

Addressing Mental Health & Addictions in Restorative Justice

An RJ Training Weekend

Mark Isfeld Secondary School Learning Resources Centre, Room 205 & Classroom 202

Saturday, March 11 & Sunday, March 12, 2017

9 AM – 5 PM

Coffee, tea, morning pastries & Lunch in room 206

Saturday, March 11

- 9:00 Welcome and Introduction to the Resources, Trainers and the Weekend
Bruce Curtis
- 9:15 Opening circle
Alana Abramson
- 9:45 Stigma and mental illness/addiction
Alana Abramson
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Recognition and symptoms of Mental Health issues – PTSD – Zack Donovan –
Operational Stress Injury Support Society programme at CFB Comox, coordinating the
peer support groups for those diagnosed with PTSD in BC.
- 11:00 Background on CJC's rise in cases involving mental health and addictions
Larry Winter
- 11:30 Principles of communication with those having mental health & addictions issues
Paul Bozenich & Adrian Symonds
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Communications Skills with those having Mental Health Issues
Paul Bozenich & Adrian Symonds
- 2:15 Recognition and symptoms of Mental Health issues – Addictions
Sarah Jarvinen, Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, John Howard Society North Island
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Modifying the Pre-Conference Interview – laying the groundwork for the resolution
Agreement
Alana Abramson & Larry Winter
- 5:00 Closing for the Day

Sunday, March 12 (Note Daylight Saving Time started this morning at 2:00 AM)

- 9:00 Opening Circle: Reflections on yesterday
Alana Abramson
- 9:30 Recognition and symptoms of Mental Health issues – Anxiety & Depression related disorders
Christina Majcher, SD#71 District Psychologist
- 10:00 Recognition and symptoms of Mental Health issues – Spectrum Disorders
Christina Majcher, SD#71 District Psychologist
- 10:00 Modifying the Resolution Conference – Commentary and suggestions for practice
Alana Abramson
- 12:00 Lunch
- 12:45 Modifying the Resolution Conference – Commentary and suggestions for practice
Alana Abramson
- 3:00 Break
- 3:15 Closing Session – issues for further work, consolidation of learnings
Alana Abramson and Larry Winter
- 5:00 Closing of the Training





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Crime Prevention & Remediation Grant Program (Civil Forfeiture)

Trainers for the Sessions

Alana Abramson, Faculty in Criminology Programme, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Surrey

Alana is a passionate educator, dedicated to enhancing student's experiences in the classroom. She believes education can inspire personal and social change and enjoys learning with her students. Alana Abramson has been involved with the field of restorative justice as an academic, trainer, and practitioner since 1999. She researched tertiary education, police and community in relation to restorative justice, while completing her Masters and Doctoral Degrees in the School of Criminology at Simon Fraser University. Alana has extensive practical experience implementing restorative approaches in prison, school, and community settings. Alana has been the Executive Director of the North Shore Restorative Justice Society (2006-2012), Co-coordinator of the Alternatives to Violence Project (2003-current), Criminology Instructor at Kwantlen Polytechnique University (2005-current) and Simon Fraser University (2005-2012), member of the North Shore Adults at Risk Support Network (2008-2012), and professional member of the North Shore Family Court and Youth Justice Committee. Alana has delivered training in restorative justice at the provincial level and facilitates workshops in conflict resolution, de-escalating potentially violent situations and other topics for Achieve Training Centre/CTRI. She is currently living in Kamloops.

Paul Bozenich, Youth Care Support Worker, Glacier View Secondary (Alternate Programme)

Paul is another of the CJC's long-serving volunteers – a Panel Member since 1999! He has spent his career as a Youth Care Support Worker in School District #71 (Comox Valley) and has been based at the highly successful Secondary Alternate programme at Glacier View for many years. His long-term experience is with supporting youth having many complex mental health and addictions issues, as well as assisting with the related family complexities.

Zack Donovan, Comox Peer Support Coordinator, Operational Stress Injuries Support Society - CFB Comox

Zack is a former Canadian Forces member with personal experience of PTSD. As the Peer Support Coordinator, facilitates and moderates groups to help Forces members and their families to connect with others who are in similar situations. Peer support group members are in control of how fast or slow they make progress and how much or how little support they want. The conversation is kept confidential, respectful, and non-judgmental at all times. They ensure a safe setting to carry out the work. Zack is an avid scuba diver and on the executive of the CFB Comox scuba diving club.

Sarah Jarvinen, Youth Forensic Psychiatric Services, John Howard Society North Island

Sarah's work in the YFPS Clinic involves the provision of court-ordered assessment and treatment services. The clinic is comprised of a multi-disciplinary team including counsellors, psychiatric social workers, psychologists and psychiatrists. Typically treatment is provided following assessments and may include specialized programs for sexual and violent offences as well as more generalized mental health services for youth. Treatment may take the form of individual, group and family therapy depending on needs as identified during the assessment process. The clinic provides opportunities for youth to understand how they came to be involved in the criminal justice system and develop strategies to address the influences on their decision to commit an offence.

Christina Majcher, SD#71 District Psychologist

Christina has a wide background in the areas of diagnosing and treating Anxiety/Depression and Spectrum Disorders. She will help us to see the signs and symptoms of these issues and deepen understanding of what our clients with the conditions may be capable of in terms of participating in resolution conferences.

Adrian Symonds, Parent Team Mediator, Ministry of Children & Family Development

Adrian works as a parent-teen mediator on files referred by the Ministry, assisting parents and their children to get through the inevitable conflicts arising due to innumerable family stresses. He has also been a volunteer facilitator with the Community Justice Centre for the past thirteen years. He is also an artist and a meditation coach.

Larry Winter, CJC Facilitator/Case Co-ordinator & Youth As Caregivers Program Manager

Larry is one of the longest serving volunteers (18 years) at the Community Justice Center. Six years ago he also initiated and continues to serve as Programme Coordinator of Youth as Caregivers (a youth at risk program). His

background includes 32 years as a military police officer, retiring at middle management. Since retirement he was employed as an LPO, Shift Supervisor at the Courtenay Salvation Army's Homeless Shelter, 4 years as an Addictions Support Worker/Day Supervisor in a residential facility and is a long term member of the Frontline Youth Workers of the Comox Valley. Within the past 7 years he completed the 2 year Human Services Diploma – Educational Assistant to expand his knowledge of mental, physical and behavioural disabilities. In addition he is a yearly attendee at the Annual UBC Inter-professional Training in regards to youth mental health. Also, he became certified in mediating Conflict Resolution through courses at VIU, UVic and the Justice Institute of BC. Larry conducted a research project spanning 2 ½ years from 2013 to 2016 involving reviews of all our case files since 2013 and developed a new approach to “mental health and addiction” files. The effect and results of this new approach and their outcomes were significant .