



CITY OF VANCOUVER

OTHER REPORT

Report Date: December 2, 2008
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Chair
c/o Pat Boomhower
Phone No.: 604.873.7015
RTS No.: 7595
VanRIMS No.: 08-2000-20
Meeting Date: December 18, 2008

TO: Standing Committee on City Services and Budgets
FROM: Family Court/Youth Justice Committee
SUBJECT: Family Court/Youth Justice Committee Annual Report for 2006 and 2007

RECOMMENDATION

THAT this report be received for information.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

The City Manager submits the foregoing for INFORMATION.

PURPOSE

To provide Vancouver City Council with a report on the activities of the Family Court/Youth Justice Committee (FCYJC) for the period of January 1, 2006, to December 31, 2007.

BACKGROUND AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Vancouver Family Court/Youth Justice Committee (FC/YJ) is appointed by City Council annually. This role is delegated to Municipalities by the Provincial and Federal governments. Family Court and Youth Justice Committees' authority and duties are set out in Provincial and Federal Legislation. Section 5 of the *Provincial Court Act* establishes the Family Court Committee. Youth Justice Committees are appointed pursuant to Section 18 of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, which came into force in April 2003.

The Committee's duties are to:

- examine and consider resources available in the community for families, children and youth and those working with these and young offenders;
- assist the Court when requested in individual cases referred to the Committee;
- make recommendations to the Court, to the Attorney General, to the City Council or to others, as required;
- act as a Family Court when required; and
- provide leadership on youth justice, family, and social issues.

Structure

In 2006, 22 advisory committee members were appointed by City Council and 23 were appointed in 2007. See Appendix A for the list of committee members, liaison members, City staff and interested parties.

The Committee divided its responsibilities among subcommittees, each with its own coordinator and each reporting back monthly to the Committee as a whole on its activities and for approval by the Committee as a whole of any initiatives to be undertaken by the subcommittee. Appendix B outlines the individual subcommittee goals and projects.

The four subcommittees for the 2006 term were:

- i. Alternative Models, Diversion and Restorative Justice Subcommittee
- ii. Youth Health and Wellness/Justice Through Inclusive Health Subcommittee
- iii. Aboriginal Youth Issues Subcommittee
- iv. Youth Subcommittee

And in 2007 the subcommittees were:

- i. Restorative Justice Subcommittee
- ii. Family Court Subcommittee
- iii. Youth at Risk Subcommittee
- iv. Youth Liaison Subcommittee.

DISCUSSION

1. Guest Presenters

The following people made presentations to the committee as a whole.

Presenters in 2006	Subject
The Honourable Wally Opal, Attorney-General and Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism	Provincial youth issues and restorative justice
Rick Craig, Executive Director, Law Courts Education Society	Programs, resources and interactive learning tools available through the Society
Preston Guno, Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Rebecca Jules and Carrie McGaw, Outreach Workers	Issues related to aboriginal youth in Vancouver

Presenters in 2006 (continued)	Subject
Stephanie Grant, Harm Reduction Program Coordinator, YouthCO AIDS Society	Youth drug use issues
Miu Chung Yan, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work and Family Studies, UBC	Immigrant (visible minority) youth issues, and effective intercultural engagement

Presenters in 2007	Subject
Jennifer Campbell, Vancouver Community Action Team	An overview of the coalition of organizations concerned about sexual exploitation issues including human trafficking
Dr. Evelyn Zellerer, Criminology Program Instructor, Kwantlen College	Principles and practises of restorative justice
John Lowman, School of Criminology, SFU	Child exploitation and youth involvement in prostitution: the Canadian experience
Geoff Plant, Project Civil City Commissioner	Background, goals, and action plan of Project Civil City
Allan Shoom, Downtown Community Court Coordinator	Community Court model and possible implications on youth and family justice

In addition, Cameron Duff, Vancouver Coastal Health, gave a presentation to the Restorative Justice Subcommittee in May 2007, regarding "Vancouver Community Addiction, HIV/AIDS and Aboriginal Health Services".

2. Significant Activities:

Restorative Justice:

The Committee devoted much of their work on developing restorative justice (RJ) programs in the city. Early in 2006, Committee representatives met with City and Provincial staff regarding funding opportunities for a proposed RJ Program. The Committee presented a report to Vancouver City Council on September 12, 2006, requesting support in principle in the creation and operation of a restorative justice program (See also Appendix B).

In 2006 a Social Work Practicum student assisted the FCYJC by researching and compiling a *RJ Resource Directory*, identifying programs and groups in the Lower Mainland doing anything in RJ; including their mission statements, structure, funding, how they use volunteers and whether they provide training for those volunteers. While a valuable tool for the Committee, this resource is now out of date.

"*Making a Difference*" RJ symposium was organized by the FCYJC in 2006 as three forums encompassing a visioning exercise, review of restorative justice models, and implementation (Refer to flyer in Appendix C). With funding from the Office of the Solicitor General, and support from the Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Police Department, the forums were held:

- April 19, 2006 - *Making a Difference* workshop designed to create a "Vision";
- September 19, 2006 - *Restorative Justice Forum Network Dialogue* to "Develop a Strategy" and models for youth-targeted RJ in the city.
- January 23, 2007 - *Restorative Justice Implementation Workshop* to develop a Vancouver RJ structure and hub, and initiate steps for implementation.

In addition to these workshops, the Committee sent a letter to the Attorney General with respect to funding RJ programs and to the Legislative Assembly in response to the "Budget 2007 Consultation Paper" sent by the Province, as well as participated in "Restorative Justice Week" held November 12-19, 2006, and November 18 - 25, 2007.

Family Court:

At the request of the Joint Family Court Committee (representing Surrey, Delta, White Rock, Langley Township, and the City of Langley) in March 2006, the FCYJ Committee reviewed and supported the report entitled "A New Justice System for Families and Children", by the *Family Justice Reform Working Group*.

In partnership with representatives of SUCCESS and MOSIAC, the Subcommittee reviewed the Social Planning Action Research Council's (SPARC) report on the provincial review of the *Family Relations Act*, and submitted comments and questions to SPARC in September 2007.

Aboriginal Youth Justice:

In 2006 the Subcommittee consulted with members of the local Aboriginal community on how the FCYJC can be of potential value and arranged for guest speakers on urban aboriginal youth issues. A committee member, along with the VPD Committee Liaison, co-chaired a meeting of various agencies regarding the growing prevalence of gangs.

Youth Justice Exhibition:

A reception and exhibit was organized by the *Youth Subcommittee* to inspire Vancouver youth, aged 13 to 24, to participate in a photo and essay competition as a creative way of raising youth awareness of youth justice issues. Selected entries were displayed at City Hall in December 2006, and awards for three top entries given.

Youth at Risk:

Planning and research was begun for a report on the "Impact of the Olympics on youth at risk in Vancouver". Tasks included liaising with various community initiatives and groups who work with Vancouver's youth at risk, and writing to the government officials on policies or programmes relevant to youth at risk in Vancouver. In June 2007, the FCYJC submitted a request to Mayor and Council that youth issues be specifically addressed in the *Project Civil City* initiative.

Youth Justice Through Inclusive Health:

The Subcommittee participated in various workshops related to youth health, poverty and substance use issues. In February 2006, the FCYJC passed a motion to support the campaign to raise welfare rates.

Triple "R" Review:

In 2006, the Council-appointed *Roles, Relationships and Responsibilities Committee* developed criteria for assessing the various advisory committees of Council. However, the FCYJC as an advisory body, is unique in having both Federal and Provincial legislation prescribing its formation and mandate.

FCYJC Website:

Plans began in November 2006 to create a website which provides details about the FCYJC subcommittee activities. The website was developed in 2007 and continues at:
<http://fcyj.wordpress.com/>

FORUMS:

In addition to the afore-mentioned Subcommittees, the Committee also participated in the following Forums:

a. Provincial Family Court/Youth Committee

- four members attended the **Annual Provincial Family Court/Youth Justice Committee Conference** held at Capilano Community College in April 2006, and
- a representative attended the September 2007 Conference hosted by the Tri-Cities/Anmore/Belcarra FCYJC;
- two members were designated as liaison to the Provincial FC/YJ Committee in 2007.

b. Tools to Support Your Teens Workshop

- the Vancouver FCYJ Committee, along with the group Parents Together, sponsored the March 6, 2006 workshop organized by Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.

c. Learning Summit

- The Youth Health & Wellness Subcommittee reported on the session hosted by the United Way and BC Teachers Association which addressed issues pertaining to the judicial system being used as a support system for children with special needs, and differences in social assistance rate calculations for parents.

d. Vancouver Association for Restorative Justice AGM

- RJ Sub-committee assisted in the development of a business plan, membership meeting, and annual general meeting May 2007;
- 4 FCYJC members became members of the VARJ Board.

e. International Institute for Restorative Practices

- a Committee representative attended the conference in November 2007 on behalf of the Vancouver FCYJC.

f. Four Pillars Coalition Meetings

- Committee representatives attended and reported on:
 - the September 2006 meeting which focused on harm reduction as it pertained to drug users, sex trade workers, neighbourhoods, businesses, and tourists;
 - the April 2007 meeting regarding the Project Civil City Initiative; and
 - the November 2007 panel discussion on InSite (supervised injection site) and the CAST (Chronic Addiction Substitution Treatment) trials.

3. Future Directions

The FCYJC future direction depends much on the composite of the Committee itself. Two main issues arose pertaining to the recruitment of committee members. One was the need for continuity in the knowledge, contacts, and progress made throughout the year. The other was to ensure the call for Family Court/Youth Justice Committee members is directed at youth 15 to 24 years of age. The previous FCYJC recommended that a minimum of four youth be appointed, where possible.

Another recommendation was to continue to increase the Committees' visibility. During this report period, an interactive website was initiated and business cards were produced for Committee members.

In addition, the concerns and experiences youth at risk have in the city of Vancouver should continue to be addressed, with a special reference to the social impacts that may arise for this group of youth in light of the upcoming 2010 Olympic Games.

The 2007 *Family Court Subcommittee* project should continue into 2008 with a critique of existing on-line family law information that is available in multiple languages.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing information is presented to Vancouver City Council for information. The Committee recognizes the broad scope of its mandate and the challenges faced by the public and agencies navigating the multi-faceted programs for youth services and the justice system. The Committee would like to extend a special thanks to Frank Tester and Roberta Bradbury for their work and guidance with the Family Court/Youth Justice Committee's subcommittees.

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- APPENDIX A - List of 2006 and 2007 Committee members
- APPENDIX B - Overview of Subcommittees
- APPENDIX C - "Making a Difference" workshop series flyers

APPENDIX A

2006 Committee Members

Caitlin Adam, VICE-CHAIR
Maddy Adekunle (*resigned*)
Aharon Arnstein (*resigned*)
Todd Bell (*resigned*)
Roberta Bradbury, TREASURER
Diane Bryden
Cathryn Chan
Angela Contreras-Chavez (*resigned*)
Charlotte Gottschau (*resigned*)
Preston Guno (*resigned*)
Karin Hartner
Herman Hui
Alex Johnstone
Eileen LeGallais
Rodolfo Pore
David Ramsay (*resigned*)
Kathleen Shiels
Janine Stockford
Thomas Sun
Mabel Taunu
Frank Tester, CHAIR
Margaret Wright

Liaisons:

Councillor Kim Capri, City of Vancouver
Inspector John de Haas, Vancouver Police Department
Tom Harapnuick, Vancouver School Board Liaison

Staff:

Anne Kloppenborg, Acting Director, Social Planning Department
Debbie Anderson, Child & Youth Planner, Social Planning
Anka Raskin, Social Planner, Social Planning
Julianna Torjek, Civic Youth Strategy, Outreach Team Coordinator, Social Planning
Sheila Davidson, Child and Youth Advocate - City of Vancouver
Booth Palmer, Coordinator, Child & Youth Recreation Services, East Vancouver District
Park Board
Craig Langston, BC Aboriginal Network on Disabilities Society
Lia Margueratt, Social Work Practicum Student, UBC

2007 Committee Members

Caitlin Adam, VICE-CHAIR
Roberta Bradbury, TREASURER
Karey Brooks
Sophie Chong
Ashley de Regil
Karin Hartner
Amber Hitchen
Paula Kueng
Tess Lawson
Eileen LeGallais
Bryan MacLeod
Leslie Mitchner
Chantal Moore (*resigned*)
Kathleen Shiels (*resigned*)
Janine Stockford
Frank Tester, CHAIR
Matt Thorpe (*resigned*)
Bergum Vergee (*resigned*)
Mark Warwas
Ashley Webster
Margaret Wright
Evelyn Zellerer
Tommy Zhao

Liaisons:

Tom Harapnuick, Vancouver School Board Liaison
Inspector John de Haas, Vancouver Police Department
Commissioner Spencer Herbert, Vancouver Park Board

Staff:

Mary Clare Zak, Director, Social Planning
Anka Raskin, Social Planner, Social Planning
Alex Johnstone, Social Work Practicum Student, UBC

APPENDIX B

Vancouver Family Court Youth Justice Committee

Overview of Subcommittees

2006 SUBCOMMITTEES

Alternative Models, Diversion and Restorative Justice Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: since 2004, have been committed to education, advocacy and development of restorative justice initiatives in the city of Vancouver.

Main focus: prepared and presented a proposal to Vancouver City Council on September 12, 2006, which resulted in the following motion being passed:

“That Vancouver City Council support the principle of restorative justice programs for youth in the City of Vancouver”;

and organized two community workshops to develop restorative justice models.

Outcome: work developing and promoting restorative justice programs continued in 2007.

Youth Health and Wellness/Justice Through Inclusive Health Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: to raise awareness within our community on inclusive health issues.

Main focus: to compile positions and statistics regarding justice as influenced by various health issues to gain insight to various perspectives. This subcommittee evolved from the combination of two previous subcommittees: Youth, Addictions & the Criminal Justice System Subcommittee and the Child Exploitation Subcommittee.

Outcome: the subcommittee ceased mid-year and resurfaced later and narrowed its focus to youth at risk.

Aboriginal Youth Justice Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: to educate the FCYJC on Aboriginal history, culture and justice, and promote cultural awareness training to agencies working with youth at risk or in trouble with the law.

Main focus: try to get recommendations from the 2005 report on VPD/Aboriginal youth relations adopted through a resolution of City Council, and to reach existing youth advisory councils to educate youth regarding their rights, and identify the FCYJC as a resource.

Outcome: the subcommittee ceased when its members were no longer involved with the FCYJC.

Youth Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: to educate youth about issues affecting youth and the youth criminal justice system, by working with city high schools and youth organizations.

Main focus: organized a special educational event for youth and invited high school students to submit writings, photos, and artwork representative of their thoughts on the present state of youth justice.

Outcome: a public display at City Hall of essays or photos by youth on their perceptions of youth justice.

2007 SUBCOMMITTEES

Restorative Justice Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: to engage partnership and feedback in Vancouver by presenting forums so that interested agencies and individuals could meet to discuss and strategize to ensure that Vancouver's young offenders have access to a youth-oriented program, and where individuals and agencies could collaborate to create a sustainable network for restorative justice (RJ) in Vancouver.

Main focus: with funding assistance from the office of the BC Solicitor General, organized the third forum of a 3-part series on developing a RJ model. Also reviewed and amended constitution and bylaws, and organized the Vancouver Association of Restorative Justice (VARJ) AGM. All subcommittee members continued to work towards VARJ's goal to advance the knowledge and application of restorative practises in the city of Vancouver.

Outcome: consensus determined that a "hub" be created to provide resources, networking, education, training, keep statistics, monitor referrals and facilitate communication between collaborative stake holders. An existing non-profit society that had been inactive was offered for use.

Family Court Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: to promote the voice of ESL family court litigants in Vancouver.

Main focus: to conduct a review of the Family Relations Act, as well as identify language barriers that create challenges for those who do not speak English in obtaining information about Family Court.

Outcome: critiqued the existing on-line family law information (Multilingual Law website) that is available in multiple languages, and other website information available with regard to family court issues, and provided feedback on the Family Court Act;

Youth At Risk Subcommittee -

This Subcommittee (YAR) is specifically concerned with the experiences Youth at Risk in the city of Vancouver, with a special reference to the social impacts that may arise for this group of youth in light of the upcoming 2010 Olympic Games. The YAR Subcommittee came into existence based on the view that the particular situation and experiences of youth at risk put this group in a vulnerable position. It is the Subcommittee's opinion that the city has not paid enough attention to this area, thus the goal was to serve as a liaison between the City and youth on these issues.

Main focus: to increase awareness on the social impact of the Olympics on youth at risk and serve as a liaison between the City and youth on these issues.

Outcomes: work by the Subcommittee led to the FCYJC writing to Vancouver City Council and the Project Civil City Commissioner requesting that youth as a specific group, be included in plans and proposals put forward for Project Civil City, noting concern in the impact that the 2010 Olympics might have on youth at risk and matters related to homelessness, prostitution, drug addiction and what the City has identified as "aggressive panhandling and public nuisance".

Youth Liaison Subcommittee -

Subcommittee's mission: to raise awareness of youth's legal rights and advocate the integration of troubled youth back into society.

Main focus: to achieve the above by expanding on the Youth Justice Exhibit organized the previous year in cooperation with Vancouver high schools and the other subcommittees.

Outcome: resources were needed to do an outreach project. This subcommittee continued in to 2008.



making a
difference

Presented by the Vancouver Family
Court/Youth Justice Committee
Funded by the BC Solicitor General
Catering and complementary parking
provided by the Vancouver School Board



Something needs to be done. *YOU* can help do it.

Do you want more prisons or a restorative justice programme for youth in Vancouver?

Mandatory minimum sentences –the answer, or part of the problem?

Shuffle the kids out of high school and onto the streets... or is there a better solution?

Collaborate with other leaders in the field of restorative justice. Join us at a **Networking Forum** that will create a sustainable programme of restorative justice for youth in Vancouver.

Date: Wednesday April 19, 2006

Place: Vancouver School Board
1580 West Broadway, Vancouver BC

Time: 5:30 - 6:20 Light Supper
6:20 - 9:30 Networking Forum

Agenda:

◆ **The Big Picture:**

Inspector John De Haas, Youth Services Section,
Operations Support Division VPD

Lisa Pedrini, Manager, Social Responsibility &
Diversity VSB

◆ We will explore our needs and the positive things happening in our own organizations. What strengths can we build on to create a sustainable restorative justice programme?

◆ **Let's create a collective vision by working together.**

◆ This forum will be attended by representatives of organizations concerned with youth in the City of Vancouver.

RSVP ellegallais@shaw.ca by Monday, April 17th, 2006.

"The Youth Criminal Justice Act is a work in progress, and there won't be any progress if we value appearing tough on crime over a careful consideration about what's best for youths, and best for Canada." - Editorial, *The Vancouver Sun*, March 31st, 2006



making a
difference

Presented by the Vancouver Family
Court/Youth Justice Committee
Funded by the BC Solicitor General
Catering and complementary parking
provided by the Vancouver School Board



YOU created the vision. Now we need to build it.

Who is going to benefit from this vision?

Whose needs will be met? What's in it for
YOU?

How do we make this happen? What supports
do **YOU** need to get this process going?

What will the structure look like? Who should
operate or organize this system? Where do
YOU fit in?

We have excellent youth programs in
Vancouver.

Let's collaborate to ensure we meet all the needs
of youth at risk.

Date: Tuesday, September 19th, 2006

Place: Vancouver School Board, Room 120
1580 West Broadway, Vancouver BC

Time: 5:30 - 6:20 Light Supper
6:20 - 9:30 Strategizing

Agenda: To be announced.

- ◆ Let's develop a strategy by working together.
- ◆ This forum will be attended by representatives of organizations concerned with youth in the City of Vancouver.

Send your thoughts to
rjvancouver@gmail.com
Send them soon. Send them often!

"The Youth Criminal Justice Act is a work in progress, and there won't be any progress if we value appearing tough on crime over a careful consideration about what's best for youths, and best for Canada." - Editorial, *The Vancouver Sun*, March 31st, 2006



making a difference

Presented by the Vancouver Family Court/Youth Justice Committee
Funded by the BC Solicitor General
Catering and complementary parking provided by the Vancouver School Board

Tuesday, September 19th, 2006
Vancouver School Board, Room 120

Restorative Justice Forum

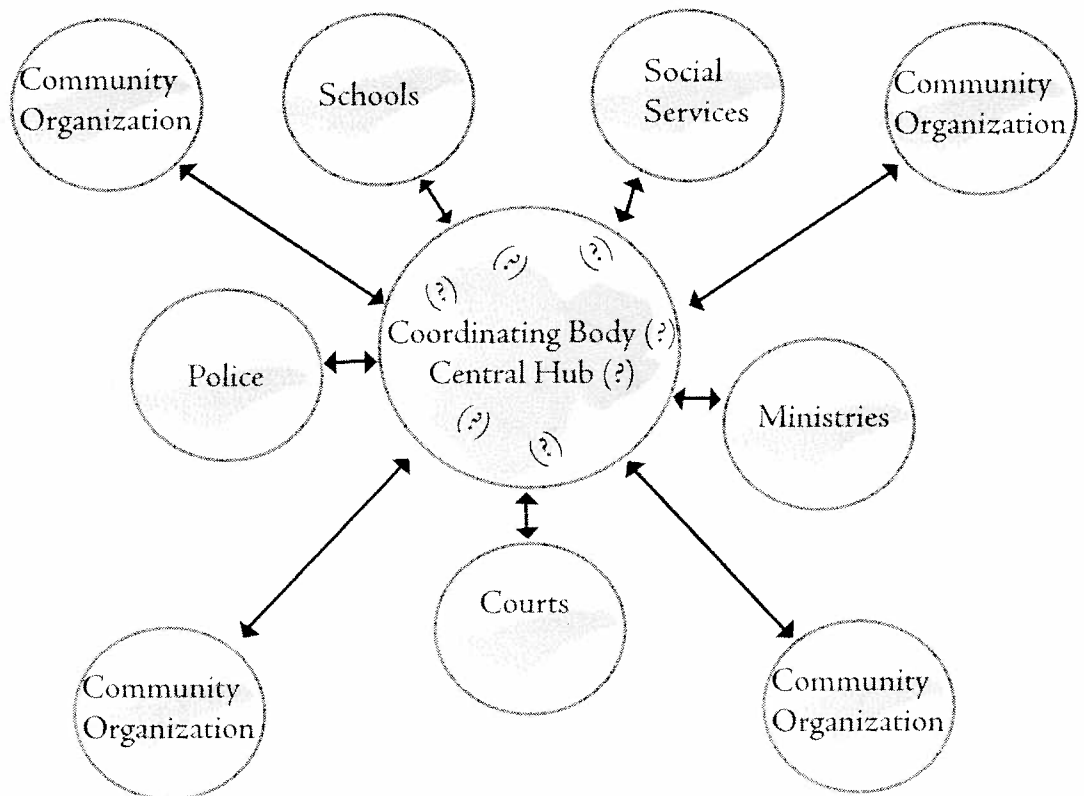
Your Vision

At our previous forum, you created a vision for a restorative justice programme that would be:

- Collaborative & Cooperative
- Inclusive & Diverse
- Integrative
- Involving & Empowering Community
- Effective & Efficient
- Transparent & Accountable
- Competent
- Inclusive of Youth & Elders
- Funding and Investment
- Value of Current Resources
- Value of Integration into Community
- Political Value
- Value, Not Control
- Collaboration
- Networks
- Competence and Accountability
- Financial Stability
- Education
- Diversity
- Integration
- Specializations/Referrals
- Organizational Structure

Your Model

At our previous forum, you created a vision for a restorative justice programme that would look something like this:



"The Youth Criminal Justice Act is a work in progress, and there won't be any progress if we value appearing tough on crime over a careful consideration about what's best for youths, and best for Canada." - Editorial, *The Vancouver Sun*, March 31st, 2006