



RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA (RJAM)

Annual General Meeting 2017

November 20th 2017

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

Attending: See Appendix 1

Chair: Kate Kehler

Minutes: Sara Wray Enns

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 2:10 pm

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. Please see attached appendix.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED:

1st – Allan Wise

2nd – Alia Harb

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approval of Annual General Meeting Minutes from 2016

MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2016 RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED:

1st – Megan Bowman

2nd – Melanie Oliviero

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Report from the Chair

Kate Kehler talked about the activities of RJAM's second year.

This year involved reaching out to the province, branding the organization with a logo and taking steps to incorporate. A goals and objectives session led to a work plan that will guide the association moving forward.

The logo was designed by Taryn Dufault through a Spark match.

RJAM board members met with Greg Graceffo (Associate Deputy Minister Community Safety) and Kusham Sharma (Senior Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Justice and Deputy Attorney General) to discuss RJAM, the Restorative Justice Centre and its programs.

Kate explained that the board had put a tremendous amount of work leading up to last year's AGM and given that all that work was 'off the sides of our desks' the second year was a bit of a 'sophomore slump' by comparison. However, with the workplan to be proposed and a committee structure (which members will be invited to join) the hope is to be more active in this third year. Also the decision to not pursue funding has been reconsidered and the board will be looking to find funding for a staff member in order to ensure more progress.

5. Treasurers Report

John Hutton, the treasurer, had to send regrets to this AGM. Kate Kehler reported that as above, since RJAM does not have any funding so has not as of yet set up any bank accounts etc.... there was no need to provide a financial statement.

6. Presentation on goals and objectives for the next 2 to 3 years

Kate Kehler presented the Goals and Objectives developed by the RJAM board over the past year. The text from the presentation can be found in Appendix 2.

Discussion:



- When doing research moving forward previous research should be considered. RJAM's work should build on what already exists.
- Across Canada there are equivalent groups dealing with restorative justice in Nova Scotia and in Alberta. British Columbia is starting to set up a restorative justice group and they have been in touch with RJAM for advice. There is also the national group, Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium. It should be an objective to reach out to these and see what they are doing and if there are any lessons to be learned etc...
- More regular updates on RJAM to the membership are planned as the association moves forward.

7. Proposed by-law amendment:

Kate explained that they had initially set the board quorum high knowing it might be difficult to maintain but the reasoning was there was a lot of work to do so needed everyone's input. However, this proved too difficult and time consuming to get necessary feedback and consensus through email so that is why board is proposing to lower quorum but also only meet every two months (as already per by-laws) to allow for more effective small committee work.

MOTION TO AMEND TO SECTION 10.5

From:

Board quorum will be two thirds of the current board members

To:

Board quorum will be 50% plus one member of the existing board members

1st – Allan Wise

2nd – Hennes Doltze

DISCUSSION:

- If the board has 13 members what is quorum?
 - More than 50%.
- A comment about including more decision making input from the grassroots membership came from the floor.
 - Once RJAM has the ability to resource them, Youth and Elder Councils will be developed to gain broader feedback. Much of the board membership work in grassroots/direct service organizations. And it was noted that all previous major decisions had been put to the full membership prior to adoption. It was agreed that for operational purposes though, the board is empowered to make those in order to move forward.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Nominating Committee Report/Board member election

Hennes Doltze presented the report from the nominating committee putting forward Jyoti Singh and Kathrine Devine for election to the board and leaving two spots open.

The report can be found in Appendix 3.

Discussion:

- A question of whether there are age restrictions for board participation was asked.
 - There are currently no age restrictions. The elder and youth councils are envisioned to provide a broader perspective while better suiting the preferred ways to provide input of those demographics.
- A question was raised about what level of commitment to restorative justice would be needed to join the board.
 - There is a need for a balance of perspectives and no defined level of commitment. Currently the board has a lot of practitioners but does not have many people with lived experience.
 - A broad connection to restorative justice is needed. It is important that board members are able to contribute to the association.
- There was a need for clarification on what lived experience means in this context.
 - Lived experience could include victims of crime, someone who has been incarcerated, or someone who has gone through the restorative justice process.

Nomination from the floor:

Allan Wise nominated Gord Friesen as a board member.

Inspector Gord Friesen is the commander of the Community Support Division of the Winnipeg Police Service and will be retiring later this year. Through his work he has pursued paths outside of the crime and punishment description of policing.

The nomination was supported by Allan Wise, Bob Christmas, Melanie Oliviero, Josh Brandon and David Newman.

MOTION TO ELECT JYOTI SINGH, KATHERINE DEVINE AND GORD FRIESEN TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

1st – Josh Brandon

2nd – David Newman

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



9. Committee opportunities

There are opportunities to get involved with funding and outreach. Anyone with interest in these committees should talk to the chair.

10. RJ Week Announcements

Events for Restorative Justice Week 2017 were shared.

11. Adjournment

MOTION TO ADJOURN

1st – Megan Bowman

2nd – Christine Enns

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Appendix 1

Attendees:

Travis Blaine, Megan Bowman, Josh Brandon, Dianna Bussey, Bob Christmas, Brandi Christmas, Barry W. Colby, Andrea Dell, Katherine Devine, Cassandra Dokken, Hennes Doltze, Robyn Dryden, Bonnie Emerson, Sara Enns, Christine Ens, Gord Friesen, Neil Funk-Unrau, Allison Groening, Alia Harb, Stefan Hodges, Kristin Jacobson, W. Javallée, Joan Johannson, Kate Kehler, Barbara Kelly, Zach Kinahan, Heather Leeman, Beth McDonald, Meaghan Morrish, Candace Neumann, David Newman, Deanna Ng, Melanie Beth Oliviero, Cheryl Prince, Jasmine Schulz, Keith Schellenberg, Jyoti Singh, Allan Wise, Bonnie Woodhouse.

(this needs to be filled out with organizations and membership status etc...)

Appendix 2

Work Plan with Objectives and Strategies 2017

Objective 1

To develop and strengthen the internal structures of RJAM

Strategies

- Incorporate RJAM
- Ensure ongoing board commitment
- Increase the size and scope of the membership
- Ensure board and membership satisfaction
- Seek resources for staffing or other expenses (to support the activities outlined in the RJAM Work Plan (financial/in-kind))

Objective 2

To increase public awareness/education of Restorative Justice

Strategies

- Develop a Restorative Justice definition
- Develop an RJAM Restorative Justice presentation
- Develop information handouts – Brochures, FAQs, Fact Sheets for distribution at presentations etc.
- Explore idea of hosting Manitoba Annual Restorative Justice Conference



Objective 3

To increase the visibility and recognition of RJAM across Manitoba

Strategies

- Develop and promote RJAM website
- Develop a social media strategy

Objective 4

To develop strong partnerships with and gain support from various stakeholder groups (municipally, provincially, and federally)

Strategies

- Connect with other Restorative Justice Associations across Canada
- Engage with Crown Prosecutors and Judges to promote and create commitment to RJ practices at post charge and post plea/post conviction stage.
- Engage the Winnipeg Police Service to promote Restorative Justice at high levels and offer support in addressing challenges to pre-charge diversions
- Formalize a partnership with Manitoba Justice – Victim Services & Restorative Justice and Innovation Branch
- Engage with MLAs to promote RJ on a legislative level
- Explore a partnership with MB Education and Training to include Restorative Justice programming into schools.
- Explore partnerships with/engage victim support groups
- Explore partnerships with faith community
- Research
- and offer support in addressing challenges to pre and post-charge diversions

Opportunities

- Funding
- Outreach
 - Materials
 - Social media
 - Membership recruitment

Appendix 3

Nominating Committee Recommendations

November 20th, 2017

Kate Kehler (returning until 2018):

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' vice-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 (returning until 2018):

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 (returning until 2018):

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 (returning until 2018):

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 (returning until 2018):

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 Sopotaweyak 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.

Megan Bowman (returning until 2018):

Megan Bowman is the coordinator of the Restorative Action Centre, the court diversion program at Mediation Services. She has been involved with Mediation Services in various capacities (volunteer, volunteer coordinator, trainer and caseworker) since 2001. She holds a BA in Conflict Resolution Studies from the University of Winnipeg, as well as a BA in History from the University of Manitoba. Her background includes graphic design, as well as work with HIV/AIDS education, housing and homelessness issues and domestic violence. She currently sits on the board of the Community Legal Education Association, as well as the board of the Canadian Restorative Justice Consortium.

Neil Funk-Unrau (returning until 2018):

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.

Alfred S. Koineh (returning until 2018):

Alfred S. Koineh, MSW, RSW- Alfred is originally from Sierra Leone, West Africa. He is a social worker with a Master's Degree in Social Work and currently the program manager of Clinical/Social Work Services at Mount Carmel Clinic under the Community Outreach and Multicultural Wellness Program. Alfred volunteers his time helping newcomers to Winnipeg better integrate. He is also a community justice worker with the Palaver Hut Project, a program that uses traditional alternative dispute resolutions based on restorative justice principles.

Heather Leeman (returning until 2018):

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.

Allan Wise (returning until 2018):

Allan Wise came to Winnipeg in 1989 as a Government Assisted Refugee from Iran. He has worked in newcomer settlement and community economic development in inner-city Winnipeg with several not-for-profit agencies since 1990. From 2009 until 2017 Allan was the executive director of Central Neighbourhoods Development Corporation (CNDC). Allan holds a B.A. in Politics from University Winnipeg (1995), and an M.A. in International Relations from the University of Manitoba (1999). Since 2000, he has been teaching politics as a sessional lecturer at both universities. Allan's interest in restorative justice processes comes from many years of working with stakeholders on community building and safety. He believes that the RJ network is a far stronger alternative to the law and order agenda which focuses on the mechanics of punishment, rather than rehabilitation and reintegration. Allan is the father of a 21 year old university student.

Bonnie Woodhouse (returning until 2018):

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.

Katherine Devine (proposed for 2017-2019)

Katherine Devine is an entrepreneur, market research analyst and progressive social justice advocate. Katherine's twenty five year engagement with staff, working groups, clients, expert panels, boards of directors, executives and community consulting groups is founded in a deep commitment to respect, empowerment, effectiveness and efficiency. Katherine's dedication to ethical research (both qualitative and quantitative) leaves a legacy of evidence from which public, private and not for profit enterprises have advanced their agendas, policies, programs and process improvements. She has a BA in Sociology and Politics from University of Winnipeg, a Master degree in Public Administration from the University of Winnipeg and University of Manitoba and is a LeanSixSigma Green Belt. While completing both

university degrees within the past five years, Katherine's has focused her academic research on restorative justice. It is her belief the identification of hurt and its underlying causes can lead to the identification of stakeholder obligations and a creative process to put things right.

Jyoti Singh (proposed for 2017-2019)

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.

The nominating committee is recommending we begin our 2017 fiscal year with a board of 13 rather than the full 15 members.

Reasoning:

- Our minimum requirement is for 9 which we have met
- The timing of resignations has not allowed us enough time to ensure the necessary diversity to our board as laid out in the by-laws

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.