



Divisional Futures & Community Relations Committee Minutes

Friday, May 25, 2012 – 12:00 noon
Board Room, Admin Office

Present: P. Bowslaugh, Chairperson, K. Sumner, M. Sefton, G. Malazdrewicz.

Guests: Honourable Shauna Hewitt-Michta, Provincial Court Judge
Mr. G. Rainnie, Crown Attorney's Office
Mr. R. Fawcett, Legal Aid

Regrets: J. Murray, Dr. Michaels
Ms. T. Brugger, Probation Services
Honourable John Combs, Provincial Court Judge

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon by Chairperson, Trustee Bowslaugh.

2. COMMITTEE GOVERNANCE GOAL ITEMS

A) Meeting with Representatives of the Brandon Judiciary Community.

The Chairperson welcomed the three representatives from Brandon Judiciary Community. Trustee Bowslaugh provided background information regarding the work of the Divisional Futures and Community Relations Committee. She highlighted meetings with the Aboriginal Community; the implementation of an Aboriginal Education Learning Specialist; and the success of the Neelin High School Off-Campus program.

Discussions were held regarding the connection between the deficit in educational background and young offenders brought before the Court. Research has shown that an increase in success in the school system and graduation rates saves the taxpayer in funds spent on future social services/judicial system. It was noted the Justice System is moving slowly towards a rehabilitation system and away from a punishment system. Many resources need to be brought together to focus on rehabilitation including the education system. The question was asked how to educate the public about the need to "rehabilitate" rather than "punish and protect". Suggestions were made regarding the possible partnering between the Brandon School Division and the Brandon Judiciary System to educate the public about the importance of funding and supporting families during a child's early years of development. It was agreed the public was protected by educating children. The children will eventually become part of the community and work and live in the community.

Other discussions were also held regarding the following:

- The possibility of tracking the level of education of those who appear on a regular basis in the Court System;
- The need for agencies such as MAPP to provide support to families prior to a child entering into the school system;
- EDI scores of children entering the Brandon School Division;
- The lack of understanding by the public of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*;
- The backlash received by the Court System to decisions made when a rehabilitative model is used;
- Youth Court;
- The importance of students establishing connections within the school rather than with gangs;

The Representatives of the Brandon Judicial Community noted it would be helpful to know how a student is functioning in school. They stated they are "consumers of information" and more information helps them to make the best decision possible. They felt a liaison within the school system would be a benefit

to all levels in the Justice System. Associate Superintendent, Mr. Malazdrewicz, spoke about the initial work being done in the Division with respect to At-Risk Students and the development of the At-Risk Youth Program (ARYP). He confirmed the number of Violent Risk Assessment Reports which had been completed during the past school year. Discussions were also held regarding the importance of sharing information about students who have been assigned to group homes in the Westman area from the Winnipeg Court System and agencies.

It was agreed the meeting and exchange of information had been beneficial. The representatives involved agreed to continue the process and look for opportunities to develop this relationship; use each other as a resource; and educate the public about the changes in the two systems.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives from the Brandon Judiciary Community for attending.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

P. Bowslaugh, Chair

J. Murray

K. Sumner

M. Snelling (Alternate)