



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA (RJAM)

Annual General Meeting 2018

November 22nd 2018

West End Commons, 641 St Matthews Ave, Winnipeg, MB

Attendees: See Appendix 1

Chair: Kate Kehler

Minutes: Oke Ojekudo

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 10:10 am

This is a constituted meeting of the Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba as quorum has been met.

Kate Kehler welcomed everyone and offered thanks for being able to gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, OjiCree, Dakota and Dene peoples and on the homeland of the Metis Nation.

Everyone present introduced themselves, if they represented an organization and what their role was within RJAM if applicable.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED:

1st – Gord Friesen

2nd – Christine Ens

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Annual General Meeting Minutes from 2017

MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED:

1st – Robyn Dryden

2nd – Allison Groening

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Report on Activities

(See Appendix 2)

- Report from Education committee – presented by Allison Groening
- Report from Communication committee – presented by Gord Friesen
- Report from Engagement committee – presented by Gord Friesen and Hennes. They also briefed the room about the meeting they had with Justice earlier in June 2018 where they established relationship and collaboration, as well as the meeting hosted with First Nations Police, RCMP and Brandon police, asserting that there was a lot of support for restorative justice from the police services, who recognize its effectiveness, benefit to the whole community and understand it is not 'soft on crime'.

Discussion:

- A question regarding the concept of accountability and responsibility was asked.
 - Answer: The board is accountable to the members, should follow-up on issues raised by membership and report back.
- Contribution from the floor:
 - It is important for RJAM to emphasize health and safety and help people understand the connection. People want to see concrete actions and role models coming out of RJAM.
 - A representative from Southern Chiefs Organization - MB also noted there has been 90% success in diversion of cases, through their programs.
 - It was also recommended that RJAM continues its position to not seek provincial justice funding so as to maintain autonomy.

5. Treasurers Report

John Hutton, the treasurer, had no reports to present as there was no revenue or funding for RJAM in the past fiscal year, but noted grants have been applied for which will go into website design once received. Kate also mentioned that RJAM will continue to be housed by SPCW in the meanwhile.



6. Nominating Committee Report/Board member election

Kate presented the report from the nominating committee putting forward Christine Ens and Michael Redhead Champagne for election to the board and representatives from Ma Mawi, Palava Hut and Onashowewin.

The report can be found in Appendix 3.

MOTION TO ELECT THE NOMINATED CANDIDATES TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

1st – Josh Brandon

2nd – Robyn Dryden

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. RJ Week Announcements

Events for Restorative Justice Week 2017 were shared: “4 stories of Restorative Justice” highlighting the impact RJ has had on families from a personal perspective, had been scheduled for the following day.

8. Adjournment

Closing remarks and thanks by Kate.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Appendix 1

Attendees:

First Name	Last Name	Membership	Organization
Stan	Rossowski	Member	
John	Hutton	Board	John Howard Society of Manitoba
Melissa	Stevenson	Member	
Melanie Beth	Oliviero	Member	
Christine	Ens	Board	Mediation Services Winnipeg
Neil	Funk- Unrau	Board	University of Winnipeg
Josh	Brandon	Member	SPCW
Michelle	Joubert	Member	Manitoba Justice
Darryl	Cochrane	Member	
Lou Ann	Flett	Member	
Lorena	Ross	Member	
Karen	Swain	Member	Onashowewin
Julia	Robson	Member	Onashowewin
Doug	Wilson	Member	
Wilf	Lavallee	Member	Manitoba Justice??
Barry	Colby	Member	
Gerry	Kaplan	Member	
Joanna	White	Member	Southern Chiefs Organization
Marissa	Mann	Member	Southern Chiefs Organization
Robyn	Dryden	Member	GAIN
Sanjam	Panag	Member	student
Christine	Deckert	Member	Manitoba Justice??
Hennes	Doltze	Board	The Salvation Army
Allison	Groening	Member	
Kate	Kehler	Board	SPCW
Albert	Boakye	Member	SPCW
Oke	Ojekudo	Member	SPCW
Gord	Friesen	Board	Rt RCMP

Appendix 2

Report on Activities

Report from Education Committee – presented by Allison Groening

“Many people associate restorative justice with mediation, or circle processes, or diversion programs. These can all be ways of achieving restorative justice, but they are tools for it, they aren’t RJ itself.

Restorative Justice is a broad term, which has been used in many different ways. It is often defined in opposition to the current court system, which would be defined as retributive, since it focuses on establishing what rule or law has been broken, who is responsible, and what punishment is merited.

By contrast, RJ views crime and conflict as a violation of people and relationships. The definition used by RJAM is;

Restorative Justice is an approach to crime and conflict which has its roots in Indigenous and other cultures worldwide. RJ involves those who have been harmed, those who have done harm, and the affected community in a search for outcomes which promote accountability, reconciliation and reassurance. RJ is not a specific model, instead it is a set of principles that can be adapted and applied to a variety of situations.

More specifically, restorative justice:

- Focuses on harms and the needs of all those affected by crime or conflict, including the community
- Addresses obligations resulting from those harms
- Uses collaborative processes
- Invites voluntary participation by those with a stake in a situation
- Emphasizes healing as it seeks to repair harms and put right the wrongs to as full an extent as possible

(This definition draws heavily from the work of Howard Zehr in *Changing Lenses: Restorative Justice for Our Times* (2015))”



Report from Communication Committee – presented by Gord Friesen
Communication Committee Terms of Reference

Role:

- To establish the direction of RJAM Communications
- Define how and on what we communicate on/message development
- Act as oversight/clearing house for strategy development
- Oversight of implementation of strategy then maintenance and innovation
- Ensuring inter-committee communications

Term:

Life of the organization

Memberships:

As per the by-laws with a minimum of one board member but also outside expertise

Meetings:

Flexible as needs change

Accountability:

Accountable to the board

Report from Engagement Committee – presented by Gord Friesen

Engagement Committee Terms of Reference

Purpose

The Engagement Committee aims to develop strong partnerships with and gain support from various stakeholder groups (municipally, provincially, and federally).

Roles and Responsibilities

The Engagement committee is responsible for

- Engaging with Manitoba Justice and Law Enforcement representatives to promote RJ practices and offer support in addressing challenges
- Engaging with legislative representatives to promote RJ at a higher level
- Developing formal partnerships with Manitoba Justice - Victim Services & Restorative Justice Branches)
- Exploring other partnerships with other relevant groups (e.g. MB Education, Victim Support Groups, Faith Groups)

Term of Committee

Life of the organization

Membership

The Engagement Committee will be comprised of a minimum of 3 Board members. Representatives from relevant Government, Law Enforcement or other community partners will be approached to join the committee as appropriate.

Terms of Memberships

Membership will be reviewed annually after the Annual General Meeting.

Meetings

The Engagement Committee will meet quarterly or as needed

Accountability

The Engagement Committee is accountable to the RJAM Board of Directors.

Appendix 3

Nominating Committee Recommendations

November 20th, 2017

Board 2018-2019

Returning:

Kate Kehler:

Kate Kehler is a former executive director of the Law Society of Nunavut. She was also the assistant and acting executive director of the John Howard Society of Manitoba for six years. She has been involved with the creation and evolution of the Gang Action Interagency Network (GAIN) and is currently its' chair. Kate is currently the executive director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, an organization with almost 100 years of experience working for social justice. SPCW also has a long track record of building coalitions to address gaps that then have gone on to become many of Winnipeg's stand alone social service agencies.

Hennes Doltze:

Hennes Doltze (R.S.W.) works with the Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services and oversees a program that engages men towards healthy relationships and non-abusive behaviour. Through his extensive work in probation, child-welfare and mental health he believes that Restorative Justice is the most meaningful way to address harm, increase awareness and accountability and promote healing between individuals, communities and society as a whole. He has been part of the interim board since its inception in 2014 and is excited to advocate for more RJ practices on a provincial level through the association. He lives in Winnipeg with his wife Sarah and their three boys.

John Hutton:

John Hutton has worked in the area of restorative justice and promoting collaborative approaches to resolving conflict for twenty years. Currently he is the executive director of the John Howard Society of Manitoba and teaches restorative justice as a sessional instructor for Menno Simons College.

Gail Schellenberg:

Gail's background is education, as a teacher, principal and superintendent for over 20 years. While superintendent, her focus was fostering collaborative conflict resolution and restorative justice within the school system. She is currently the executive director of Initiatives for Just Communities – a non-profit, charitable organization whose programs (Touchstone, El'Dad, Open Circle, CoSA) come alongside

people living with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), intellectual disabilities, and those currently or previously incarcerated. Using restorative justice practices, her hope is to be part of creating communities where no one walks alone; where everyone both belongs and flourishes in community.

Travis Blaine:

Travis Blaine has a Degree of Bachelor of Science with a major in Criminal Justice and a certificate in Mediation Skills through Resolution Skills Center. He has worked 6 years as a Correctional Officer, Parole Officer and Correctional Supervisor at Stony Mountain Institution. For 8 years, he was the victim-offender mediator at Westman Mediation services for the John Howard Society of Brandon and oversight of the 7 rural justice committees in the Westman area. In January of 2016, he became the Restorative Justice Coordinator for the Westman and Parkland area which stretches from the U.S. border and as far north as Sapotaweyak First Nation. Currently they have 9 justice committees in are in the process of expanding to 11 in 2017. One will be in the RM of Yellowhead and the other in Sioux Valley Dakota First Nation. He is also the facilitator for interpersonal conflict resolution and mediation skills.

Neil Funk-Unrau:

Neil Funk-Unrau is Associate Professor of Conflict Resolution Studies and is also currently the Associate Dean of Menno Simons College. He has taught restorative justice courses at Menno Simons College and the University of Winnipeg for the last 13 years, as well as some research and writing on several RJ-related topics such as the use and misuse of apologies in restorative and retributive processes. Neil holds a PH.D in conflict resolution studies from Syracuse University and an MA in Peace Studies from the Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminaries. He previously served as one of the founding board members of the Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium.

Heather Leeman:

Heather Leeman has over 15 years experience working within and leading community based organizations in Manitoba, most recently as the Executive Director of the North End Women's Centre. For the last 3 years, Heather has worked as the Executive Director of the Block by Block Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative, focusing on multi-sector collaboration for system and service delivery change. Thunderwing, the first project of the Block by Block Initiative, is partnering with the Winnipeg Police Service and the Crown's office to offer pre and post-charge diversion to offenders, willing to work with Thunderwing, living in William Whyte or Dufferin neighbourhoods. Heather is currently the executive director of the Laurel Centre.

Bonnie Woodhouse:

Bonnie Woodhouse has been actively and promoting restorative justice in Pinaymootang and surrounding areas with adults and youth that are in the justice system. She has been employed with Southern Chiefs' Organization since 2011 and currently hold the community justice worker position. She

works with the community members, Chief and Council, lawyers, crown attorneys, RCMP and judges. Her consultation and resources work to meet the needs and wants of the community by assisting in the healing process involving the victim and/or community, as well as the person in conflict with the law.

Jyoti Singh:

Jyoti Singh has over 15 years experience in community based health, homelessness and business in both Manitoba and Ontario. She has been active in Winnipeg in securing housing solutions for people exiting corrections and strongly believes that as a community, we need to find more innovative and effective alternatives to corrections. Jyoti is currently the Executive Director of the Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba.

Gord Friesen:

A career Police Officer with over 30 years of experience in progressive leadership roles within the Winnipeg Police Service (WPS), Gord has spent the last years of his policing career in charge of the WPS Community Support Division, overseeing Diversity Relations, Indigenous Partnerships, School Engagement and the Auxiliary Cadet Section. He is an advocate for the expansion of restorative justice approaches, based in principles of Indigenous-based alternatives to conflict, and crime prevention through social development. In the next phase of Gord's career, he has pledged to continue serving improvements in the justice system by supporting the Restorative Justice Association of Manitoba.

Proposed:

Michael Redhead Champagne

Christine Enns

Palaver Hut Project

Onashowewin Inc.

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata

The nominating committee is recommending we begin our 2018 fiscal year with a full slate - 15 members.

- 8.6 Composition of the Board of Directors shall include:
- (a) only individual members, or representatives from member organization in good standing



- (b) must be able to demonstrate experience with, understanding of, and/or commitment to restorative justice with an emphasis on recruiting Directors with lived experience
- (c) The nominating committee must seek out board candidates that represent a diversity of culture, location, gender and age.
- (d) The Board must include a minimum of one Indigenous, Newcomer and non-urban representatives

To note:

Elections from the floor are possible. One needs to put their own name forward or that of someone else's with proven consent. A minimum of 5 members must support the nomination. If there are more nominations than spots, a vote will be held as per the by-laws.

DRAFT