



## VANCOUVER ISLAND REGION RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION

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

### MINUTES 20 January 2020

**Meeting Venue: John Howard Society Offices – 2353 Rosstown Road, Nanaimo**

In attendance: 11 in person and 7 virtually via ZOOM. Meeting began at 10.05 AM

Opening: Vanessa Ramsdale acknowledged we were on Snuneymuxw traditional territory

#### CHECK-IN ROUND WITH INTRODUCTIONS FOLLOWED BY PROGRAM UPDATES:

qathet Community Justice (Powell River region) - Jane Waterman: program going well with referrals from RCMP and dealing with community disputes. Grant funds facilitated hiring a part-time coordinator which has moved the program forward in leaps and bounds. Lift Community Services Society provides administration and insurance – very good partnership. Grant writing takes an enormous amount of time.

Arrowsmith Community Justice (Parksville) – Caryl Wylie: program been going for 21 years. It is an independent society, has office in RCMP detachment. Developing school and community dispute programs. Police referrals are good.

Gail Jewsbury, independent practitioner

Saanich Peninsula RJ – Sue Saunders and Bonnie Tanner: program 20 years. Busy summer and fall. Meetings with Central Saanich Police and Crown. Increase in number and variety of cases and severity of crime. Significant requirement for training by Liz Cox. Strictly volunteer with no office or paid staff. Working with Salt Spring and Pender Island programs to share ideas.

South Island Wellness Society – Vanessa Ramsdale: Dealing with Alternative Measures from probation via Crown. Also direct referrals from Crown. Building capacity using RJ Victoria for training

Campbell River – Kristine Atkinson: RCMP based program in existence 15 years. Referrals mostly from RCMP. Did 57 forums last year. Kristine the only paid staff paid by the city. 1 general volunteer and 6 facilitators.

West Coast RJ – Myles Morrison: program 10 years. Referrals from RCMP, schools, private individuals, organizations and Ahousaht First Nation. Publicity in newspapers and radio. Myles doing quite a lot of training – encourages 5 day training combining Community Justice Forums and Peace Making Circles. Trainees use their knowledge in other places e.g. work.

Whe-La-La-U Area Council (Alert Bay) – Tamara Alfred Indigenous Justice Coordinator since September 2019. Creating a traditional Indigenous Wellness program. Had a workshop with hereditary chiefs and elders for the north island. Program on ending violence against women and children. Held Missing and Murdered Women march. Coordinating with RCMP and getting community referrals.

John Howard Society Victoria – Andrea Gertz: working on building program and referrals from Saanich police. Has a schools-based program partnering with 3 schools. Also works with Vancouver Island Correctional Facility.

Alberni Valley RJ – Laurie Money: Challenges with RCMP referrals as liaison officer off so no one in the position for a year. Changes coming with the liaison officer becoming a city employee. 5 new facilitators trained in CJF and 2 in peace making circles. Looking to expand referrals and possibly deal with by-law infractions.

Terri Kalaski, independent practitioner: Does RJ training. Has worked with child and youth timely access to care, and people living with substance abuse and mental health. On board of RJABC  
Ladysmith RJ - Susan Cole: program restarting and looking for growth. 1 school referral. Hired Carmen Hildebrand for 9 months' study to build capacity, report due in March.

Warmland RJ (Duncan) – Carmen Hildebrand: one paid coordinator. Referrals trickling in. Carmen working to build capacity.

Salt Spring Island- Darlene Gage: Steady referrals. Some experienced facilitators stepping back so recruiting new volunteers. Doing training in-house and developing training manual which they are willing to share. Applied to civil forfeitures for grant to develop training. During RJ week did peace making circles series in community, example – between people sleeping rough and business owners and others with safety concerns

Richard Tarnoff – now an independent practitioner. Working with Darlene and Vanessa on VIIRJA membership engagement committee.

Genesis Hunt-Higginson – now independent practitioner.

Pauquachin Band – Narrene Williams: on Saanich Peninsula. Works as an employment coach.

RJ Victoria – Gillian Lindquist only able to join via ZOOM for 30 minutes in the afternoon. On board of RJABC

MINUTES of 27 May 2019 previously circulated.

Motion to accept the minutes as presented

CARRIED

FINANCIAL REPORT: Gail Jewsbury presented the financial report 1 September 2019 to 31 December 2019. Balance forward \$7693 and carried forward \$7632. Question – what are admin costs answer lobbying travel expenses, committee expenses and AGM overruns.

AGM discussion: 2019 cost \$1719 income \$1200. 2018 AGM cost \$900 income \$425, 2017 AGM expenses exceeded income by \$200. Need to decide format, speakers etc. going forward. Suggestion that AGM attendance fee be increased and look for grants to cover meeting and AGM costs.

Motion to accept financial report as presented

CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Gail Dewsbury reported currently have 11 program and 3 independent practitioners as paid up members. Motion to accept membership report as presented

CARRIED

INDIGENOUS JUSTICE ASSOCIATION UPDATE: Vanessa and Genesis - it is a BC Association. Has 18 members. Waiting for updates to the website.

RJABC UPDATE: Terri Kalaski -had 2 day strategic planning session last week and now compiling information.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CIRCLE FOR ACTION PLANNING RESPONSE TO MEMBERSHIP SURVEY RESULTS.

Darlene Gage and Vanessa Ramsdale received permission from President Genesis Hunt-Higginson to keep the circle for the rest of the meeting. Guidelines were agreed, the centre piece and the talking piece explained. They gave a brief outline of why and how of the survey. The resulting recommendations are coming from a position of making VIIRJA stronger and forward looking.

SEE ATTACHED FOR THE SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND DISCUSSION as submitted by Darlene.

CLOSING ROUND there was unanimous agreement to continue with ZOOM accessibility to meetings. People were asked what made them most excited at this meeting and what they want to help with.

ADJOURNMENT at 3.10 pm.

NEXT MEETING MONDAY 30 MARCH 2020 10.00 am – 3.00 pm AT JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY OFFICES, NANAIMO.