



Feb.3, 2015
Hub International Training Centre

Co-chairs: Dan Bibby
Julie Unger

Recorder: Karen Steegstra

Present:

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Debbie Denault	Chilliwack Learning Society	
Doris Marko	Ministry of Social Development and Innovation	
Imraan	Ann Davis	
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Julie Unger	CSCL	<u>julie.unger@cscl.org</u>
Karen Steegstra	CYC	<u>karen@childandyouth.com</u>



Kathy Funk	Chilliwack Restorative Justice and Youth Advocacy	<u>kfunkrestorejustice@gmail.com</u>
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Kelly Janveaux	YMCA	
Ken Neufeld	Youth Unlimited	
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Shari West	YMCA	
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Todd Lueck	City Life	



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1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review of January minutes. Karen will make updates an upload to website.

3. Children of Justice Involved Parents – Annette Vogt – Safe Schools Safe Communities

An expert working group was formed in October which had funding to examine the topic of justice involved parents and how it effects child development. It was a literature review as well as touching base with practitioners to see if findings were accurate. These children are a highly vulnerable population; little research has been done in Canada on this topic. These children are often invisible and the forgotten victims of crime. The disruption, shame, difficulties can trigger a cascade of emotions for these children. Sent a draft of the report to the Advocate of Children and Youth; they have made it a priority funding for further research. When research was presented to community the hostile response was a surprise. It is a significant issue. Services are being provided but not targeted enough to meet the specific needs; these children often become tarnished and alienated. Elizabeth Fry reports that many children lose some form of identity.

“In the Best Interest of the Child; Strategies for Recognizing and Supporting Canada’s At Risk Population of Children with Incarcerated Parents”

<http://blogs.ufv.ca/cssc/files/2013/02/click-here.pdf>

The primary caregiver will also experience significant disruptions and there are a number of barriers to accessing services often due to secrecy and shame. In the case of a longer sentence, they are more likely to receive more support. The provincial system is a revolving door with 30-32 day sentences. Just enough to cause huge disruption and still remain disconnected from services. Groups of kids exiting from school due to the transient nature of this population and often no one knows where they go. There is a lack protocols and information sharing.

“Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents” International Association of Chiefs of Police

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/IACP-SafeguardingChildren.pdf>

Aboriginal Children are affected at disproportionate rates. More women are getting arrested and they are the primary caregivers. When fathers are arrested there is most times a lack of funding and the family lives in poverty.

Why is this an issue in Chilliwack? Proximity to prisons, affordable housing costs.

How many children does it affect? More than 1 child per classroom.

In July, 2014 had the first round table discussion and then a Colloquium in October 2014 sponsored by the CYC and MCFD. 50 people attended along with Melanie Mark from the office of the Child Advocate.



4 recommendations came out of the day:

- 1) Should explore mechanisms for timely sharing of info when arrest is made**
- 2) Increase inter-cultural supports**
- 3) Gain insight about intersection of providers and where**
- 4) Identify existing services and how they can be expanded**

Community Learning Event and Dialogue With Justice Involved Parents report will be an added attachment along with minutes when emailed out to members.

Wayne suggested what was needed was an empathy program for families of criminals where community could hear the stories of families.

Patti suggested a celebrity champion who has overcome. Less stigma, also need to change the language.

Tobi wondered whether the kids are truly invisible or are they ones law enforcement is constantly in contact with. Many resources have been poured into these children with no positive outcomes. What is the service gap? What are we missing in serving these youth?

Members continued to discuss service gaps. Steve talked about a new program being introduced to Chilliwack, “Learning to Lead”. The federal gov’t is putting 2.2 million toward this program which targets at risk youth to help build resiliency and leadership. Has had success in other communities.

4) Collaborative Practice to At Risk Pregnant Women and Infants – handout. Members were invited to attend the discussion taking place at the NLC on Feb.17 and another date in March.

5) Youth Health Centre Update

The intention is to have 2 sites which will provide comprehensive medical, mental and sexual health services. Stolo has agreed to be the site for the Youth Health Centre which will provide the medical and sexual health services. Confirming which days and times it will be open. There is currently a provincial Collaborative on Child and Youth Mental Health and Substance Use; funding is being provided by Shared Care (Ministry of Health) through the Divisions to form local action teams. These teams will look at what is needed locally for children and youth ages 0-25. For example, could focus on what happens when young people come to the ER, and there is work being done provincial in regards to communication and sharing of information. The Youth Health Centre will become one of the projects which will provide funding to bring physicians and specialists to the table re: development and for minimal meeting/operations of the Health Centre.



Youth Health Centre at the NLC is going well. Currently having 11-12 counselling sessions without even having promoted the Centre. Most of the youth who have come for counselling have had some very heavy concerns. Third year practicum students will be going to schools to promote the Centre. At this point most of the youth making use of the Health Centre are from Chilliwack Secondary. They have strong support from school counsellors. The feedback from youth is that the Centre is positive and beneficial.

6) Youth Engagement Worker

Youth Matters and the Regional CYC have each received a \$500 VYPER grant to begin the process of hiring a part time Youth Engagement Coordinator. Stacy Wood, Theresa Warbus and some youth will be doing the interviewing and Youth Matters will oversee the position. This will enable the Youth Matters committee to be better informed of what youth see as a need in our community. A Youth Engagement Conference has been scheduled for May 1.

7) Website Update

Members were asked if the website has the capacity to a central registration base for all agency events, would agencies use this. Most agreed this would be a good idea. Karen and Annette Williams have been in conversation with the agency that manages the website and will look into getting quotes and bring back to the Website Steering Committee.

8) Agency Profile – Ann Davis – Imraan, Youth Counsellor

While a variety of services are offered at Ann Davis, the agency profile focussed on services for Youth. Ann Davis is a not for profit serving Chilliwack and Hope. Some groups that are offered for parents are Attachment Parenting and Caught in the Middle. Caught in the Middle is offered a number of times throughout the year and is for parents and for children experiencing a divorce or separation. Topics covered include, grief, anger, self-esteem, communication skills and moving on. Groups usually have 8-10 children and self-referrals or referrals from organizations are accepted. The cost is \$40 and child minding is provided if needed. No one get turns away.

Children Who Witness Abuse is only offered for youth. Topics covered include types of abuse, feelings, safety planning, coping skills and communication skills. The group is funded through the Ministry of Justice.

Summer Skills is a work and life skills program for youth ages 15-17 which equips them with skills to find a job. Program consists of discussions, fieldtrips and job placements.



The target is at risk youth and they get paid \$25 a week for attending the program. Work with various business partners who place youth. The program runs in July and August.

The Transition House fence fund raiser is going well. Currently realtor, Kyle Hisshop is camping out on the top of the Sussex Building with the goal of raising \$5000 for Ann Davis. Right now the agency is experiencing huge wait lists for those seeking legal advocacy. Currently working on a partnership with People's Law School to offer workshops which will be filmed and become a provincial resource. Very proud to announce that Ann Davis won not for profit of the year award. Tobi and Katrina sit on the Ann Davis board of directors.

9) Chilliwack Connect

Planning is already underway for Chilliwack's Connect event. Anyone interested in helping with the planning is invited to attend the meeting at First Ave Church, 2 pm, Feb.12.

10) Sub-Committee Reports

Members received a document which showed the membership and projects of each of the sub-committees. Impressive to see how many people are involved in doing the work of the CYC.

Early Years – Planning underway for the March 13 early childhood expo taking place at Cottonwood Mall.

Youth Matters – Everything coming together for Challenge Day. Doing their best at finding ways to keep the costs down. City provided the space, Landing Sport's Centre, as an in kind donation.

Clinical – Youth Specific has reconvened the youth mentorship program with much success.

11) Coordinator's Report

"If your life inspires just one child, your life has been a success." Mark Desvaux

January has been a full month, with lots of activity and projects on the go.

Early Years:

Parent 2 Parent mentoring – working with interested service providers in developing a mentoring program for Chilliwack

Early Childhood Resource Fair – partnering with the School District in planning our child development fair, "All 4 Kids" scheduled for March 13. This will be an interactive fair covering, Health and Nutrition, Physical Development (particularly the importance of play), Emotional



Development and School Readiness. Early childhood consultants will be available to do development screening as well as answer questions parents may have regarding their child's development.

Kids Have Stress Too – I worked with Jackie Ayer to provide professional development training with the curriculum 'Kids Have Stress Too". Those who completed the workshop are now certified to teach the material to parents and caregivers.

Presentation for the Primary Prevention Committee on the importance of intervention in the Early Years.

Success By 6 Council of Partners – Met in January with regional ECD coordinators and the Success By 6 steering committee. We meet every other month to be updated on provincial initiatives and opportunities regarding early years as well as to hear and learn what other communities in the Fraser East are doing.

CYC

I continue to sit on all of the CYC sub-committees and task groups (except for "Clinical"), co-chairing Early Years and chairing Middle Years.

CYC Conversation:

I continue to be part of the planning and promotions of our annual Conversation. Working with BSW practicum students to create a simulation exercise.

Every Door is the Right Door

Working on creating a CYC agency map which can be placed in agency lobbies.

Family Resource Guide 2015 is nearly complete; waiting for the last of the updates to include.

Childandyouth.com

I continue to upload with agency updates and workshops as well as respond to inquiries that come through the website. This month I met with website developer and website admin support to discuss ways to improve our website.

We also have a Facebook page! Make sure you "like" us www.facebook.com/ChilliwackChildAndYouthCommittee

And I got a new email address, karen@childandyouth.com .

Regional CYC

Along with Dan, I am representing the Regional CYC as part of the team working towards a youth engagement event which will be part of an international Social Workers Conference, hosted by UFV.

Community

I sit at the monthly Chilliwack Healthier Communities meetings and participate in the networking breakfasts. I am also part of the "Pathways" task group, working towards creating service pathways as well as discovering ways to create a user friendly website.

I sit at the Chilliwack Learning Society's Early Childhood Literacy table; unfortunately the last couple of meetings have conflicted with my schedule.



Practice Support Program – I have participated in the 3 modules which have centred around child and youth mental health. The 3rd module includes resources; I was invited to present on the CYC in December and will again this week Thursday.

Professional Development

“Kids Have Stress Too” training on January 21.

Currently reading, “Walking Prey; How America’s Youth are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery” by Holly Austin Smith. I highly recommend this book for anyone working with youth aged 8 and up. She reveals in her book that even children from “good” homes are vulnerable to sexual exploitation. The book is written to educate service providers and law enforcement as Holly shares her own story. While the book is written from an American perspective many of the laws around sexual exploitation and the stigma attached are not very different than Canadian laws and attitudes.

CYC Agencies

My favorite is serving all of you; promoting your events, answering questions and sleuthing for information that you may require.

12) Agency Highlights

Ann Davis has a new youth worker for females, Tara Spence.

United Way has added 4 new community partners; John Howard Society, Cyrus Centre, Chilliwack Hospice and Abbotsford Hospice. Priority Grant recommendations are currently in process.

Restorative Justice – 176 files for 2014; 39% youth, 61% adults (female #'s are up) No extra funding available for the pilot project that was introduced in the Middle Schools. March 13-15 is Community Justice Training. The cost is \$75. May 23 will be the Bean Fest fundraiser; a fun-filled variety night.

Big Brothers Big Sisters has hired Jessica McKenzie Walker as their new ED. She comes with lots of experience working with Boys and Girls Clubs.

**Next Meeting, March 3
Neighbourhood Learning Centre**