



Safe Schools Community Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 26, 2025

TIME: 9:00 a.m. Microsoft Teams Video Conference Meeting

Welcome/Introductions

Confirmation of Agenda

Board of Education	Lisa Guderyan, Vice Chair
City of Kelowna	Mohini Singh, City Councillor
COTA	n/a
COPAC	Jeannette Watson, Vice President
CUPE	Jessica Teasdale, CUPE Executive
District Administration	Sherri Roche, District Principal Learning Support Serv. Al Lalonde, Assistant Superintendent Graeme McCallum, Health & Safety Manager
Traffic Safety Officer	n/a
Kelowna Fire Department	Candace Friesen, Fire Inspector & Life Safety Educator
RCMP	Ryan Rode, SRO West Side Schools
City of West Kelowna	n/a
District of Lake Country	n/a
Brain Trust	n/a
Recording Secretary	Wendy Kennedy
Regrets	<i>Jocelyn Noseworthy, Federico Angulo, Kirsten Macleod, Brandwyn Rigby, Simon Adams, Deannie Zahara, Jared Birkeland, Ashley Ragoonaden, Michelle Price, George York, Lise Bradshaw, Julia Fraser, Lori Dawson-Bedard, Jon Rever, Mona Essler, Allison Goreas, Yvonne Hildebrandt, Kevin Kaardal, Ron Cannon, Bib Patel, Melissa Hunt-Anderson, Amanda McFarlane, Paul Johnson, Kelly Hill &/or Terry Savin, Dan Glasscock, Eric DeGelder, Phillipa Putlitz.</i>

Welcome & Land Acknowledgment

Sherri welcomed everyone and acknowledged that this meeting was being held on the traditional, unceded territory of the Okanagan Syilx People.

Child Youth Advocacy Centre (CYAC) and SD23 Partnership

What is the CYAC?

Ginny Becker, CYAC Executive Director provided an overview of what the CYAC is and how it serves our community. CYAC presentation attached for reference.

Their service area is determined by police detachment jurisdiction and stretches from Peachland to Lake Country.

The Embedded Team

CYAC works in partnership with other agencies such as Interior Health, RCMP, Westbank First Nation, Ministry of Children and Family Development, the Central Okanagan Elizabeth Fry Society and School District 23.

Role of SD23 CYAC Liaison

The partnership with SD23 is new and only started in September 2024. Taunya Shaw, an SEL Consultant with SD23, is serving as the CYAC liaison. Her role will be mainly to connect the CYAC to SD23 staff.

HRVY Update

Sherri shared that SD23 now has a partnership with Crossroads Collective which is a counseling service that offers counseling support specifically around trauma backgrounds for children, youth and family.

Sherri noted that Childhood Connections has officially been renamed The Strong Roots Center.

Partner Group Updates:

- **RCMP - Ryan Rode** - Busy area on the Westside; the main school he is working with is Mt. Boucherie (1900 students), establishing relationships with Principal, VPs and everyone at the school; main concern is cyberbullying. Trying to educate youth starting in grade 5 to help prevent incidents. Westside also got a new Corporal and they are trying to be as proactive as possible in traffic controls around schools.
- **Board of Education - Lisa Guderyan** - Expressed appreciation to be part of the network to hear what is going on and excited to see the good work that is going on in the community.
- **CUPE - Jessica Teasdale** - nothing to report from CUPE other than working with support staff to stay healthy and happy so they can take care of the students in the building.

- **COPAC - Jeannette Watson** - Question around e-bikes and e-scooters as to what is the actual law and who enforces it. What education is there in the system that we can help promote and disseminate into our parent community to ensure student safety.
Table to next meeting so Traffic Safety Officer Dan Glasscock can address
- **City of Kelowna - Mohini Singh** - Happy to be at this meeting to glean information and keep in mind for future.
- **Kelowna Fire Department - Candace Friesen** - On April 24th the SD 23 Boot Camp will be taking place for Grade 10-12 students who will spend the day going through firefighter activities. This is a fun day of activities and will end with a live burn. Grade 1-3 students will be going through the fire safety house, beginning May 20th until June 5th, to learn about smoke alarms, getting out of your house safe, and finding a safe space outside of your house.
- **District Administration - Al Lalonde** – emphasized the importance of these committee meetings for hearing interesting things, connecting, and making partnerships.
- **COTA** - n/a
- **City of West Kelowna** - n/a
- **District of Lake Country** - n/a
- **West Kelowna Fire Department** - n/a
- **Lake Country Fire Department** - n/a
- **Traffic Safety** - n/a
- **Brain Trust** - n/a
- **Elementary Administrators** - n/a
- **Secondary Administrators** - n/a

Correspondence

New Business

Summary and Wrap Up

Reach out to Sherri if you would like anything added to the next agenda. If anyone is missing or has changed from the agenda list, please notify Sherri Roche.

Next Meeting Date
Wednesday, May 14, 2025, 9:00 am
Via Microsoft Teams

CHILD AND YOUTH ADVOCACY CENTRE



We [I] would like to begin by acknowledging that the land on which we gather and do our work is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples.

Introductions

Taunya Shaw – School Liaison, SD#23

Ginny Becker – Executive Director, CYAC

CYAC Model



The Model Comes to Kelowna

History

Purpose

Evolution



The CYAC Today

- Wraps voluntary services and supports around children (0-18) and their families.
- Services Central Okanagan (Peachland to Lake Country).

Coordinates:

Investigation

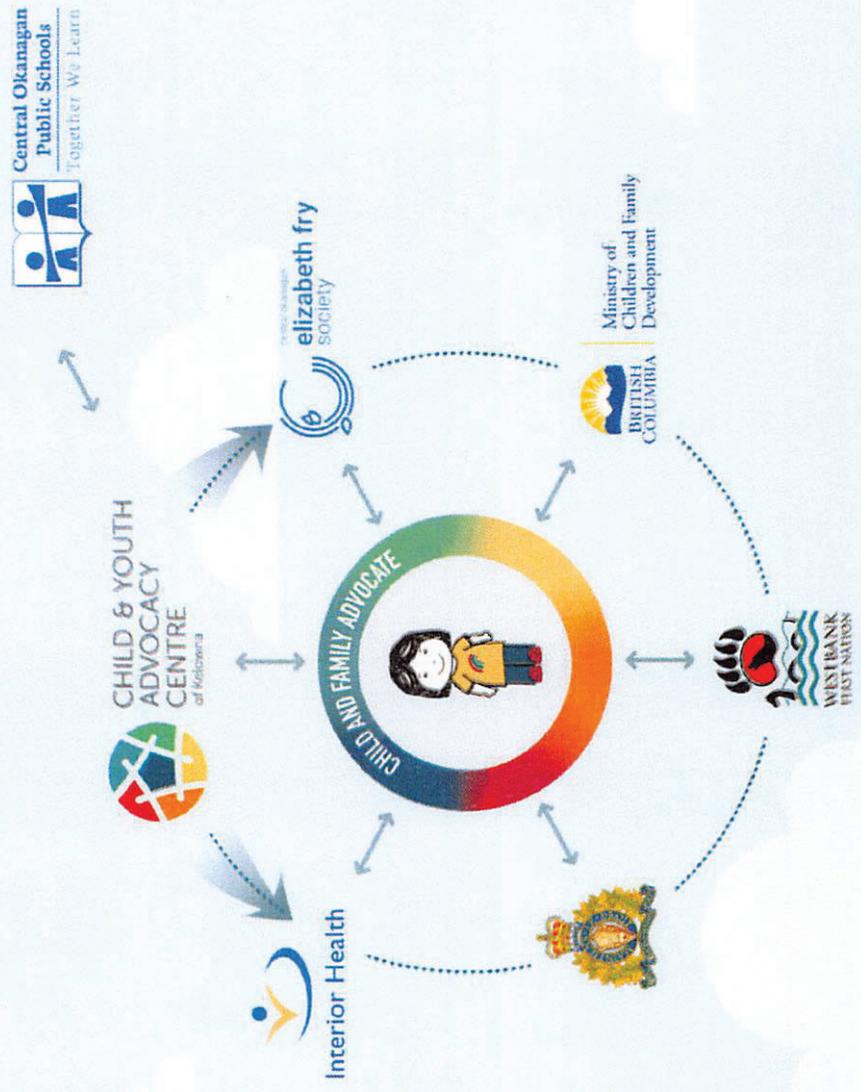
Prosecution

Overall Response

- **Goal: reduce system trauma, improve outcomes, and build resilience.**

Programs at the CYAC

- Multi-Disciplinary Response Program
- Child and Family Advocacy Program
- Resilient Families Mental Health Program
- Vulnerable Children's Clinic (in partnership with Interior Health)
- Emergency Services Program
- Building Brighter Futures Education Program

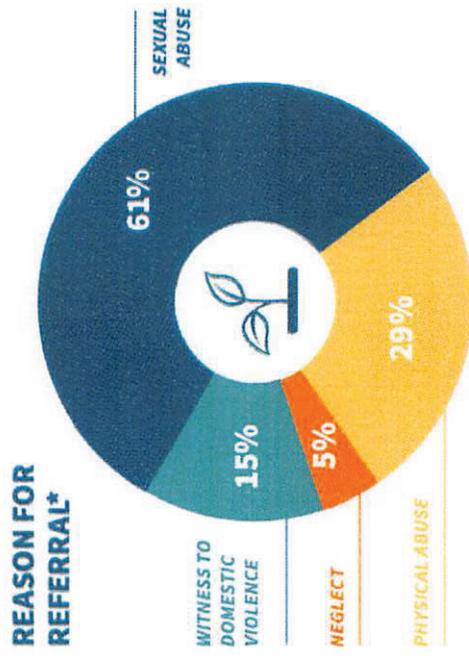
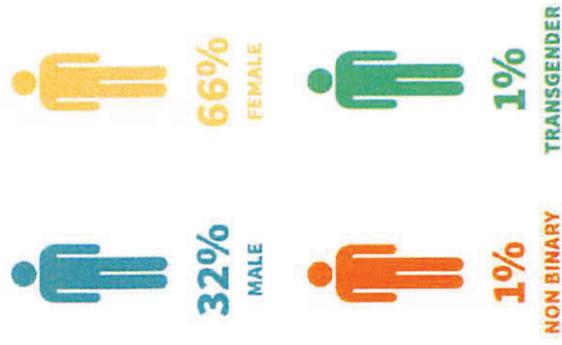


1 in 3 children are impacted by child abuse

81% of the children we serve are school aged



GENDER



Referral to CYAC

Once it is determined that a child statement (interview) needs to be taken, the lead investigator (RCMP or MCFD) will send the referral directly to the CYAC.

The interview is then scheduled with the CYAC team.

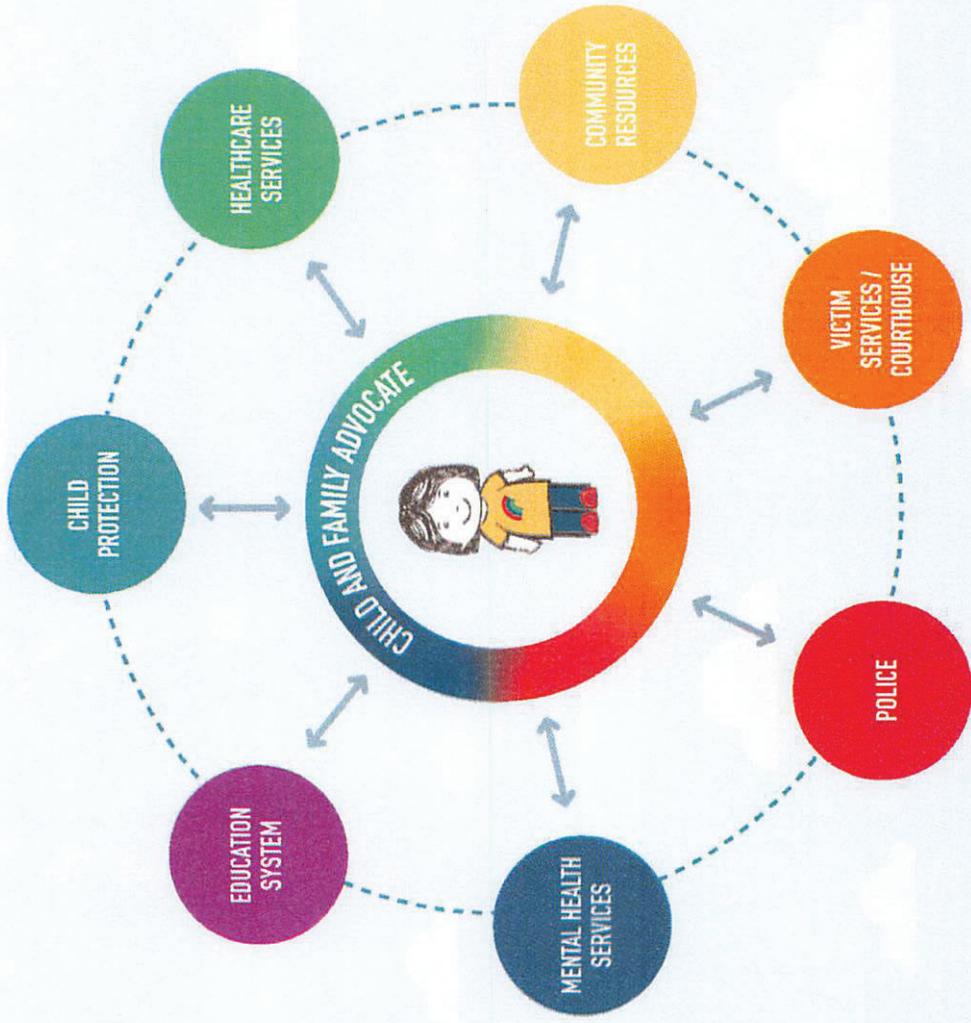
Child and Family Advocate Role :

- Main point of contact for the families who attend the CYAC
- Each family has a consistent ally by their side throughout their healing journey
- Neutral support that brings forward the family's needs to the MDT

Service Delivery Example

7-year-old girl discloses sexual abuse by step-dad





Collaboration with the School

Children spent a significant amount of time at school, being supported by the staff.

When the schools are not involved in the coordination of services when children have attended the CYAC, we are not providing truly holistic approach.

Information often shared with the school :

- Basic information about the trauma (depending on what the family wants to share)
- Known concerns or triggers for the child
- Recommendations based on their mental health and/or healthcare supports

Introducing - Liaison Position

Purpose and Criteria

SD23 Liaison works in collaboration with the CYAC team to remove barriers and provide up to date information sharing through a trauma informed framework.

Caseload specific for elementary school aged children (5yrs to 11yrs) and their siblings.

The caseload is focused on the most significant situations and is activated by the CYAC staff.

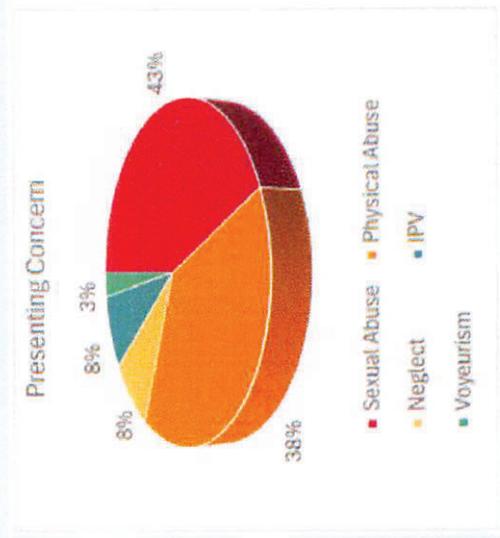
Collaborating with Schools

As an imbedded partnership position the role involves:

- Facilitating *critical information* between CYAC and SD23 staff in an expedited manner.
- Consulting on Mental Health Formulations at the CYAC.
- Attending case conferences and ICM's for students connected to the CYAC.
- Co-Facilitating Professional Development opportunities for educators throughout the Okanagan.

Early Outcomes

Over the past five months, the School Liaison position has provided essential support to vulnerable students, helping them thrive both in school and beyond. From September 2024 to January 2025, the School Liaison assisted 71 students, with 37 receiving targeted support.



- A significant number of these students came from Indigenous and diverse backgrounds, with 30% identifying as Indigenous — specifically, 0
 - 6 as Métis
 - 4 as First Nation,
 - 1 as Indigenous Unknown
- Additionally, there was 1 Filipino and 1 Latino client, while the remaining 20 were Caucasian or of unknown descent.
- Six students experienced multiple types of abuse, highlighting the complex and multifaceted nature of their needs.

Early Outcomes

Overall, the CYAC SD#23 Liaison had:

- 202 direct points of contact, averaging five interactions per student over two months with key school staff, including principals, teachers, counsellors, and advocates.
- Notably, 27 in-person meetings highlighted the value of direct interaction in building trust and ensuring effective support and collaboration.
- Teachers had the most interactions with 81 instances, followed by counselors at 61 and principals at 57.
- It's important to note that these figures may be underestimated, as the School Liaison frequently shares information with the advocate directly at the CYAC.

QUESTIONS?

