



## VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

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<http://acjs.ca/VIRRJA.html>

**MINUTES Monday, May 27, 2019**

**MEETING VENUE John Howard Society Offices – 2353 Rosstown Road, Nanaimo**

### 1. PROGRAMME UPDATES

gathet Community Justice – Jane Waterman - recent keeper training with Barry Stuart. 5 committees to redesign program going well. Dealing with a community dispute. Received a civil forfeiture grant which helps with training and program costs. Visited Comox Valley CJC to learn of their system and observe a board meeting. Thank you Bruce.

Independent practitioner - Gail Jewsbury – nothing to report

Ucluelet/Tofino - Myles Morrison – Civil Forfeiture grant allows 3 separate trainings, Ucluelet, Tofino and Ahousaht. Had a few cases in Tofino.

John Howard Society Victoria – Andrea Gertz- Civil forfeiture grant. Introducing the program in 4 middle schools and 1 high school

South Island Wellness Society – Vanessa Ramsdale – getting referrals from RCMP and Alternative measures. Has a grade 4-5 school program

Warmland – Norm Howrigan – Received gaming grant. Training 5 people. Norm visited Kamloops program. Wrote to the court system asking for referrals.

RJ Victoria – Jane Osborne –AGM tonight with Alan Wade as keynote speaker about interpersonal violence and relationships. Program extraordinarily busy. NOTE: numbers submitted via email after meeting: 136 referrals (offenders involving 181 offenses) 112 Victoria Police Dept., 16 Crown referrals (Victoria & West Shore), 3 Oak Bay PD, 5 others. 25% youth / 75% adults. 99 volunteers – 13 Board members.

Ladysmith – Richard Tarnoff – Civil Forfeiture grant to survey town of Ladysmith to assess needs and ways to adjust the program. No referrals from RCMP. Facilitator training this week by 2 from RJ Victoria

Saltspring Island – Darlene Gage (via Skype) - Had 2-day Advanced Keeper training with Evelyn Zellerer led to big jump in team's confidence. Dealing with more community conflicts in past year. Meeting with RCMP commander who on radio stated a big supporter of RJ but has very limited definitions of cases they will refer. Working with Ladysmith to get an MOU with Crown Counsel, but so far no respond from Crown. Getting advice from Williams Lake program that has terrific relationship with Crown.

Comox Valley CJC – Bruce Curtis and Hayley (practicum student) - recent visit from Gaming Infoline who deal with addictions and interested in working with CVCJC. Had DUI referral from court in Oregon, sentencing there includes community service and counselling. Program exists here through MADD \$50 for 2 hours classroom

setting plus some online. CJCVC will take case using conference model, with victims of DUI. Requirement from Oregon – a certificate upon completion. Referral from RCMP guns stolen from gun shop taken to States to sell to pay for brain surgery, the dark web involved! Referral from bylaw officers – a neighbourhood dispute involving PTSD. The 2020 Campanola Lecture speaker will be Murray Sinclair. Second visit from Nottingham UK politicians to learn how to generate volunteers. Comox Valley working towards declaring itself a Restorative Justice Community. No MOU with Crown at present.

## 2. Business Session

### 2.1 Minutes of Meeting 11 March 2019

That the minutes be adopted as circulated with 2 amendments – the bank balance was \$7570 plus Gail Jewsbury was designated to contact Carys Cragg. CARRIED

### 2.2 Membership Report - Gail Jewsbury

15 organizations and 2 individual practitioners paid for 2019.

### 2.3 Financial Report - Gail Jewsbury

Bank balance \$7200.

2.4 VIRRJA Executive: final decision on nominees for the 3 positions: Vice-President, Secretary, Director-at-large. Darlene expressed concern that our bylaws state no nominees from the floor at AGM. Bruce clarified that there are 4 meetings/year that are open to all membership of which the AGM is only one. Nominations are open at the 3 meetings up to and including the May/June meeting and the executive should show a willingness to serve VIRRJA by attending meetings other than the AGM. It was noted that at the AGM members often have more than 1 attendee but there is only 1 vote per paid up member. This can be resolved with giving one voting card to each paid-up member. If there is a desire to open the floor at the AGM it should be addressed in the strategic plan and will need a change to the bylaws.

BY ACCLAMATION the following positions will be filled: Vice-President – Bruce Curtis, Secretary – Jane Waterman, Director-at-large – Vanessa Ramsdale.

### 2.5 AGM – Further planning for AGM 19 October 2019

Venue booked – UVIC Cadboro Commons. Can seat 50. Will use their food services. Discussion on number of speakers – decided 3. Waiting for a reply from our first choice of speaker: Marcie Mezzarobba, ED, Community Programs & Strategic Policy Initiatives, on her research for the Ministry on enhancing RJ in BC. Then will pursue other presenters as listed in minutes for 11 March 2019

Discussion on setting up 3 sub-committees – media communication, increasing engagement, training.

2.6 Lobbying: does VIRRJA wish to make a submission to the Finance Committee of the Legislature sometime this June?

Bruce agreed to attend and present on behalf of VIRRJA at the Courtenay hearing. Vanessa will look into making a presentation at the Colwood hearing, with Genesis.

2.7 Continued discussion: role of VIRRJA in training (Tabled from last meeting)

Suggested that a list of trainers be put on the website and include Liz Cox, Jessica/Gillian from RJ Vic, Evelyn Zellerer, Myles Morrison, Gail Jewsbury, Gordon White. If a training sub-committee formed this could be part of their mandate.

## 2.8 Update on website and Facebook page

The old website still exists. Bruce will organize removing it. Facebook has had 38 members post information. Members can access and post and will be encouraged to do so.

Should work on a list of funding opportunities for both website and Facebook.

## 2.9 Update on Indigenous Justice Association

Vanessa reported AGM and conference set for 25-27 June 2019 in Prince George.

## 2.10 RJ ABC Report/Update from attendees of AGM

40-50 people at AGM. Interesting presentations.

## 2.11 Formation of a sub-committee to encourage more participation from members – Richard Tarnoff/Darlene Gage

A committee has been struck with Darlene, Richard and Vanessa.

### 3. EDUCATIONAL SESSION starting at 1.00 PM

BARRY STUART and EVELYN ZELLERER described their proposed TRIAGE system for directing criminal cases to the justice system or to community justice at all points along the process from initial investigation to release from prison.

- There would be a tri-collaboration team of 3-4 paid members - from the justice system, experts on the underlining problems and the community to dispatch the cases to the appropriate program – formal justice system or community justice. Emphasis is on collaboration.
- There would be a separate path for victim healing that may or may not lead to a merging with the offender's path.
- Each case would be reviewed at the various stages of criminal justice – pre-charge, post-charge, sentencing, during prison sentence, parole, final release so that there are ramps out of the formal system at every level.
- A team would decide on referrals rather than leaving it to just one individual – be it an RCMP officer or Crown who may not know the resources available in the community. When left to one individual to make referral any problems reflect back on that person.
- The goal is to find every possible way to keep cases out of criminal justice system. This creates a healing community of like-minded people.
- A community can implement this triage system and break down the silos of justice.
- People can self-refer to community justice. It's important to inform the whole community of the options.
- There are more people in remand in prison than ever before, clogging the system.
- To ensure community justice volunteers don't burn out need to have 4 people to share one volunteer job.

### 4. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3.00 PM.

Forthcoming Meeting AGM Saturday 19 October 2019 10.00AM – 3.00PM, registration 9.30 – 10.00AM. Cost \$25/attendee. 2020 membership dues can also be paid - \$25/year