of the MPs, MLAs, Police Chiefs and Police Boards, Superintendent Todd Preston, Westshore Detachment RCMP, BC Attorney General, Nikki Sharma, and Minister of Justice and Federal Attorney General Arif Virani, and Municipal Councils in the CRD, to encourage support to stop the online sexual exploitation and grooming of children and youth. The following list of legislative changes are recommended but are not exhaustive to fight against online sexual offenses against children and youth:

- 1. Add minor amendments to S.152 of the Criminal Code to specify online activity. The language does mention “indirectly” but the Crown often misses it and thus the language needs to be clear.**
- 2. Change to S.153 of the Criminal Code by replacing language regarding the person being in a position of trust or authority to be “any person.”**
- 3. When children and youth are victims of sexual offences the sentencing is typically the minimum recommended. There should be an increase to the minimum or a recommendation that sentencing should lean to the maximum.**

MOVED by M. McLean, SECONDED by K. Loughton,

**That the main motion be amended by adding the following words after the word “Chiefs”:
“and Police Boards, Superintendent Todd Preston, Westshore Detachment RCMP, BC Attorney General, Nikki Sharma, and Minister of Justice and Federal Attorney General Arif Virani”**

CARRIED

The question was called on the main motion as amended:

That the Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee requests that the Committee Chair, Mayor Marie-Terese Little, write to the Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Mike Farnworth, and all of the MPs, MLAs, Police Chiefs and Police Boards, Superintendent Todd Preston, Westshore Detachment RCMP, BC Attorney General, Nikki Sharma, and Minister of Justice and Federal Attorney General Arif Virani, and Municipal Councils in the CRD, to encourage support to stop the online sexual exploitation and grooming of children and youth. The following list of legislative changes are recommended but are not exhaustive to fight against online sexual offenses against children and youth:

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CARRIED

10. New Business

11. No Roundtable today.

12. To Adjourn at 1:05 pm

MOVED by T. Vanwell, SECONDED by M. McLean

CARRIED

Location and Dates of Upcoming Meetings – Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 28, 2024, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the CRD Boardroom and via Teams unless otherwise notified. Meetings take place on the 4th Thursday of each month at 11:30 am in the CRD Boardroom.

There are no meetings in the months of March, July, August & December.

Notes- Steering Committee meeting September 12, 2024

Discussion about setting agenda for September 26, 2024 VFCYJ committee meeting

Panel discussion (1130 am- 1pm) will be main focus of the upcoming meeting.

Panel discussion will focus on how best front-line service agencies, school authorities, the police and the Provincial government can collaborate to serve and support youth and families dealing with a disturbing range of issues – gang recruitment, sexual predation, bullying and drug use included.

Marcie to reach out to superintendent of SD 61 to see if she wants to participate in panel discussion.

June 27, 2024 draft minutes to be revised by Marcie.

Priorities Sub-committee recommendations for 2 grant applications will be presented

Election of the interim- Vice-chair position (to the next election at the AGM, 2025)

10 min presentation Victoria Youth Empowerment Societies outcomes from their Summer Opportunities or written report to be done in October.

Correspondence to include in agenda package:

1. Mobile Youth Services Team (MYST) Business Case Report for information and potential discussion as to what VFC&YJC might do with it if anything?
2. CRD Staff Report by Steven Carey which was on the CRD Board Agenda of July 10, 2024 topic MYST funding,
3. Letter from Minister Farnworth to the municipalities of: Central Saanich, Oak Bay, Esquimalt and Victoria Re: Integrated Crime Units for Electronic Exploitation of Children/Youth (ICE) for information, possible funding towards MYST??

Next scheduled VFC&YJC meeting Oct. 24, 2024.