

Provincial Roundtable on CYAC Best Practices

Taxonomy of Strengths



British Columbia Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres

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Children as Humans: A Child Rights Approach to Freedom from Violence

- **UN Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified in word**
 - Seize the day on a mandate that already exists and has been accepted
- **Progress since 1969 in laws, processes, and procedures for responding to domestic and family violence.**
 - Permission to take the time to evolve- while keeping the momentum.
- **Children's Participation Rights - Should not be interviewed more than necessary**
 - Achievement of CYACs utilizing trauma informed practice

Children as Humans: A Child Rights Approach to Freedom from Violence

➤ **Current challenges in Court System**

- Specialized judiciary – Orthopedic surgeons doing brain surgery
- Preventing delay in a plugged up court system
- Utility for Judiciary, Lawyers of Understanding lived experience vs theory

➤ **Solutions**

- BC Legal Clinic (2 lawyers) vs Ontario (25 lawyers, 400 on file, etc)
- Use these principles to cross check downstream/upstream processes and intervention/prevention

Panel: Spotlight on BC CYACs

➤ **Coordination and collaboration**

- Principles of how to best operate and communicate with each other
- Honouring outputs vs inputs

➤ **Reality of varying models**

- Commitment to child centric facilities and MDT operations
- SKY – Re-utilizing current resources proves that the CYAC model can work in a variety of settings

➤ **National Children's Alliance + CYACs and MDTs**

- Accreditation "Secret Sauce"!

Coordinated Responses to Disclosures from Children and Youth

Get the Fundamentals Right

- Training – All on same page
- Sustainability/Funding
- Role Clarity and Communication
 - Across and within complex teams



Ongoing Service from a CYAC

- Communication
 - Key Coordinator/ Go to
 - Regular communication / touch points between parties
 - Succession planning and accepting turnover
- Training
 - Adapting to changes and turnover
 - Sustainability
 - Funding
- Feedback
 - Input points
 - Clients and mistakes
 - Good, bad, ugly



Ongoing Service from a CYAC

- Shared Provincial Database
 - Case management
 - Tools and resource
- BC Network
 - Strategic Use
 - Data and info sharing
 - Connect, inform, advocate



Cultural Responsiveness and Social Inclusivity and the CYAC model

- UNDRIP and CRDP (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities)
 - Guiding principles/ideas
 - Don't need to reinvent the wheel
- Learned that historical actions not only didn't work but caused trauma
 - Resulted in broken trust
- Understanding diversity of culture within culture
- Knowing everything vs developing a process that adapts, grows, and learns all of the time
- Importance of sending indirect welcome messages through symbols
- Heart of all of this is humility
- Delicateness of having fulsome discussions about culture without causing pain

BC Network of CYACs and Next Steps

- Nothing for me without me
- We are not on our own
- Our greatest strength is the collective wisdom in the room, our shared experiences, and the knowledge that we can learn from each other