

# Provincial Roundtable on CYAC Best Practices

## Taxonomy of Strengths



# British Columbia Network of Child and Youth Advocacy Centres

## Provincial Roundtable on CYAC Best Practices



# 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