



VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

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VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION MINUTES

Monday, February 15, 2016

10 AM – 3 PM

John Howard Society Offices – 1585 Bowen Road, Nanaimo

Attending: Michael Jacobson Weston (Alert Bay), Bruce Curtis (Comox Valley), Richard Tarnoff (independent practitioner), Andrea Safari (Peninsula Crossroads), Genesis Hunt (Aboriginal Justice Campbell River), Brian Tyacke (Comox Valley & Nanaimo), Jessica Rourke (VicRJ), Myles Morrison (West Coast RJ Service), Pearl Hunt (Alert Bay), Gail Jewsbury (Warmlands RJ – Duncan), Caryl Wylie & Betty Price (Parksville),

1. Programme Updates

Ucluelet – hoping to get some funding support to tell our story but its cut from each grant we receive

RJVic – have had to terminate relationship with Westshore Crown due to absence of funding

Arrowsmith (Parksville) – continuing on relationship with referral sources

Nanaimo – Presented at the national conference on on-line pornography. Meeting with partners on mental health issues, 3 grant applications for Civil Forfeiture Funds for complex cases, collaborating with Snuneymuxw First Nation on establishing their RJ program

Richard Tarnoff – volunteering at Ladysmith, Gaye has been very ill with back surgery and pain

Peninsula Crossroads – RJ Victoria Police Liaison spoke at AGM to promote referrals
Alert Bay – working Nanaimo –

Comox – Campagnolo Lecture with Svend Robinson focusing on mental health and RJ; Elder Abuse workshop with Arlene Groh (Waterloo Elder Abuse project) and Isabel MacKenzie (BC Seniors Advocate); cases are still being received in sufficient numbers, Victim Services referred a case of intimate sexual assault; beginning work on the renewal of our Critical Incident Response Protocol for cases of racism, hatred and homophobia and invited Justin Trudeau and Chief Everson to speak at the signing ceremony.

Duncan – there has been a slow down in cases referred, upcoming presentation at Elder College and had a good volunteer recognition dinner in December
Campbell River (Alert Bay Outreach) – funded to do a program of education on alternative justice and healthy relationships
Alert Bay – Mike is working on establishing a regional program to include Alert Bay, Port Hardy, Port McNeil, Sointula, etc. Also working with DFO to reduce their backlog and it comes with funding

2. Business Session

2.1 Minutes of the Meeting of June 15, 2015

**THAT the Minutes of the VIRRJA Meeting of June 15, 2015 be approved.
CARRIED**

A comment on the provision of accommodation for the Regional Conference was made that suggested that, in future, when accommodation is being provided for a conference, it be provided for all delegates regardless of how close they live to the conference site. This is to promote engagement in the full conference event schedule.

2.2 Conference Financial Report

The final financial report for the training conference was presented. Despite some bumps along the way, the conference expenses came in as predicted and there was a small amount left over to cover VIRRJA administrative overhead. In addition to the grant obtained through Community Justice Initiatives in Langley, there was a large number of participants from outside the region who paid for \$6,256 of the \$26,095 total costs of the conference. Expenses were \$17,154 for accommodation and meals, \$8,918.10 for VIRRJA member travel. There were a total of 85 participants in the conference. The Treasurer reported that the event was financially successful and the funder was very pleased.

THAT the Financial Report of the VIRRJA Regional Training held Oct 3 & 4 2015 be received.

CARRIED

2.3 Membership Report

Jewsbury reported that there were 20 members (including 2 independent practitioners) in 2015 and that so far, eight have renewed for 2016.

THAT the Membership Report be approved.

CARRIED

2.4 Financial Report

The financial report was provided by the Treasurer and received and approved.
There is currently a balance of \$5,590.40.

THAT the Financial Report be approved.

CARRIED

2.5 Hummingbird Award

VIRRJA extends its congratulations to Shanna Grant-Warmald on being named the recipient of the SFU RJ Hummingbird Award for 2015!

3. VIRRJA Strategic Plan 2016 - 20120

The draft Strategic plan, presented to the AGM last October, was discussed.
Several issues were raised for consideration:

- The ongoing issue of Crown Referrals
- Government insurance coverage for Crown Referral cases
- Minimum funding for referrals from various agencies (DFO, Environment, ICBC, etc.)
- Lobbying for something akin to the Manitoba province-wide RJ program
- Dues structure and Executive 2yr terms were agreed
- Proposal for VIRRJA support

These issues were discussed and then the Plan was considered as revised.

THAT the revised VIRRJA Strategic Plan, 2016 - 2020 be approved. CARRIED

4. Upcoming Meeting Dates

Monday, April 15, 2015

VIRRJA Reps Mtg

Monday, June 6, 2016

VIRRJA Reps Mtg

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM