

VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

virrja@ymail.com
www.virrja.ca

MINUTES

Monday, June 15, 2015
10 AM – 3 PM

John Howard Society Offices – 1585 Bowen Road, Nanaimo

Attending: Kim Fagerlund (Nanaimo John Howard), Michael Jacobson Weston (Alert Bay), Bruce Curtis (Comox Valley), Richard Tarnoff (independent practitioner), Andrea Safari (Peninsula Crossroads), Genesis Hunt (Aboriginal Justice Campbell River), Gloria Peters (Aboriginal Justice Campbell River), Brian Tyacke (Comox Valley & Nanaimo), Kirby Hayes (VicRJ), Gillian Lindquist (VicRJ), Barb Atleo (Ahousat), Etta Connor (Peninsula Crossroads), Myles Morrison (West Coast RJ Service), Pearl Hunt (Alert Bay), Gail Jewsbury (Warmlands RJ – Duncan), Jane Waterman (Texada/Powell River), Charles Nelson (Snuneymuxw FN)

1. Programme Updates

Ucluelet – had a very successful Victims of Crime Awareness Week set of events (trainings, public presentation)

Ahousat – the programme is being established and is receiving files

RJvic – A good Victims awareness week, received a Civil Forfeiture grant to conduct a provincial consultation on RJ service to Victims Services

Nanaimo – working on a complex intake-to-forum process and a paper for the national conference in Quebec on RJ and sexual offences

Campbell River – delivering healthy relationships workshops

Peninsula Crossroads – doing increased outreach to community organizations to increase community referrals and conducting an impact analysis on the SD#63 school programme

Alert Bay – working on re-establishing their relationship with Crown Counsel and Probation following new staff being appointed in those agencies

Nanaimo – Receive a grant from Coast Capital for \$24,000 for the mentorship programme, supporting the development of RJ programme at Snuneymuxw FN, working on their SD#68 project, and working with Crown to enhance work on files referred involving sexual offences

Comox – Walking With Our Sisters exhibition opening July 31 with K'omoks FN, received grant for developing Elder Abuse and RJ project, and dealing with a school threat referral.

Texada/Powell River – initiating discussions with the SD and had done the rounds of watch meeting to increase RCMP referrals

Duncan – currently receiving about 1 file per week

Alert Bay – met with 4 judges, Crowns and Probation (at their request) to discuss enhancing their work with the community

2. RJ Victoria and the Crown MOU (new rules & lobbying issue: Gillian Lindquist and Kirby Hayes (Dalhousie law student intern)

The AG has announced new rules for Crown Referrals which will require standards on privacy, accountability, etc. All existing and any new MOU will be re-negotiated by March, 2016 to include the new requirements. RJ Vic supports this initiative but is concerned about the continuing refusal to provide any funding for this work. Two of their local funding sources have declined to renew their funding because they see Crown as “off-loading” provincial costs onto the community and they won’t renew until government starts to contribute to community RJ programmes.

RJVic is proposing that they will only renew their MOU for 2 years to give government the tie to find the money which RJVic insists has to come with the MOU’s renewal thereafter. Hayes has interviewed 22 programmes across BC; only 7 currently receive Crown files; 15 agree with RJVic’s lobbying strategy.

Pearl Hunt reported that 2 Nanaimo Crowns are interested in VIRRJA membership, and possibly running for the Executive.

Moved/Seconded That VIRRJ supports, endorses, and will collaborate actively with the RJ Vic initiative to lobby government to bring funding to the table in the re-negotiation of the Crown Referral MOUs.

CARRIED Unanimously

3. RJ Victoria project on RJ standards in the context of better serving victims

RJVic, CJI (Langley), Alana Abramson have been funded to do a provincial consultation on “acceptable” practice standards for RJ in meeting victim needs. They want to do a consultation/focus-group on this issue at the VIRRJA Regional Training event.

4. Regional Training Session Planning Pearl Hunt

4.1 VIRRJA Executive Report on Venue, Dates, Organization

As agreed at the last meeting, the Executive was assigned responsibility to determine the dates and venue and reported that the Regional Training event will be Saturday/Sunday, October 3&4 at Pacific Shores in Nanoose.

4.2 Budget

To facilitate planning, it was agreed that the travel policy for this even would be:

Two delegates from each programme would be covered for travel (50 cents/km; accommodation, and meals. Accommodation would be for two nights for programmes more than 1 hours travel time from the venue. Programmes can send additional delegates at their own expense, and or share their travel allowances/accommodations if they wish.

There was a discussion of whether meal expenses would be paid for the additional delegates. The Executive will make a determination during their finalizing of the budget.

The draft budget was discussed:

The honourarium for Gustafson was set at \$500 plus expenses

The bid from Pacific Shores was presented and now needs to be factored into the budget.

The VIRRJA admin overhead amount can be used to balance the budget

The programme was reviewed:

Start at 9:30 on Saturday

9:45 –10:45 Keynote Address “Building Trust, Building Relationships, Building RJ: A World Perspective – Curtis to speak with Gustafson about bringing an international perspective to inspire VIRRJA members

11:00 – 12:30 Moore and the videos – Curtis will ask him to bring videos for sale

7PM Dinner – will have assigned seating (to mix the delegates up with people they don’t know and to provide variety in programme location, size, type at each table. Tyacke will devise a set of questions for each table to complete as a task over dinner.

Sunday:

8:30 – 9:30 AM – Strategic Planning Report

9:30 – 10:30 – RJVic’s Meeting Victims Needs Evaluation Focus Group

10:45 – Myles Morrison – debriefing

1:30 – 3:30 the Panel Session:

Alana Abramson

Brian Tyacke – The “intake to forum” work needed for some forms of sexual abuse files using an “educational accountability” approach- beginning of his paper for the National Meetings

Possibly the Victim participant from the RJVic case

Curtis will ask Gustafson to moderate the panel

THAT The Executive be delegated responsibility to finalize the budget and make the submission to CJI for the grant.

CARRIED

5. Business Session

5.1 Minutes of the Meeting of April 7, 2015

THAT the Minutes of the VIRRJA Meeting of April 7, 2015 be approved.

CARRIED

5.2 Membership Report

Jewsbury reported that there were currently 14 organizational memberships and 2 individual memberships. There was a discussion of what the membership year was and it was agreed that it would be the Calendar Year.

THAT the Membership Report be approved.

CARRIED

5.3 Financial Report

The attached financial report was received and approved.

5.4 Upcoming Meeting Dates

Saturday/Sunday, Oct 3 & 4, 2015	AGM & Regional Training
Monday, February 15, 2016	VIRRJA Reps Mtg (Family Day Feb 8)
Monday, April 18, 2016	VIRRJA Reps Mtg
Monday, June 2, 2016	VIRRJA Reps Mtg

Other than the Regional Training and AGM, being held in Nanoose, all other meetings will be held in Nanaimo. Kim Fagerlund will book the John Howard Society Meeting Room for these dates.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM