



**Friday, May 8, 2009 WRCPC Minutes  
9:00am to 11:00am  
Conestoga Room, City of Kitchener**

**Present:**

Shelley Adams, Brice Balmer, Tom Brenner, Bill Davidson, Lesley DeYoung, Tom Galloway, Pat Gillies, Brenda Halloran (arrived at 10:40am), Jeff Klinck, Kathryn McGarry, Jane Mitchell, Wayne Morris, Maureen Murphy, Irene O’Toole, Katherine Pigott, Angela Pye, Don Roth, Steve Sherrer, John Shewchuk, Gay Slinger, Laurie Strome, Brent Thomlison, Matt Torigian, Angela Vanderheyden, Aubrey Walters, Bill Wilson, Mark Yantzi, and Mary Zilney.

**Regrets:** Iman Arab, Sandy Bell, Christine Bird, Todd Cowan, David Dick, Lucia Harrison, Don Roth, Yvette Rybensky, Lynn Randall, Mike Schuster, Reg Weber.

**Staff and Students:** Jessica Hutchinson, Tracy Jasmins, Andrea McArthur, Michael Parkinson, and Christiane Sadeler.

**Guests:** Gary Nyp; Tana Nash – Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council; Peter Thurley - Homelessness and Housing Umbrella Group (HHUG); Kathryn McIntyre - City of Brantford

**Chair:** John Shewchuk

**Recorder:** Michael Parkinson

WRCPC members, staff and guests were welcomed and introductions were made.

No	Item
<b>1.</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Agenda:</u></b></p> <p>The agenda was approved with the following amendment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Move item 5 Justice Dinner up on the agenda.</li> <li>○ Add the Alliance for Children and Youth to item #9 Other Business</li> </ul> <p>Moved by Wayne Morris and seconded by Irene O’Toole. Carried.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b><u>Approval of Consent Agenda:</u></b></p> <p>The following items be pulled from the Consent Agenda for further discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Clarification that Women’s Crisis Services event as noted is black tie “optional”</li> </ul> <p>Moved by Tom Brenner as amended and seconded by Mary Zilney. Carried.</p>

3.	<b><u>Business arising from the Minutes: None</u></b>
4.	<p><b><u>Presentation: Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (Mark Yantzi &amp; Gary Nyp)</u></b></p> <p>Victim Offender Reconciliation Program (VORP)  Community Justice Initiatives  49 Queen Street North, Kitchener, Ontario  <a href="http://www.cjiwr.com">www.cjiwr.com</a></p> <p>VORP is NOT:  Forgiveness or Reconciliation....although it may provide setting for either to happen</p> <p>VORP provides:  -An invitation to dialogue  -space and opportunity to think about what justice means.</p> <p>Questions that guide VORP process...  -Who's been hurt?  -What are their needs?  -Whose obligations are they?  -What are the causes?  -Who has a stake in this?  -What is the appropriate process to involve all stake holders in an effort to make things right?</p> <p>Understanding victim responses: disbelief, fear, vulnerability, loss of control, anger, isolation, unanswered questions, shame, doubts, memories</p> <p>Understanding offender responses: disbelief, fear, vulnerability, loss of control, anger, isolation, unanswered questions, shame, doubts, memories</p> <p>Justice for victims includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Never underestimating or guessing the guilt or emotional trauma experienced by victim</li> <li>■ Need for safety and security</li> <li>■ Need for ventilation and validation</li> <li>■ Need for predictability and preparation</li> <li>■ Need for information and education.</li> </ul> <p>Justice requires of offenders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Accountability that addresses the harms caused and encourages empathy and responsibility</li> <li>■ Not a justice that encourages denial/excuses and reinforces self perception as victims.</li> </ul>

- Requires acknowledgement of wrongdoing
- Understanding of impact of wrongful behaviour
- Requires changed future behaviour.

#### Funding for VORP

- Ontario Correctional Service-Probation & Parole (1970's-2006)
- Ontario Ministry of Attorney General(2007-2009)
- Donor support(2009-2010)

#### Statistics

- Approx. 50 cases referred in 2008-2009, with growth predicted to 80-100 cases in 2009-2010
- Community members served include victims, families & others and more than doubles case #'s
- Almost 70 per cent cases go to mediation in Kitchener VORP (provincial average much lower)
- More than 80 per cent of cases that go to mediation reach agreement
- 65 active community mediators involved
- All benefits not counted,
- Aim-Reduce Court appear.

#### Actions to save VORP

- Donor appeal (Barn-raiser, June 6, 2009)
- CJI internal cuts and freezes
- Media attention to help encourage community and donor support
- Support of CPC to help lobby government
- Business case to Ministry of Attorney General & Corrections to continue funding VORP (at every stage of court process)

#### Discussion

The Ministry of the Attorney General will soon discontinue funding the VORP.

Gary noted that VORP is a financially effective approach when compared to all the costs associated with the traditional criminal justice route, including a reduction in court appearances (3 with VORP vs 9). Additionally, there are tremendous benefits to the victim and the offender that have long term ripple effects.

CJI is currently constructing a business case for continued funding. The CBA prepared by the Ministry of the Attorney General has not been made available; however it is known that Waterloo Region has a 70% success rate compared with approximately 30% success in the other 7 sites throughout Ontario. Currently the VORP has a financial budget of \$100K/yr and more than 65 trained volunteers.

Brice noted that this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> time an AG issue has come before WRCPC and it would be prudent to invite the AG to Waterloo Region to avoid piecemeal approach.

	<p>Wayne Morris suggested that, given the long track record of success of CJI and VORP, a Resolution to go before WRCPC and Regional Council.</p> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. WRCPC will assist CJI in preparing a business case for VORP (WRCPC research staff to provide research)</li> <li>b. WRCPC will share “best practices” model, knowledge mobilization model with CJI.</li> <li>c. Consider drafting a Resolution calling on the Province to support the VORP. The Resolution should go before Regional Council.</li> <li>d. An invitation to the Ontario Attorney General, and local MPP’s, will be extended to discuss multiple issues currently before WRCPC- the VORP, the Violence Prevention Plan, Integrated Drugs Strategy – and to learn province’s vision for Crime Prevention. (Facilitating Committee to discuss details for provide plan for June CPC meeting).</li> </ol>
	<p><b><u>Justice Dinner 2009 Debrief</u></b> – Wayne Morris</p> <p>This year, the committee made a conscious attempt to be different featuring a lower profile speaker with an interesting message than in recent years.</p> <p>The committee intended to push people’s perceptions and it seems that there has been more discussion about this year’s justice dinner than in previous years. Comments so far have been mixed and spanned the spectrum. Wayne shared feedback he has received so far following this year’s justice dinner.</p> <p>Andrea McArthur has designed a feedback survey which will be sent out next week and she will report results back to council in June. Council members should complete the survey and share the link with others that were at your table.</p>
	<p><b><u>William G. Davis “Say Hi”</u></b> – Tracy Jasmins</p> <p>Tracy provided an update from William G. Davis school in Cambridge, one of two recipients of the Say Hi awards in 2008. The school has used the cash award to undertake a MOGA (Most Outrageous Group Activity) event and sponsor a school assembly (Power of One anti-bullying presentation).</p> <p>The school has provided a dvd of the days events and a letter of thanks to WRCPC.</p> <p>Bill Davidson noted that the Say Hi day has had a huge impact and a ripple effect that has lead to many positive undertakings.</p> <p>John Shewchuk said Say Hi requires a minimum investment that has a big impact.</p>

	<p>Tom Galloway suggested including a portion of the video in our next update to Regional Council.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p><b><u>National Municipal Network:</u></b> Chris Sadeler and Shelley Adams</p> <p>Chris noted that the Network continues to teleconference and is waiting for an NCPC grant to sustain activities such as Network maintenance, training, membership increases etc.</p> <p>The Network has produced a series of backgrounders on crime prevention that provide basic tools and orientation for municipalities that have yet to begin a crime prevention program. Two components of the action briefs include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Why- and how – to invest in crime prevention, and</li> <li>2) Common issues in crime prevention across communities in Canada.</li> </ol> <p>Shelley noted that the documents are easy to use and reflect the views of a community of practitioners not just academia.</p> <p>Limited hard copies will be available in addition to web access beginning May 25, 2009. Members of the CPC provided Christiane with the numbers of copies needed for their organizations. A media release from WRCPC will endorse the action briefs.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b><u>Governance:</u></b> Tom Brenner</p> <p>Tom outlined some key governance aspects and noted their orientation is intended to be proactive, not reactive. He asked the following questions of WRCPC:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Does the Consent Agenda work?</li> <li>b. Does the location of the meetings work?</li> <li>c. Are we making the best use of our time and energy?</li> </ol> <p>In summary, members noted that the Consent Agenda works very well and is easy to digest. Suggestions included that we be aware that issue-based presentations can compromise strategic inquiry; that presentations be linked to aspects of our on-going work (e.g. VPP, IDS etc.); that we avoid “over-professionalizing” our material and make room for practitioners and those with lived experience.</p> <p>Chris stated that if members have suggestions, topics, data requests please let WRCPC staff know.</p> <p>It was decided unanimously that Room 508 is not a good fit for our monthly meetings. Alternative locations throughout the region will be sought out and a list of locations for 2009 will be provided at the June meeting.</p>

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<p>7.</p>	<p><b><u>Other Business:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Strength-Based Approaches:</u></b> Chris Sadeler on behalf of Christine Bird</p> <p>The Alliance for Children and Youth has produced a booklet entitled <i>Strength-Based Approaches: Improving the Lives of our Children and Youth</i>. The purpose of the document is to provide consistent definition of broadly used terminology. Additional copies are available through the Alliance at: 519.885.9562 or by email: <a href="mailto:christine@allianceforchildrenandyouth.org">christine@allianceforchildrenandyouth.org</a></p> <p>The document was written through a collaborative process to which CPC staff contributed.</p> <p><b><u>Citizens Police Academy:</u></b></p> <p>Jane Mitchell noted that this is a fantastic 10-week opportunity for citizens to learn more about the intricacies of policing in Waterloo Region. The program is offered for free by WRPS and runs Thursdays from 6:00 pm-10:00 pm. The Academy is typically oversubscribed.</p> <p>For more information call WRPS at: 519-650-8500 Extension 8768</p> <p><b><u>Community Prayer Breakfast</u></b></p> <p>Tom Galloway acknowledged an excellent keynote address provided by WRCPC member Brice Balmer for the Community Prayer Breakfast recently.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p><b><u>Adjournment: 11:30am.</u></b></p> <p>Moved by Angela Vanderheyden and seconded by Tom Brenner. Carried.</p>