



Restoring Relations

Community Advisory Board (CAB) Minutes of 10/16/18 meeting

Attendance, Minutes, etc.

Members present: Mattie Dubé, Stephanie Jean, Sue Allen, Cindy Senning, Steve Reynes, Tony Facos, Jody Emerson, Melanie Smit, June Bascom (by phone)

Absent: Connie Weems, Ashley Hill, Evan Meenan, Ryan Stevenson

Staff: Yvonne Byrd, Judy Gibson - Absent: Pat Hoffman

Introductions were made; minutes from last meeting were approved. Per Ashley's email request, an agenda item was added: "CAB could provide some guidance on the upcoming request for MPD body cams that I could share with the Council"

Body cams

Tony presented information about body cams and the benefits of police officers wearing them. He also shared the draft proposed policy for body cams that he will be presenting to the Council in an upcoming meeting.

Positives can be that officers and public are on their best behavior. Shows the public what really happens. Concern about privacy (when are they recording?) Protections for victims and juveniles are part of the proposal. Can be used to calm a situation. Company who would oversee is Evidence.com which ensures footage hasn't been tampered with. City council wants it; officers have asked for it. Some questions remain—should footage be available to an officer before s/he writes his/her report? It could influence the question of what the officer thought was happening at the time. There are things that have to be discussed with officers' Counsel and Union. Berlin, Burlington PD have them. Cost is high for data storage.

CAB members asked a few questions. No one raised concerns.

Current State of MCJC

CAB Membership Stephanie was welcomed in her role as the DOC/P&P representative, who is replacing recently retired Judy Brassard. Melanie Smit was affirmed as a new member from Northfield.

Yvonne will reach out to the new Northfield chief when he starts his job to invite him to attend CAB meetings. We need two people under age 22 to be on the CAB; Jody and others were asked to think about who might be appropriate.

Yvonne suggested all CAB members have some training in RJ and observe a Restorative Justice and/or COSA meeting. She will help set that up for new members.

Binders containing documents relevant to CAB were given out and members were asked if there was other information they would like to see. [Judy: Add training materials and feedback to binder.]

News Coming Home, the COSA movie is coming to the Savoy this Thursday and also playing in Barre on October 25 & Nov 8 at 6:30 at the Downstreet Community Room. There are additional showings around the state during the next month and these are listed on the posters and the Bess O'Brien's webpage.

Update on Strategic Plan objective #4: Deepen victim centered focus/services and expand geographic range of Victim Outreach Program.

- Yvonne wrote a grant proposal partnering with Barre CJC and Court Diversion to fund our Victim Outreach Program; establish a Victim Outreach Program partnership between BCJC and Barre Police; provide a dedicated victim liaison for RJ cases handled by both the BCJC and CD; and establish common standards of practice for serving victims. While the proposal was not funded, the conversations between the three organizations yielded fruitful ideas and Yvonne will meet with Jeannie and Catherine again soon to see if we can make this project happen even though we didn't get the grant we applied for.
- MCJC has applied for a federally funded grant that calls for a researcher and practitioner to partner for a nine month fellowship that advances research and data collection to compile data on efficacy of victim services. We proposed to partner with Johannes Wheeldon as the researcher.
- Judy, Pat, and Yvonne have developed a 3 hour training module called *Honoring the Victim Experience* that focuses on what victims may go through and what the restorative justice process can offer them. Going forward, this training will be included as part of the basic pre-service training for all RJ Panel volunteers statewide and it is also suitable for COSA and other volunteers. We will invite all MCJC volunteers to this training in the next month or two..

Sue recommended drafting an Op Ed about the work we do with victims.

Cindy wondered if there was a way for panel members to interact with victims when they choose not to participate. Yvonne noted that many victims choose to not attend an RJ Panel meeting: however RJ volunteers do have information about the MCJC's contact with victims to the extent the victims authorize that. She promised that the training will emphasize how RJ volunteers can make sure the spirit and interests of the victim are present in a meeting even when the person is not there.

Current State of RJ in Vermont

Judy talked about the demise of the CJNVT. Jody and Yvonne talked about how school communities are increasingly interested in and implementing restorative practices, which is promising in terms of growing restorative practices in the justice system, in other systems, and in communities.

Yvonne shared what she knew about the RFP being issued by the AG's office in November for one contract to cover all of the programs that most Court Diversion organizations now operate. She also described the current efforts related to the Restorative Justice Consortium.

Cindy wondered whether the name "Montpelier" CJC causes other communities it serves to feel somewhat excluded. She suggested that at a minimum, the MCJC should add Duxbury and Fayston to the list of towns in its jurisdiction. There was some discussion about adding an RJ Panel for the "Washington West" area.

Mattie announced that Another Way is having an Open House on November 3. Mattie will send digital version for Judy to share.

Next meeting

December 4, 2018, 5 – 7 pm.

Agenda items:

CAB member team building

Review of MCJC service area and exploration of strategies that ensure MCJC is experienced as inclusive (their CJC) by people in all the communities it serves.

Consider interests common to both MCJC and Montpelier's Social and Economic Justice Committee and possibilities of supporting one another's mission