



WELCOME TO DAVE MITCHELL, OUR NEW ADM

The Board welcomed our new ADM, David Mitchell, to an informal discussion of the issues and challenges facing the Youth Justice system and the role of the Transfer Payment sector in it.

Highlights of the discussion included:



- David outlined his personal experience and intentions for fulfilling the role of ADM. He views leadership philosophy as a servant-leader whose job is to remove barriers, bring resources to solve problems, give advice & guidance, and provide a vision of where we want to go as a system, consistent with the objectives and capacities of the government. The priority needs to be what is best for the young persons in our care.
- His values and perspective have been formed from many experiences such as growing up as a young black man in an inner city environment, working in the adult correctional system, and helping to create of the Association of Black Law Enforcers.
- He has a sensitivity to the impact of marginalization on the lives of the young persons we deal with and an intention to better the system for those with such disadvantages, especially for our First Nations communities.
- He is proud of the work being done in the youth system in terms of prevention and “second chances”, which is in stark contrast to the majority of the adult corrections system.
- David appreciates and encourages our role as advocates. By means of advocacy we challenge the system to get better and we keep the system accountable for supporting positive outcomes and growth for the kids in our care.
- David believes it is important to have honest and open discussions to find solutions and improvements, even in sensitive areas like working with and improving the lives of those in indigenous or racialized and marginalized minority communities and in the availability of financial and training resources that can be made available (and flexible).
- He acknowledged what YJO argues to be the philosophical dilemma posed by having formal representatives of the system (e.g., Probation Officers) involved in that part of our system intended to be informal (e.g., prevention and diversion). Regardless of the veracity of such philosophical challenge, he made clear his accountability in dealing with the political and business realities of union contracts and higher-level bureaucratic and government objectives.

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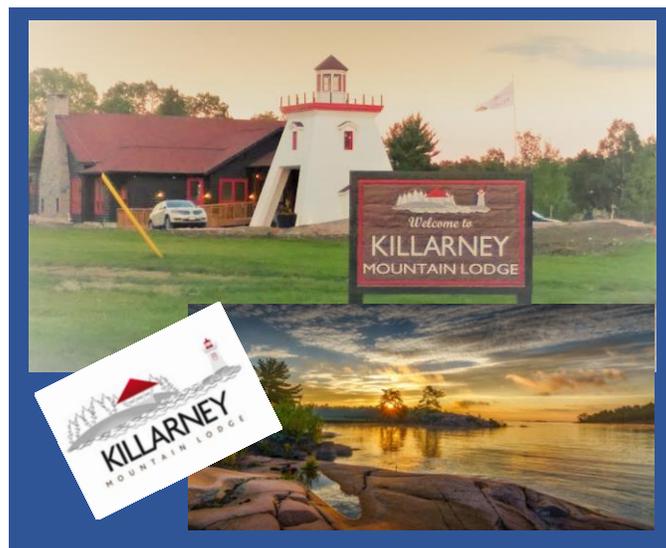
CONFERENCE 2017 SAVE THE DATE



Our Conference this year is sponsored by Zone 1 – *and we are going to the wild north shore of Georgian Bay!* Conference details and Early Registration will follow by the end of March.

DATE: 19 – 22 September 2017

**PLACE: Killarney Mountain Lodge
Killarney, Ontario**



- We discussed our concerns about the unintended consequences of the Psychotherapy Act. David is aware that there are two opposed interpretations of the Act and that such concerns have been raised within Probation Services. It may be that having a “legal” relationship with the youth served will mitigate the application of the Act, but he encouraged us to forward our questions nonetheless, so he can push them forward to the Ministry’s legal and corporate departments.
- We discussed our support for the recommendations coming from the Residential Services Review Panel, especially the need for creative and flexible solutions to social challenges (e.g., in the education system), re-purposing of our facilities before rationalization is considered, preserving the government’s investment in training and skill development that our sector represents.
- David identified the obstructions that infect our system when we are intimidated by “risk aversion”, rather than sensibly ensuring “risk management” – e.g., the deference to confidentiality that stops us all from having efficient and timely communication about a youth’s needs. Since we are all held accountable to respect confidentiality, we should be more trustful and cooperative. We have mechanisms available for when someone inappropriately violates confidentiality; we don’t need to let it interfere with commonsense care.

- We had an open discussion on the service providers' frustrations with the licensing and administrative record-keeping processes and their lack of impact on improving quality and their interference with relationship-building with our youths.

WELCOME TO THE MCYS EFFECTIVE PROGRAMMING UNIT



Julie Erbland Shawn Mitchell Trish Moloughney Keith Zehr Chantal Maida Sonja Sonnenberg

The YJO Board also met with the staff of the Effective Programming Initiative (EPI) (and Trish Moloughney, Director of Operational Support and Program Effectiveness). The Unit's staff is very appreciative of the welcome they have received from our services and of the cooperation and enthusiasm of our staff. They are very impressed by our staff's ability to adapt and tailor programming to the specific individual and cultural needs of the youths we serve. Phase 1 of the project, which is currently under way, is not a review of services; rather, it is a discussion, a dialogue, and a visit. YJO agencies that have undergone Phase 1 visits have overwhelmingly found the experience to be positive, and Julie and her staff to be incredibly respectful and supportive of our staff and youths. Phase 2 will involve establishing regional advisory tables to share practices and ideas and develop networks to sustain information allocation.

The message from EPI to YJO members is:

The Effective Programming Initiative (EPI) – Community Based Services component is a project within MCYS, Youth Justice Services. The Initiative will be working closely with community partners over the next few years. The focus of the Initiative will begin by learning about programming in transfer payment open and secure custody and detention facilities. This will be followed by a specific focus on probation, community-based organizations (e.g. attendance centres), reintegration and diversion programming. The Initiative is taking a youth-centered approach to supporting a culture of effective programming across youth justice community based services. Guided by anti-oppression, anti-black racism, and anti-colonial principles, the Initiative will explore on-the-ground examples of how the community puts research into practice, highlighting programming strengths and realities. Informed by youth voice and the perspectives of front-line staff, the Initiative will foster opportunities to build partnerships, share knowledge, and support effective programming approaches.

Over the next year the Initiative will be undertaking work in several stages: individual site visits to all open and secure transfer payment facilities to learn about programming from staff and youth, followed by a plan for engagement sessions and the development of a program advisory and youth advisory. Currently, the Initiative is completing site visits with Northern region open and secure sites and planning is underway for Toronto region. Information on next steps and engagement with remaining regions will be posted here shortly. For further information, contact Julie Erbland, Project Manager at Julie.erbland@ontario.ca.

A Desiderata for the Helping Professions ...

Each person is different from every other person. Each is a unique and precious being who cannot be replaced by any other; not simply one among many, but someone special and valuable in and of him- or herself. Humans are not instances of a diagnostic type but individuals with personal histories in which concerns and needs are integrated into the whole of their beings. Every dyad of caregiver and person cared for constitutes a unique and special partnership with its own particular value. Although the caregiver may enter into many dyads, each holds its own distinct possibilities. Every person cared for is not a replacement for another, nor is the care given a simple replication of that which was given to another.

- Donald E. Polkinghorne, *Practice and the Human Sciences*

PLEASE CHECK OUT THE YJO WEBSITE FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

28 FEBRUARY 2017:

RESPONSIVE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE WITH STEPHEN DE GROOT



02 MARCH 2017

WORKSHOP: UNDERSTANDING, ASSESSING AND ASSISTING YOUTH EXHIBING CONCERNING SEXUAL BEHAVIOUR



23 MARCH 2017

GENE KELLY: THE LEGACY, AN EVENING WITH PATRICIA KELLY



31 MARCH 2017

**SUCCESSFULLY SUPPORTING INVISIBLE
DISABILITIES: FOR PROFESSIONALS AND
CAREGIVERS**



08 MAY 2017

**CHANGING PERSPECTIVES ON
PREVENTION & INTERVENTION**



hygiene needs of youth, assist with transportation, obtaining identification and financial assistance.

MISSION STATEMENT

Dalhousie Youth Support Services is a non-profit organization committed to helping youth in conflict with the law in the Peterborough area. Our innovative programs promote and develop positive social behaviours and encourage personal and academic growth.

VISION STATEMENT

Inspire youth to make better choices and reach their full potential.

VALUE STATEMENT(S)

1. We believe staff are vital to achieving our mission and vision.
2. We believe that family and youth supports are critical partners in facilitating youth success.
3. We value diversity and providing service in a safe judgement free environment.
4. We value youth and their potential contribution to society.
5. We believe in working collaboratively with all stakeholders.

MEMBER PROFILE #11



ABOUT US

BRIEF HISTORY

Dalhousie Youth Support Services is a non-profit organization located in Peterborough, Ontario, operating under the supervision of a Board of Directors made up of members of the community.

In March 2003, *Dalhousie Youth Support Services* launched the Attendance Center program. The Attendance Center program was developed with the passing of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* (YCJA) as an alternative sentence to custody for non-dangerous offenders. The organization has grown and now offers 4 programs to youth in the *City of Peterborough* and surrounding communities; The Attendance Center, Reintegration & Community Support, Extra-Judicial Measures, and Extra-Judicial Sanctions.

PROGRAMS

At *Dalhousie Youth Support Services*, staff work with young persons individually in order to provide programming tailored to address specific needs. Our programs are based on current best practices, gender specific, and evidenced-based. We offer highly structured programs for cognitive skills, anger management, life skills, substance abuse, school, employment, and job search skills.

Programs promote family involvement, address underlying issues of offending behaviour, and focus on motivating youth towards change. We also meet the nutritional and personal

WHAT PARENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT DYSS

"This service was just what my son needed. It was almost a saving grace."

"Very pleased with DYSS! My son enjoyed his time there and has been pleasant to deal with at home."

"My daughter is doing a lot better now. I feel that being in the program helped her. The communication between the 2 of us is better than before."

"My son's self confidence has improved and he controls his temper better, his dad has noticed a change in him too."

"Your program is excellent, should be more accessible to kids before they go to court."

"I am thrilled with your program. I couldn't believe the difference in my son's behaviour/attitude since he started going there. It has been a life saver for me and my family. Everyone should be aware of the good work you do there!"

"Great program, love the fact there was consistent contact between your staff and me, I always knew what was going on. Too bad all kids can't go there, so many could use your program."

WHAT OUR YOUTH ARE SAYING ABOUT DYSS

"The program helped me deal with my anger. I did not think it would work, but it did and I have noticed."

"They are all amazing people and I enjoy all of them."

"This whole experience has helped me."

"I thought this program helped me to find myself and my true feelings for me and the people around me."

"I definitely learned a lot about myself, and in doing so, I feel like I understand my anger more and have control over it. Ever since I started this program, I've noticed improvements in my anger and my behaviour. Coming here makes me feel good about myself. Thank you!"

"I learned at my own pace. I liked that I could talk instead of sitting and listening the entire time, and I like that she made sure I understood what she was saying."

"The staff were friendly and made me feel welcome."
 "Thanks for helping me get a job."
 "This program was great. I wouldn't change a thing!"
 "I feel so much better after my sessions. It's really nice to have someone to talk to and who listens to me."



Dalhousie Youth Support Services (DYSS) is excited to announce the launch of a new program in **February 2017!**

Open Blue Door is a drop-in day program available to all youth in the community who are currently involved with the youth criminal justice system.



Youth are able to access **Open Blue Door** every Tuesday and Thursday, during which time they will have the opportunity to participate in informal workshops and activities. The programming curriculum will cover a number of different topics and areas of skill development including financial literacy, employment support, wellness activities, artistic and creative expression, food planning and preparation, daily living and social skills and sexual health information.

Our aim is that **Open Blue Door** will meet the needs of youth involved with the youth criminal justice system in the Peterborough area by acting as a safe, warm space for youth to learn, participate in engaging programming, connect with important community agencies and access key life resources needed by many youth such as healthy meals, access to laundry and shower services while onsite and basic food and personal hygiene staples that youth may need during the remainder of their week – thus allowing them the opportunity to implement skills of healthy living they will learn during their in the **Open Blue Door**.

Open Blue Door continues to make DYSS' goal of inspiring youth to make better choices and reach their full potential a reality for local young people.

MEMBER AGENCIES 2016/2017

African Canadian Legal Clinic
 Anago (Non) Residential Resources Inc.
 Associated Youth Services of Peel
 Banyan Community Services
 Canadian Mental Health Association (Sudbury/Manitoulin Branch)
 Community Justice Alternatives - Durham
 Crisis Centre North Bay
 Dalhousie Youth Support Services
 Dawn Patrol Child & Youth Services
 Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel
 Fernie Youth Services
 Griffin Centre
 John Howard Society of Peterborough
 Kairos Community Resource Centre
 Kennedy House Youth Services Inc.
 Keystone Child, Youth & Family Services
 Kinark Child and Family Services
 Lutherwood
 Mee-Quam Youth Residence
 Morton Youth Services
 Murray McKinnon Foundation

Native Child and Family Services of Toronto
 Near North Youth Centre
 New Path Youth & Family Services
 North Eastern Ontario FACS
 Northern Youth Services - Sudbury
 Operation Springboard
 Pine Hill Youth Residences Ltd.
 Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents
 Ray of Hope Inc.
 Rebound Child and Youth Services
 Restorative Justice Chatham-Kent
 RNJ Youth Services
 Salvation Army (London)
 Simcoe Muskoka Connexions
 St. Lawrence Youth Association
 St. Leonard's Community Services (London)
 Turning Point Youth Services
 W.J.Stelmaschuk & Associates - Northern Youth Centre
 William W. Creighton Youth Services
 Youth Diversion Program (Kingston)
 Youth Now Canada
 Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa