



VIRRJA

Vancouver Island Region Restorative Justice Association

*Advancing restorative justice on Vancouver Island, the
Sunshine Coast and all Gulf Islands*

MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES IN RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONFERENCE 2022

PROGRAM HANDBOOK

Saturday February 26th &

Sunday February 27th

Funding for this conference is provided by a grant from



Agenda

Master of Ceremonies - Myles Morrison
VIRRJA President - Richard Tarnoff

DAY 1
Saturday, February 26th

8:30 - 8:40	Opening Remarks	Richard Tarnoff, President
8:40 - 8:50	Welcome & Land Acknowledgement	Elder Hiwus Calvin Craig
8:50 - 9:00	Meet Fellow Attendees in Breakout Rooms	
9:00 - 9:05	Introduction to Conference	Nichola Hadwell, Education Comm.
9:05 - 9:10	Conference Host	Myles Morrison
9:10 - 10:40	<u>Presentation #1</u> “Being the Detective: Strategizing for Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders (FSD and ADHD)”	Karys Foley
10:40 - 11:00	BREAK - Coffee & Networking	
11:00 - 1:00	<u>Presentation #1</u> - cont'd “Being the Detective: Strategizing for Complex Behaviour”	Karys Foley
1:00 - 2:00	LUNCH BREAK & Networking	
2:00 - 3:30	<u>Presentation #2</u> “Youth Conferencing in Criminal Cases”	Michael Burke & Kristy Heeren
3:30 - 4:15	Open Discussion of Mental Health Challenges	Nichola Hadwell
4:15	Closing Remarks	Myles Morrison

Agenda - cont'd

Master of Ceremonies - Myles Morrison
VIRRJA President - Richard Tarnoff

DAY 2
Sunday, February 27th

8:45 - 9:00	Opening Remarks	Myles Morrison
9:00 - 10:30	<u>Presentation #3</u> "Transformative Accountability & Justice Initiative" (TAJI)	WomenattheCentre Alison Morrison & Nneka MacGregor
10:30 - 11:00	BREAK - Coffee & Networking	
11:00 - 12:00	<u>Presentation #4</u> "How Restorative Justice Helps Parolees Repair the Harm"	Brett Casorzo, Umbrella Society
12:00 - 12:30	Hon. Shelia Macomson - Minister of Mental Health & Addictions	
12:30 - 1:00	LUNCH BREAK	
1:00 - 3:00	<u>Presentation #5</u> "Face to Face with Stigma"	Janine Theobald, Kay Martin (Melissa, Jarvis, Leonard & Emily)
3:00	Closing Remarks	Myles Morrison

Bios & Presentation Outlines



Chief Calvin Craigan - of the Shishalh First Nation on the Sunshine Coast of British Columbia.



Hon. Sheila Malcolmson - was elected MLA for Nanaimo in 2019, re-elected in 2020, and is now the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, She is the Vice-Chair of the Cabinet Working Group on Mental Health, Addictions & Homelessness and a member of the Cabinet Committee on Social Initiatives.

Presentation #1 - Being the Detective: Strategizing for Complex Neurodevelopmental Disorders (Including FASD and ADHD)

Presenter(s):

Karys Foley: - has over 30 years experience working, living with and supporting those who live with brain difference. She is a social worker with extensive training in complex neurodevelopmental conditions. She has studied with Kim Barthel, Gabor Mate, Gordon Neufeld and Diane Malbin. She holds a Level 2 intensive certification with *The Neufeld Institute* on attachment theory and has worked in several sectors from health and social welfare to education. She currently works with SD#46 as a Family Support Navigator. Karys is the proud parent of 3 adults who live with complex neurodevelopmental conditions.

Presentation Outline:

This training provides an overview of various neurological conditions that promote challenging and perplexing behaviour which include: Fetal Alcohol Spectrum (FASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Key neurological and behavioural symptoms are highlighted. Once participants have a better understanding of the complexity of these conditions, we will explore some accommodations and strategies for these brain differences. Participants will leave the training with a better understanding of brain-based conditions which cause challenging behaviour. Participants will also have more tools and strategies to support individuals who live with complex brain-based conditions.

***Please note that the 3 hour workshop focuses more on an overview and less on strategies. Participants leave with a sense of CNC's and the impact on behaviour rather than an in depth understanding.*

Presentation #2 - Youth Conferencing in Criminal Cases

Presenter(s):

Michael Burke: After graduation from UBC with a BSc in Physical Geography he spent 2 years as a high school teacher in the Kingdom of Lesotho, South Africa. Upon returning to Canada he was a Prospector's Helper and Lab Technician, and then served as an Officer in the Canadian Navy. Following the Navy he became a Youth Correctional Officer and now works primarily in the traditional unceded territory of the Quw'utsun Hwulmuhw as a Youth Probation Officer.

Kristy Heeren is a Youth Probation Officer and the Youth Justice Conferencing Specialist for South Vancouver Island. Before moving into Youth Justice, Kristy worked in adult probation service in England, first managing a mentorship program for offenders, then working as an adult Probation Officer. In 2016, she obtained her Restorative Justice Facilitator qualification. Kristy hails from Montreal, where she completed her BA and MA from Concordia University in Sociology.

Presentation Outline: Michael and Kristy are Youth Probation Officers with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. They will be discussing their work with youth in the criminal justice system, including the Restorative Youth Justice Conferencing program. They will also explore considerations when working with youth with mental health needs and youth who use substances, and how these may impact restorative processes.

#3 - Transformative Accountability & Justice Initiative (TAJI)

Presenter(s):



Alison Morrison is a Project Coordinator for the Transformative Accountability & Justice Initiative, with a particular interest in research & policy analysis. Alison has completed her MA - Criminology and Social Justice at Ryerson University and finished her practicum with WomenattheCentreE. She has experience working in the areas of gender-based violence in both the United States and Canada, and strongly believes in addressing root causes of violence from a multidimensional perspective. (Bio-WomenattheCentreE.com)



Nneka MacGregor, LL.B. Nneka MacGregor is the co-founder and Executive Director of the Women's Centre for Social Justice, better known as WomenattheCentrE. Nneka is an advocate who works with governments, organizations and individuals to transform lives and build violence-free communities. She sits on several advisory boards and committees, including the Advisory Council on the Federal Strategy Against Gender-Based Violence, the Ontario Domestic Violence Death Review Committee and the Canadian Femicide

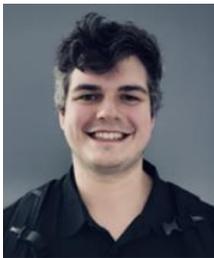
Observatory for Justice and Accountability. An international speaker and trainer her research focus is on sexual violence, and on the Intersection of Strangulation, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Inter-Personal Violence. She was a recipient of the 2019 PINK Concussions Awards and the 2020 YWCA Women of Distinction award for Social Justice. Nneka is the founder and Managing Partner at *Nneka & Co.*

Women's Centre for Social Justice, better known as WomenattheCentrE, was established in 2008 to facilitate action, advocacy, research and education in the field of gender-based violence. WomenattheCentrE has a membership of over 4,000 survivors globally, and was the first pan-Canadian non-profit organization that was created by and for diverse survivors of gender-based violence. WomenattheCentrE's mission is to ensure that the voices of those with lived experience are central in the development and implementation of policies and programmes aimed at eradicating violence against women and gender-diverse people while promoting gender equity and advancing gender equality.

Presentation Outline: WomenattheCentrE will be presenting on their Transformative Accountability & Justice Initiative (TAJI), a survivor-led alternative model of justice developed through community-based participatory research with survivors of sexual violence on their experience navigating the legal system in Ontario. TAJI is grounded in the Transformative Justice values of support, kindness and compassion and works to achieve justice and accountability for survivors based on their individual needs

Presentation #4 - “How Restorative Justice Helps Parolees Repair the Harm”

Presenter: **Brett Casorzo**: Brett currently works for Umbrella Society as part of the corrections outreach team. He was born and raised in Campbell River but moved to Victoria about 4 years ago. Previously, he spent several years in trades but found himself unfulfilled with work and life. This lack of fulfillment stemmed from seeing his new home city’s social issues and a desire to do something about it. He enrolled in the Camosun College Criminal Justice program where he is currently in his final semester. Through a friend in this program, he managed to find his way to the Umbrella Society and found a way to give back to the Victoria community. Although new to this field, he instantly found himself gravitating towards a restorative justice approach.



Presentation Outline: How men being released from prison into the community use restorative practices to repair harm with family and community while under parole. Brett will talk to addiction and mental health and how these play into their ability to move forward in a successful way. He will also discuss the impacts of punitive approaches versus restorative approaches on those with addictions and what is needed for their support as they move forward.

Presentation #5 - Face to Face with Stigma

Presenter(s):



Kay Martin (in her own words) I am the Voices of Experience Co-Ordinator for the Greater Vancouver Coalition to end Homelessness. I lead and facilitate *Face 2 Face with Stigma*, an anti-stigma program. But I feel, more importantly, I am a substance user in recovery, I live with several mental health diagnoses and I have experienced homelessness. All of which has led and enabled me to do the work I do in the community. I have lived in Victoria for about 15 years and have built relationships with those in all parts of my community and am here to amplify the voice of all those who are living in the fringe and shadows of society due to stigma.



Janine Theobald is a Mentor & Facilitator with Restorative Justice Victoria, Director of Collaborative Engagement at the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness, and the Buddhist Board Director with the Victoria Multifaith Society. Her lived experience, and background in Mental Health & Addictions and System Transformation with the regional health authority, have crystalized her conviction that a person-centered approach is foundational to

durable and sustainable change. This approach includes ensuring persons impacted by decisions are part of the decision-making process. As a Zen practitioner, she understands the power of listening, relationship-building and believes we are all intrinsically connected.



Hello, my name is Melissa, my traditional name is Naw-Hea'Mowha and I am a part of the Songhees first nation. I am a person with lived and living experience of homelessness, addiction and mental health disorders. More recently I am starting a new journey in recovery. At first, I was embarrassed of my life experiences, but now I realize that they shaped me into who I am, taught me valuable lessons and helped me get the jobs I work in today. Now, I am the Voices of Experience Support Coordinator and storyteller for *Face to Face with Stigma*

project. I am also on the board of directors for the *Pacific Family Center Association*. I love being in our homelands near our family and I love the work that I do with the people in our communities. Hych'ka Siem



My name is Jarvis, I'm 24 years old and grew up in Telkwa (Wet'suwet'en territory). As a teenager, I started working in harm reduction and youth projects as a "youth with lived experience" because of my own path through mental health and substance use. Throughout years of help - and sometimes harm - from our systems and communities, peer-based projects like *Face 2 Face* have been critical for me: they gave me a sense of purpose, belonging, and motivated me to build myself up so I can keep working alongside people that I care about. From not finishing high school and thinking

that I wouldn't live past 20, I've since completed an undergraduate degree, worked in therapeutic services with kids, and held frontline and management roles in peer-led organizations. Along with my role as a Storyteller with *Face 2 Face*, I now work with neuropsychology laboratories, harm reduction and peer support, and as a Manager for Research at the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness.



Hello, my name is Leonard, my Indian name is Quart.whey.Tun. I have lived experiences with homelessness, stigma, discrimination. I am a residential school survivor from the 60's, as a direct result of a tragic event in which a very close family member, my mother, died. I have also spent time in prison, my whole life has been institutionalized. I really like being a sounding board and telling my own side of the story of lived and living experience. As a direct result of public forum speeches, I have been able to get a better understanding, support, comfort and positive reactions. Which is what I always needed.



Emily- Inspired by her lived experience, Emily has worked at the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness for four years, most recently as Prevention of Youth Homelessness Coordinator. When Emily was 14 years old, she was forced to leave home and couch surf until receiving a Youth Agreement. As a result of navigating the policy maze, Emily has become motivated to elevate the voices of youth with lived experience at leadership levels.

Presentation Outline:

Face to Face with Stigma is an anti-stigma workshop created in 2019 as a 1-time daylong event. It was born of an idea to bring people out of the fringe and shadows of society due to stigma. We use our personal stories to create empathy and understanding as well as open people's hearts and minds towards those who are experiencing substance use, mental health situations and homelessness. To date we have presented 29 workshops and 2 conferences. Our audiences include people such as Victoria Police Department, classes of students from universities and colleges, hospitals, services providers, and other groups.