



# RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA (RJAM)

Annual General Meeting 2019

November 21<sup>st</sup> 2019

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, 445 King Street, Winnipeg, MB

Chair: Kate Kehler

Minutes: Oke Ojekudo

Meeting called to order at 10:15 am

This is a duly 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 and interest in RJ. Kate also briefly talked about the documentaries produced by GAIN and AYO!

## 1. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED: (amended to include an open discussion segment for the floor during reports on activities)**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 2. Approval of Annual General Meeting Minutes from 2018

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED:**

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

## 3. Report on Activities

- Brief explanation of the role of RJAM was presented in terms of who we are and why we are here which is to facilitate a systemic change in our Justice system to one that is based on restorative justice.
- It was also reported that the education committee is working on flyers and promotional materials that can be handed out to people for education purposes. The finance committee still has \$5000 to put towards the design, social media etc..., once the content has been developed. The engagement committee has been meeting with provincial representatives around the new Restorative Justice Centre and getting more community diversions. The WPS are also looking to



formalize pre-charge diversions. The communication committee has been active on various social media channels coordinated by Michael Redhead Champagne – Instagram now has 231 followers, Twitter has 130 followers, Facebook has 421 followers and RJAM now has 97 members signed up, some as a direct result of social media campaign. Public events were held and/or supported by RJAM such as *Meet me At the Bell Tower* events, *Community Meth Response* forum, *Healing & Belonging* at the Circle of Life Thunderbird House.

Discussion from the floor:

- Manitoba is not the only province with a Restorative Justice Association but it is the only province so far with a Restorative Justice Act in Canada.
- It is important for us to find ways to make the government more accountable.
- RJ movement needs to start from each individual at the ground level until it spreads.
- The key to eliminating poverty is to address injustice. Discrimination and lack of much needed systemic change is the real issue not poverty.

## 4. Treasurers Report

RJAM still has a total of \$5000 from grants, which have not yet been used.

## 5. Nominating Committee Report/Board member election

Kate presented the report from the nominating committee putting forward returning members: **Hennes Doltze** (Salvation Army Correctional and Justice Services), **Gail Schellenberg** (Initiatives for Just Communities), **Travis Blaine** (John Howard Society of Brandon), **Heather Leeman** (North End Women's Centre), **Christine Ens** (Mediation Services), **Gord Friesen** (retired WPS), **Michael Redhead Champagne** (AYO!) and **Kate Kehler** (Social Planning Council of Winnipeg), as well as new members: **Sharon Perrault** – *Acting Executive Director and Manager of Programs for John Howard Society of Manitoba*, **Dawn Rogers** – *Co founder of Momentum Centre*, **Peter Koroma** from *Palava Hut Project*, **Coty Zachariah** from *Southern Chiefs Organization*, **Matthew Shorting** from *Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata* and **Kim Johnson** from *Onashowewin*. Proposal made to hold a spot for a representative from Elizabeth Frye Society.

### MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- Suggestions were made from the floor to consider having GAIN on the board as well as other individuals not necessarily tied to any organization to promote a more inclusive and open board. There was suggestion of 'non-voting' board positions. Kate explained the board reached decision by consensus so voting was not the issue and was concerned about coordinating a larger board. Kate did mention that it is a goal to create a Youth and Elder Council. This would allow more community input and oversight. Again, having the resources to coordinate and maintain this Council



as been a stumbling block. There is a new grant application coming in December that might allow for some staff to be hired. This will be reported back on at the next AGM.

## 6. Adjournment

Closing remarks and thanks by Kate.

### **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Viewing of a documentary titled *Courage to Change* by G.A.I.N. and a brief discussion came after.

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