

# PARCA

## *Provincial Association of Residential and Community Agencies*

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### **PARCA – Wednesday April 23, 2008**

Attendance: Tim Agg, Tim Veresh, Bob Enns, Darryl Goll, Paul Burnett (Chair), Dave Johnson, Gord Irving, George Curran (Minutes), Anne Kimmitt (Guest), Don Flowers (Guest), Wendy Richardson (Guest), Shelley Cook (Guest), Anne Kimmitt (Guest), Shane Picken (Guest).

Regrets: Dawn Hrycun, Dave Johnson, Yvonne Rigsby-Jones, Inder Madok and Darryl Goll

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1. Call to Order by Paul Burnett (Chair) 1:00 pm
2. Adoption of the Agenda.
  - New Business. Add a discussion of Agencies who have research projects and want to share around this.
  - Restorative Justice Discussion
  - Motioned by Bob – Seconded by Wendy  
Carried
3. Minutes
  - Motioned – Shawn – Seconded by Tim Veresh.
  - Carried
4. Finance Report
  - YTD surplus \$1300.00 for first Quarter
  - Motioned –Tim Agg – Seconded by Bob
  - Carried
5. Membership
  - Renewal in January 2008. Push paid off very well.
  - Eighteen Agencies/Persons now a member of PARCA.
  - Doing well.
  - Excellent work Tim around membership drive.

Motion - Tim Agg  
Seconded by Gord Irving  
Carried

6. Presentation by Shelley Cook, John Howard Society of Central and South Okanagan, Executive Director,

- Two Projects.
- Bedford Place
- Ten bed duplex, five up and 5 down for adult males in recovery (abstinence based), semi-independent model for maximum stay of 1 year.
- Combination of night watchman/security, electronic security and grooming a live-in mentor and day staff.
- Separate office/living area.
- Will be doing a community garden on site.
- Cardington Apartments
- 30 unit, supportive housing development for men and woman who are homeless or at risk of being and working towards managing mental health and addiction issues. (Harm Reduction).
- It is one of the twelve projects resulting from the Premiers' Task Force on Homelessness, Mental Illness and Addictions.
- Three disabilities suites. One on each floor.
- Documentary being filmed around process and building as it progresses.
- Four-storey building with a \$5,000,000 construction budget and faced some very strong opposition. Art project attached to building.
- Three Residential Floors and one commercial ground level floor.
- Excellent presentation thanks to Shelley.

7. Anne Kimmitt, MCFD – Youth Justice Liaison

- New transformation plan posted on Ministry Web Site. Document “Strong, Safe & Supportive”. Interesting read.
- Reference to crime prevention funding/projects.
- New Assistant Deputy Minister for Quality Assurance is Sandra Griffin.
- Allan Markwart is not retiring but will reduce his workweek to three days this fall.
- MCFD Youth Justice, Status Quo Budget

On the Program Front

- Victoria – Girls only unit.
- John Howard. – Contracted for advocacy for all three Justice Custody Centers.
- Burnaby – Enhanced open custody center is now open.
- SFU Contract – Review of Programs, specific outcomes.
- E-Fry – Review
- Barry Lyndon was successful and is the Executive Director of Youth Justice Custody Services.
- Nin Mand seconded to work with Barry's office around accreditation.
- Anne is back fulltime with Youth Justice on Monday.
- The position of Inspector for Youth Justice is being eliminated, as the workload and scope of responsibility does not justify a fulltime position. Inspections will be contracted out for Wilderness Programs.
- Appointment of Einar Poulson to the Criminal Justice Secretariat for 2 – 3 years.

- Ministry has come up with some funding for each Region for Crime Prevention. Three streams of Projects/Programs.
  - “Communities that Care” initiative, evidence based.
  - Enhanced home visits for pregnant women., young families and younger aged youth that have been identified as high risk/needs and presenting behaviors.
- Prolific Offenders Projects getting underway in six communities, predominately adult with some youth potentially included.
- A couple of things from the Throne Speech;
  - Review of sentences, focusing on adults. Perception that BC has shorter sentences.
  - Community Safety Strategy. Not many details at this time.
- Federal/Provincial
- Supreme Court has found presumptive adult sentences to be contrary to the Charter..
- Bill C-25 introduced last fall - Proposed Amendments to Pre-Trial Detention and to add “deterrence and denunciation” as sentencing principles..
- Passed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Reading and is stalled at Committee stage.
- Federal Ministry announced a review of CYCJA in 2008. Still waiting on that and what Review might look at.
- Next stage is that Federal Minister wants Regional round tables on this.
- Federal funding announcement increases to additional Aboriginal Justice Programs, which will pretty much double funding, that it is currently in place.
- IRCS Orders, which allows up to \$100,000 in extra funding. There have been 5 in BC with less than 40 across the country. This is fewer than anticipated and funding not fully utilized. They are allowing funding for a limited number of youth that have been found Guilty of other serious violent offences post sentence. Also one time only projects. Three projects are being funded in BC, including initial work on a Violent Offender Treatment Program (VOTP) Review/Evaluation, enhancements to the VOTP and advancement behavior management training for youth custody staff.

#### SAFE Home Study tool

- Clarified that this tool is being used for CFCSA placements but that it is not a requirement for family based youth justice resources. Some PARCA members noted that it is a good tool. John Howard North Island and ARC Programs are using this process through the Ministry.
- PLEA has been getting very mixed messages from various arms of the Ministries.
- Shawn/Paul – Discussion of plan looking at benefit of bringing contracted staff and Ministry Staff together to discuss gender differences. Youth leaving custody and being in custody of family but not having anywhere to go or return to,
- Again we would like to thank Anne for addressing the PARCA Board.

#### 8. Organization Reports:

- Federation of Child and Family Services.
- Shane Picken Agency Director of ARC Programs Ltd. And Vice President of the Federation is a guest.
- Jennifer Charlesworth is steering Federation very competently.
- Engaged in early collaborative processes with MCFD
- Involved in a Research Project around recruitment/retention of staff in sector.

- Reaching out process is occurring with Schools sector.
- Starting to work with MCFD with Procurement Shop – Third Party Agreements. Changes to Performance Based Contracting. Fed has some concerns around the role of this and the Ministry’s capacity.
- Review of Administrative requirements in contracts. Fed will be involved in the Committee.
- Grant to do Promising Practices Projects.
  - Okanagan/Northern Region around Staffed Residential Resources.
  - Lower Mainland – Youth Services
  - UVIC will be part of Projects with Research and Best Practices. Working with REDs Council – Committee in process.
  - Five areas of common concern
    - i. Youth Services
    - ii. Retention/Recruitment
    - iii. Resident Services
    - iv. Recruitment/Contracting
- REDs are coming to Federal Meeting in Penticton in June.
- Information/Transformation Committee. Shane is on Management Council.
- Huge initiative with some services implications to Agencies and Sector.
- ORACLE has been announced as the Provider.
- RFP coming around The Next Step for System Integrator.
- Ministry still deciding how they will role out their move to this new system.
- \$100,000,000 budget for next year.
- Discussion of having the opportunity of having a PARCA Link on the federal Web Site and VS.
- Discussion of the Federal having better linkages between PARCA and themselves shaping a Federation Rep at future PARCA Board Meetings.

**Motion to Adjourn by Paul at 4:55 p.m.**

**Thursday April 24, 2008**

**Call to order by Chair Paul Barnett**

**Review of Agenda**

Organization Reports: (Cont’d.)

BC Halfway House Association.

- Last Meeting in Penticton.
- Not a lot new with CSC
- New Contracts in Prince George have been frozen. No referrals because of Standards issues.
- CSC New Director position for Okanagan/North. Panel was last week. Three years without the position filled.
- Web Site coming together. Prairie Region has paid for access to Site.
- St. Leonard’s of Canada pulled some dollars together for National Conference.
- Discussion of Roadmap.

BC Corrections:

- PARCA hasn't had a lot of interaction with Corrections of late. Invite to go out to Brent Merchant for Victoria.
- New tents at Fraser and also at Prince George. Kamloops brought in trailers. A work release on site location

Co-op:

- No Report. We miss you Dave.

CSSEA:

- Release latest Management and excluded Staff Report.
- Less gender difference than Executive Director Report.
- Pension discussion is on going.
- Union wanting to deal with early incentive money.

BC Criminal Justice:

- Meeting
- Partnered with BCJH in the Justice Open.
- Going back to Forums and local Justice issues.
- Speaker/Meet and Greet, Wine & Cheese.
- Community Forums – 5 throughout the Province. Slightly outside the box for CSC.
- Internet safety, gangs...

9. Old Business

- Future meeting dates.
- Victoria October 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. at Grand Pacific.
- With AGM at that time.
- Vancouver January 28<sup>th</sup>. & 29<sup>th</sup>. at The Coast Stanley Park.

10. New Business:

Research (First portion discussed on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 2008)

- Shawn brought forward a project "Raising a Family Members children.
- Document regarding children of offenders and being separated from their parents.
- Project funded by MEIA
- Some excellent resources.
- Care of Children. Only 10% of these children are in care of the Ministry. Others are with family members in particular grandparents.
- Study was done of all Youth in a custody setting.
- All girls and 70% of boys participated.
- Analysis of Study; Journal to be printed.
- Interview process re: Self, Family and What Life is like. 67% not in care of Family so no familial support when leaving custody, so a reduced chance in succeeding.
- 68% - of girls or more in custody.
- 26% - of boys have been in custody 9 x's or more.
- Girls enter the system far earlier than boys.
- Girls vs Boys discussion.

- Girls are younger and incarcerated far more times than boys.
- Mothers been charged 47% for girls and 26% for boys.
- 87% for boys, 93% for girls.
- Have more children, higher rate of trauma and abuse.
- Children involved in Criminal Justice System really need to look at how services are provided to these Youth.
- System and Service Providers need to look at this and more Holistic Care for these Criminal Justice Youth.
- Journal to be published in July. Question i.e. PARCA can get involved in the Project Publication and having discussions with the powers to be. Review of custody settings for female youth.
- E-Fry funded to do an analysis/review of custody settings for female youth.
- Review of custodial settings for female youth.
- Province wants to move towards more gender responsive as long as it is financially viable.
- United Nations Minimum Standards is to keep men and woman separate.
- Youth/Children are to be protected by these UN Convention Standards and the Province is not adhering to the documents that have been ratified.
- Province looking for feedback around specific custodial settings.
- The United States and Europe have gender specific services, programming/standards. Hard pressed to find any Province that follows this mandate.
- Have recommendations that address gender specific services/programming.
- Draft Report is out and in process of being finalized. Will be broadly distributed in July or August.
- Again, discussion of what role PARCA and member Agencies can have with release of Paper/Report.
- Research discussion to continue again later in the Agenda.

Research:(Discussed on April 24, 2008)

- Tim Agg Re: snapshot of clients during homeless count. 80% of client base was homeless. Tim will send out summary.
- Proposal into Justice Canada. Hope to get funding for a 3-year research project to do follow surveying of people who have been through Program. Will go across all Plea Programs done by McCreary.
- Partnering with McCreary and Douglas College with graduate students.
- Tim Veresh, overview of "Roadmap to Public Safety". Tim shared with Board.
- No mention of staff/contract, culture inside prisons, smoking ban, double bunking and over crowding.
- Three items mentioned regarding Half-way Houses.
- Pointed out differences in Security between men and women. Might be looking at different Models. Alternative Models discussed.
- Discussion of the role of PARCA in this area.

Presentations to Board by Brian Larran, Manager, Kelowna House, Okanagan Halfway House Association.

Specialized Facility for CSC.

Brian gave an overview of the Halfway House Association. Residential History and an overview of Staffing Model. Programming and Philosophy.  
Tour of Cardigan Apartments.  
Tour of Kelowna House.

**Adjourned.**

**Next Meeting  
October 29<sup>th</sup>. & 30<sup>th</sup>. 2008  
Grand Pacific, Victoria**