



## COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2012  
9:00 AM BOARD ROOM  
175 INGRAM STREET, DUNCAN BC

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	R1 Thanya Al-Saadoon, Safer Futures Re: Draft Progress Report for the Youth Safety Dialogues Project	5-10
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	IN1 Draft Community Safety Bulletin	To be distributed
9.	<b><u>NEW BUSINESS:</u></b>	
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The next Regular meeting of Community Safety Advisory Committee is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 5, 2012 at 9:00 am, in the Board Room, CVRD, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan BC.

NOTE: A copy of the full agenda package is available at the CVRD website [www.cvrld.bc.ca](http://www.cvrld.bc.ca)

CVRD – Director Lori Iannidinardo  
District of North Cowichan/CVRD – Director Barb Lines  
City of Duncan – Councillor Michelle Bell  
Town of Lake Cowichan – Councillor Jayne Ingram  
Town of Ladysmith – Councillor Jill Dashwood  
CWAV Society – Theresa Gerritsen  
Community Options Society – Cheryl Stone  
School District No. 79 – Trustee Candace Spilsbury  
Cowichan Independent Living – Jim Harnden  
Social Planning Cowichan – Linden Collette

RCMP – Corporal Kevin Day  
RCMP Alternate – Constable Kelly Rydholm  
Community Policing – Carol-Ann Rolis  
Youth Representative – Zoë Sorenson  
Cowichan Tribes – Councillor William Seymour  
Cowichan Tribes Alternate – Councillor Cindy Daniels

Safer Futures – Terri Dame  
Safer Futures – Thanya Al-Saadoon

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee held in the Board Room, 175 Ingram Street, Duncan BC, on Monday, May 2, 2012 at 9:02 am.

**PRESENT:** Director Lori Iannidinardo (Chair)  
Councillor Michelle Bell, City of Duncan <9:15 am>  
Councillor Jayne Ingram, Town of Lake Cowichan  
Councillor Chip Seymour, Cowichan Tribes <9:05 am>  
Trustee Candace Spilsbury, School District #79  
Carol-Ann Rolls, Community Policing  
Terri Dame, Cowichan Women Against Violence Society -  
CWAV (Safer Futures)

**ABSENT:** Director Barb Lines (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Jill Dashwood, Town of Ladysmith  
Linden Collette, Social Planning Cowichan  
Cheryl Stone, Community Options Society  
Jim Harnden, Cowichan Independent Living  
Zoe Sorenson, Youth Representative  
Corporal Kevin Day, RCMP  
Theresa Gerritsen, Cowichan Women Against Violence  
Society – CWAV (Safer Futures)  
Thanya Al-Saadoon, Cowichan Women Against Violence  
Society – CWAV (Safer Futures)

**ALSO**

**PRESENT:** Constable Erin Penner, RCMP  
Gail Jewsbury, Volunteer Coordinator, Warmlands  
Restorative Justice Society  
Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary  
Tara Daly, Recording Secretary

**APPROVAL OF  
AGENDA**

**It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ADOPTION OF  
MINUTES**

**M1**

**It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the Special meeting of the Community Safety Advisory Committee, held March 26, 2012, be adopted.**

**MOTION CARRIED**

**DELEGATIONS**

**D1**

Gail Jewsbury, Volunteer Coordinator, Warmlands Restorative Justice Society and Constable Erin Penner, RCMP  
Re: Restorative Justice Program

Ms. Jewsbury provided an overview of the Restorative Justice Program including funding, its Society status and the benefits to victims, offenders, and the community. Constable Erin Penner reiterated the positive aspects of the program.

## REPORTS

**R1** Joe Barry, Corporate Secretary provided a verbal report on the similarities and differences between Commissions and Committees.

**It was moved and seconded that it be recommended to the Board that staff prepare a Community Safety Advisory Commission Establishment Bylaw.**

## MOTION CARRIED

**R2** Terri Dame, CWAV Society/Safer Futures provided an update of the 2011 workplan for information and direction. The consensus of the Committee was to continue the focus on youth for the current year.

The current Safety Bulletin was reviewed. The consensus of the Committee was to focus more on trends rather than recycling news items.

**R3** Terri Dame, CWAV Society/Safer Futures, on behalf of Thanya Al-Saadoon, CWAV Society/Safer Futures reported that Zoe Sorenson, Youth representative, will be a delegation at the May 23, 2012 Regional Services Committee meeting. Ms. Sorenson and Al-Saadoon will update Safe Youth Cowichan and the Cowichan Youth Safety Dialogues Project.

Ms. Dame also provided information on Youth Dialogue sessions being held at Cowichan Valley schools on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## INFORMATION

**IN1** The 2012 Public Committee Member list was circulated for information.

**ADJOURNMENT** **It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.**  
**10:54 am**

## MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:54 am.

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Chairperson

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Recording Secretary

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_



**Cowichan Valley Youth Safety Dialogues Initiative  
Draft Progress Report  
May, 2012**

## Introduction

In response to the murder of a Cowichan community youth Tyeshia Jones, and the subsequent community response in the Take Back the Night Walk in 2011, the Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) Community Safety Advisory Committee (CSAC) identified specific regional concerns about youth victimization and crime in the District and prioritized a youth safety review in the region.

The CSAC has continued to prioritize Youth Safety with the aim of engaging in a concentrated Safety Review and develop capacities to promote youth safety in ten locations within the District. With funding support from the Crime Remediation and Crime Prevention Grant Funding Program, Cowichan Valley Safer Futures /CWAV Society is hosting a project to design and conduct ten Youth Safety Dialogues throughout the Cowichan Valley region. This project is co-designed with and led by Safe Youth Cowichan, a youth led safety committee. Project partners include RCMP, School District 69, Local Government elected officials, Community agencies, parents and the youth themselves, in the contribution to local plans and prevention strategies.

## Background

### Youth Safety Sub-committee

In May 2011, the CSAC formed a Youth Safety Sub-committee to facilitate the youth safety agenda. Members include Cheryl Stone (Community Options Society), Michelle Bell (City of Duncan Councillor), Linden Collette (Social Planning Cowichan) and Theresa Gerritsen (CWAV Society), supported by Thanya Al-Saadoon as Safer Futures/CSAC support.

During May to December 2011 the committee worked to:

- identify locally relevant youth safety, risk and resiliency indicators to guide the research (Appendix A)
- foster youth leaders and develop a CSAC youth action committee to form Safe Youth Cowichan, and
- develop a funding proposal to support a regional initiative.

### Safe Youth Cowichan

Safe Youth Cowichan (SYC) is youth led and youth driven. Youth members came together with the CSAC Youth Safety Sub-committee five times in 2011 to co-design the youth safety initiative. These meetings were held at both Community Options Society and the offices of Social Planning Cowichan. All of the meetings included idea generation, planning, practice sessions and social time. Each meeting was concluded with a communal meal.

The youth took a leadership role in the design of the Dialogues, and the adult supporters provided supplies and feedback aimed at implementation of the presentation ideas. A communications specialist was brought in to work with the youth in the creations of a Safe Youth Cowichan Facebook page. Upon approval of project funding from the Ministry of Justice, a youth leader position was created to work alongside Safer Futures staff in the implementation of the ten events. Honorariums are being provided to support all youth assisting in the delivery of a dialogue.

## Youth Safety Dialogues Project Description

The purpose of Youth Safety Dialogues project is to identify qualitative elements of youth safety including: the nature and prevalence of youth crime, risk of violence, youth victimization, substance use and other risk taking activities, and youth connection and awareness of organized crime or gang activity in the area. This awareness will contribute to local planning to promote community safety through various prevention activities.

The Dialogues take a social development approach to crime prevention, considering how vulnerable citizens may become involved in planning processes to promote positive conditions that support all members of the community. The Dialogues are intended to introduce a process that decreases the barriers to effective dialogue with youth, and will build capacities at the local level to engage in prevention activities as a means of addressing youth crime and victimization.

The Dialogues are organized around questions that will contribute to:

- how youth define their safety including where they feel safe and what makes those places safe
- increased knowledge about risk taking activities of youth
- understanding of the linkages to youth crime
- identification of the characteristics of flourishing youth (resiliency) in the community
- knowledge about how local governments can address youth concerns.

### Snap-shot of a dialogue

The dialogues take place where local youth meet; in schools, youth centers, etc. They are designed to be interactive with a number of 'hands-on' activity stations including art based, social media, surveys, feedback, and others. The activities are designed for youth participants between the ages of 12-18, and are youth facilitated. The stations are facilitated by SYC youth leaders and supported by an adult.

Dialogue stations include:

- **Mapping exercise** – A large, locally relevant map is made for each area specific dialogue. Participants are given a number of large red, yellow and green dots, and asked to place them on the map to identify unsafe/dangerous places, places where it may be OK to go safely sometimes, with caution, and places where the youth feel safe. Youth also write comments on and place on the map, such as "I feel safe in Centennial Park during the day, but not at night".
- **Art/collage** – Using a large poster board, youth engage in collaging, painting, text and other art supplies/mediums to depict their thoughts/feelings/opinions about community safety.
- **Video interviewing** – This station invites youth to talk about their feelings are about safety in their community now, and about what their vision of a safe, inclusive community would look like.
- **Clicker survey** – This survey asks youth how they are flourishing in their community. Multiple choice questions focused on sports/physical activity, volunteerism, and other forms of community participation. The PowerPoint survey is conducted using electronic clickers, thereby ensuring youth anonymity in their answers.
- **Facebook** – Safe Youth Cowichan created an interactive Facebook page. On computers, youth are asked to post comments about their community – is it safe, is it not, what their experiences

are around feeling safe, etc. Available at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Safe-Youth-Cowichan/333044893377368#!/pages/Safe-Youth-Cowichan/333044893377368?sk=photos>

- **YouTube/iTunes** – A play-list of songs was created by youth participants that speak to them in terms of feeling safe, feeling calm, feeling accepted, feeling positively energized, etc. Following the completion of the ten dialogues, these playlist will be posted and youth can download the list.

### **Dialogue/Workshop Process**

In each session, youth participants enter the dialogue area (a large room/auditorium), and are introduced to the event. The guidelines are described, participation passports distributed and the participants separated into groups of 3-6. These groups move through the stations together, interacting with the activities collaboratively. Participants are given a passport that was stamped at each station that they completed. As each group completed a station, they have their passports stamped. After moving through all of the stations, participants handed in their completed passports and were provided with a nutritious snack. Passports were put into a hat, and one winner was drawn. There are also youth resource guides and community services literature made available.

## **Youth Safety Dialogues Underway**

To date, we have conducted eight dialogues in three locations, involving approximately 250 youth. Three more are currently scheduled for May and June, and we are working to schedule additional sessions in Lake Cowichan and Ladysmith.

- Community Options Society, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 20-25 participants
- Island Oak High School, March 23rd between 25-30 students participated.
- Chemainus Senior Secondary School, May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, approximately 200 participants
- Kolkilah Elementary School, May 29<sup>th</sup>
- Cowichan Valley Open Learning Cooperative, May 31<sup>st</sup>
- Francis Kelsey Senior Secondary School, June 1<sup>st</sup>

### **Emerging Themes**

To date, three inter-related themes have emerged in the youth dialogues:

#### The Physical Environment:

- the ability of or barriers to moving around in the community safely (infrastructure, transportation)
- safety and welcoming nature of public spaces and facilities (both in a physical and social sense)
- avoidance of places and activities for a variety of reasons
- negative and/or unsafe experiences in places

#### The Social Environment:

- social dynamics between youth in different settings
- crime and victimization



The Community Environment:

- how communities are welcoming to or include youth, both in the way they are designed and in the way youth are included when considering community development
- the absence of youth friendly activities, services for youth, etc.

## Next steps

During the dialogues, data is being collected and will be disseminated. This valuable 'lived experience' information will be used to inform the Cowichan Valley Regional District about youth identified concerns and about how the CVRD can work to improve youth safety across the regional district

The YSS will present findings to the CSAC committee and to the CVRD board. A final report will be submitted to the CVRD upon project completion. The report will be available to people in the Cowichan Region through the Cowichan Women Against Violence Society/Safer Futures and the CVRD/CSAC websites.

## APPENDIX A

### Recommended Youth Safety Indicators

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The Youth Safety Subcommittee of CSAC recommends that CSAC adopt the following indicators of Youth Safety:

**1. The number of youth in foster care.**

Rationale: Youth in care are more likely to have experienced violence and neglect. They are less likely to graduate from high school.

Data source: Ministry of Children and Family Development.

**2. The number of youth living below the low income cut off (LICO).**

Rationale: Youth living in poverty have more extreme stress in their lives. They are more likely to live in housing that is unsafe and have more health problems.

Data source: BC Stats.

**3. The number of youth who are victims of crime.**

Rationale: children and youth under 18 years of age are more at risk of physical and sexual assault than adults.

Data source: RCMP.

**4. Teen pregnancy rates.**

Rationale: Teen parents are less likely to have social and economic resources and are therefore more likely to live in poverty, and be subject to violence and crime.

Data source: VIHA.

**5. The number of youth involved in sports, recreational and special interest activities.**

Rationale: Involvement in sports and hobbies is a resiliency factor for youth.

Data source: Youth survey- This will involve original research.

**6. High school completion rates.**

Rationale: High school graduation is an indicator of literacy and employability, both of which are associated with the ability to increase standard of living and decrease safety risk.

Data source: School district.

**7. Number of youth volunteering.**

Rationale: Volunteering can aid integration and social cohesion, reduce isolation and help youth to feel included in the community.

Data source: Youth survey- This will involve original research.

## **CVRD Community Safety Advisory Committee Update**

**May, 2012**

### **Neighbourhood Working Groups**

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In support of CSAC's focus on community safety, Safer Futures assists the work of two local neighbourhood groups in the Cowichan Valley. Both of these groups have long histories of community building, and are consistently active in initiatives aimed at inclusion and meaningful engagement leading to safer neighbourhoods.

#### **James Alexander Neighbourhood Working Group past activities:**

- Participated in the creation of a neighbourhood plan
- Involved in the School Communities Connection Project
- Active in the 2009 flood relief efforts
- Following flood emergency, regularly gathered with neighbours and local politicians for dinner and planning sessions at residents home
- Planed and delivered neighbourhood safety audits
- Hosted community BBQ's, resource fairs, art gatherings and other neighbourhood building events at Alexander School with up to 300 neighbours and community members attending
- Partnered with the Cowichan Green Community on the Edible Winter Wonderland project and the Alexander School Community Garden project
- Received community grants from the District of North Cowichan to support neighbourhood building

#### **Current/ongoing activities:**

- Producing and distributing community created neighbourhood newsletters
- Planning Autumn Harvest BBQ event to connect neighbours, encourage community participation and recruit for the Working Group
- Planning for the creation of a sign for the new Alexander Community Garden to increase visibility
- Working with Cowichan Green Community and Alexander School to build community participation in the community garden
- Engaging with the Warmland House in a variety of ways
- Continue to invite resident participation in both the Working Group and in neighbourhood initiatives
- Future planning for increasing Working Group profile and participation
- Forming a neighbourhood Block Watch network

**Cairnsmore Neighbourhood Working Group past activities:**

- Involved in the reclamation, planning and design of Centennial Park
- Worked closely with the residents of the Gala Vista to promote and encourage community inclusion and cohesion
- Instrumental in the creation of the Safe Needle Disposal Toolkit
- Hosted a number of neighbourhood events, including summer BBQ's, senior's teas, youth musical gathering in Centennial Park and others, with up to 250 attendees
- Planned and delivered neighbourhood safety audits
- Received community building grants from the City of Duncan to support neighbourhood initiatives
- Worked with both DNC and Duncan City staff to provide input into transportation/ roadway infrastructure in the Cairnsmore area

**Current/ongoing activities:**

- Active in responding to local landowners, contractors and city planners when new development in their area is proposed, and taking action to maintain the inclusive ambiance of their neighbourhood
- Continue to invite resident participation in both the Working Group and in neighbourhood initiatives and hold regular monthly meetings
- Producing and distributing community created neighbourhood newsletters
- Received community building grants from the City of Duncan to support neighbourhood initiatives
- Planning the August community BBQ connect neighbours, encourage community participation and recruit for the Working Group
- Working with St. Andrew's Church to plan for housing in the Cairnsmore core