

P.E.R.F.

HERMAN GOLDSTEIN AWARD

PROJECT C.A.P.E.R.

(Community And Police Eliminating Recidivism)

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May 2003

Abstract

In the mid to late 1990's, the Halton Regional Police Service noted that youth crime had been increasing. Violent incidents were on the rise and demands from the community, both individual citizens and collectives such as school boards, looked to police to respond to the emerging trends.

Police were able to identify they needed earlier interventions that could address the root causes of youthful offending before the problem could really become established. It was agreed that there should be greater distinction between minor, first time offenders and repeat serious offenders. It was also felt a range of options should be available to police decision-makers other than laying a charge.

As you will see, Project C.A.P.E.R. is, in fact, three-pronged and geared to a coordinated approach to the long-term prevention of crime. Research abounds confirming best practices for dealing with youth crime. Programs that incorporate "a continuum of support including emphasis on a range of preventive programs significantly enhances the success rate of programs when targeting reduction of recidivism rates for youth at risk of involvement in delinquent activity." (Leschied, Andrews, 1992).

Under the leadership of the Halton Regional Police Service, the Halton community has successfully developed, implemented, and evaluated an approach to crime prevention that includes a continuum of services, beginning with early identification and prevention initiatives resulting in a comprehensive approach to youth crime. This approach is not an "either/or approach", but rather a response geared to all children and youth: under 12 and from 12 to 17. Not only are the youth involved, but their families, the broader community, service providers and victims become part of the process and, ultimately, part of the solution. The resulting approach is holistic. The three components include:

- Under 12 Outreach Project designed to help this age group improve self-control and learn problem-solving skills.
- Holding youth accountable for their actions while offering an opportunity to deal with the underlying issues contributing to a youth's criminal behaviour through Pre-Charge Diversion.
- A Restorative Justice Model of Family Group Conferencing.

There were many lessons learned through the development stages, implementation and evaluation of the responses led by the Halton Regional Police Service. Key findings include:



- Social workers can work in a policing environment - changing the police culture required trust, confidence and credibility.
- Evaluations are a critical component - using an independent evaluator provides credibility.
- Persistence is required to change the philosophical direction of a police organization.
- The police have a role as leaders of innovation and change in a community.

Responding to Youth – Criminal Justice Issues - An Integrated Response

In the mid to late 1990's, the Halton Regional Police Service noted that youth crime had been increasing. Violent incidents were on the rise and demands from the community, both individual citizens and collectives school boards, looked to police to respond to the emerging trends. At the same time, it was identified that there was limited community collaborative approaches to youth crime. Police, Corrections, support agencies, schools and parents were all responding in isolation. There were inadequate responses to the causes of youth crime.

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Over the past six to ten years, the Halton Regional Police Service has held the vision of finding a better way to deal with youth crime and reducing its impact on the community. Striving to continually improve the services we provide to the community, the leadership shown by the police service and supported by the community has made a difference in the development and implementation of this approach.

The Police and our community partners identified a variety of problems and concerns. These include:

- increasing violent crime rates
- increasing recidivism rates
- increasing costs associated with the court system for minor or non violent crimes
- lack of community ownership for youth crime
- lack of community collaboration
- parents searching for answers and solutions



- lack of evidence that the traditional model of punishment was in fact working
- gaps in service for children under twelve who were offending

It was readily apparent that some of these issues were easily measurable, for example increasing recidivism rates, while others were more intangible in nature, for example the lack of community ownership for youth crime.

The primary goal identified was to reduce the rate at which offending youth commit subsequent offences, thereby reducing the costs borne by victims, police and courts associated with those future offences. The program holds youth accountable for their actions while offering an opportunity to deal with the underlying issues contributing to a youth's criminal behaviour.

Time was spent up front, researching best practices and models that were showing positive results from around the world. Community partners were part of the problem identification and in formulating the solution. Ownership for finding a solution therefore became broad based. Independent funding was secured. External evaluation was arranged.

Project C.A.P.E.R. was the result. This project is in fact three pronged, providing a coordinated approach to the long-term prevention of crime. Research abounds, confirming best practices for dealing with youth crime. Programs that incorporate "a continuum of support including emphasis on a range of preventive programs significantly enhances the success rate of programs when targeting reduction of recidivism rates for youth at risk of involvement in delinquent activity." (Leschied, Andrews, 1992).

Under the leadership of the Halton Regional Police Service, the Halton community has successfully developed, implemented, and evaluated an approach to crime prevention that includes a continuum of services, beginning with early identification and prevention initiatives resulting in a comprehensive approach to youth crime. This approach is not an *"either/or approach"*, but rather a response geared to all children and youth: under 12 and from 12 to 17. Not only are the youth involved, but their families, the broader community, service providers and victims become part of the process and ultimately, part of the solution. The resulting approach is holistic. The three components include:

- Under 12 Outreach Project designed to help children under the age of 12 improve self-control and learn problem-solving skills.
- Holding youth accountable for their actions while offering an opportunity to deal with the underlying issues contributing to a youth's criminal behaviour through Pre-Charge Diversion.
- A Restorative Justice Model of Family Group Conferencing.



The Pre-Charge Diversion component was piloted in one Division of the Service, effective October 1997; Training for Restorative Conferencing volunteers and social workers was announced in March 2001; and due to effective planning the Service had already undertaken, Halton was selected as a replication site for the Children Under 12 Outreach Program in March 2002. Each component of the program has been piloted in one Division, then evaluated and revised as required. Based on the success of the pilot, the component was then implemented Region wide to build on the success of the individual components and provide synergy through the provision of an all encompassing strategy.

Over time, issues for children under 12, between 12 and 17, and victims were addressed on a continuum of service delivery. The Halton Regional Police Service had an advantage: they had already embraced community policing as both an organizational philosophy and as a best practice. They had demonstrated an ability to work with the community to identify issues of local concern, devise solutions to these issues, and generally collaborate on the management and delivery of police services.

In hindsight, the Service was dealing first hand with the failure of the then Young Offenders Act (YOA). Specifically, this legislation failed to interrupt the pathways that saw troubled youth start to commit crimes. It was clear that the judicial process was an ineffective means to address serious offenders. Canada has one of the highest youth incarceration rates and the Province of Ontario being the fifth highest remains above the national average (Statistics Canada 2000, Youth Court Statistics 1998-1999. Ottawa: Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics). It was clear that the continued reliance on custody as a response to so many offenders was ineffectual at preventing future crimes.

Six years before the implementation of new Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA), the Halton group wanted to work on these issues. Innovation began with a plan to hire part-time social workers to work with newly assigned youth officers in each policing District. Community agency partners, upon invitation, worked closely with the Halton Police to create a pre-court diversion program. Agreement on the need for such a response was unanimously supported. Not only did the partners help create the framework for the program, they committed to providing support in the form of referral sources. These key stakeholders also committed to assisting to identify specific youth as candidates for diversion.

Funding from Federal and Provincial sources as well as some service club donations was obtained, to operate a pilot project. Social workers were hired and a media launch provided valuable exposure to the initiative.

The Young Offenders Act did not provide any recourse for offenders under the age of 12. In the eyes of the law, these young people were not capable of forming the intent required to



hold them accountable for their actions. This represented a significant hardship for the police and the community when responding to youth crimes.

For the under twelve age group, the Halton group researched early intervention and crime prevention strategies in Canada and identified EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre's Under 12 Outreach Project as representing the best practice in the area of early intervention. This empirically based program has been identified as the "most fully developed intervention for child delinquents to date" (Howell, 2001). The cognitive-behavioural intervention uses a multi-faceted approach to working with children and families, which includes a number of components and key community partners. The program is based on an extensive risk needs assessment. The objectives are broad based, designed to address the gaps in service to these children that were identified by the community. A program was needed to:

- Connect young people and their families with the appropriate services in their community.
- Help school attendance.
- Improve self control and problem solving skills.
- Help parents better monitor behaviour.
- Reduce the rate of recidivism.

It is clear that young people make poor choices on occasion. In the past, there were few, if any, alternatives to the criminal justice system (i.e. court). For many minor offences, this is akin to using a hammer to kill a flea. A more appropriate system was needed that would hold the youth accountable, yet recognize this as a learning opportunity for the young person and their parents. This resulted in the implementation of a youth diversion process, 'diverting' first time offenders and others that meet the criteria from the court process.

To provide this alternative to the court process, the Halton Regional Police Service recruited and hired full time social workers. With support from front line social workers, officers now utilize an extensive risk needs assessment for youth considered for the Diversion Program. This opportunity for police officers to use discretion at the front end of the youth justice process (no further action, warnings, cautions, referrals, referrals to community agencies as alternatives to the formal court system) ensures appropriate resources are available to the young people. Through early intervention the police can address the young persons risk areas early, ensuring cases can be diverted to an appropriate community support program to deal with the behaviour, rather than the typical denial of service that occurs if the case has progressed deeper into the court system. Feedback from partner agencies as well as the public indicates that there is strong support for the community-based alternatives to the



formal court process. There has been a reduction in the recidivism rate of participants who have been diverted.

With a pre-charge diversion program in place and children under 12 addressed, there was one remaining gap: the victim of crime, as an individual, was not heard from nor represented in the traditional system. Again, research and best practices confirmed that a system utilizing the principles of restorative justice would prove beneficial. The Service outlined the model and secured funding from the Police Services Board to train six volunteer civilians, three social workers and three Victims Services volunteers, to facilitate family group conferences. The continuum of services was now complete. With conferencing, additional benefits could be added to the community approach dealing with youth crime:

- Offender accountability
- Timely
- The victim has a voice
- Support systems present
- Solutions and prevention emphasized

This conferencing model provides a means of assisting in decision making throughout one or more parts of the youth justice process. It can be used as part of the Under 12 program or the Diversion Process, and can result in the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth through positive police/youth activities.

This process has been integrated into the Halton Regional Police Service. Full time social workers have been hired and deployed in our Youth Bureaux where they work in partnership with police officers. The use of these specially trained individuals provides a more effective means of resourcing the program. To ensure a consistent response by all members the Halton Regional Police Service Policies and Procedures were modified to support the Under 12 Program, Diversion Program and Conferencing Model. Due to the fact that this is a multi-faceted approach, developed over a number of years, our integrated response to youth criminal justice issues encompasses a variety of benefits.

Police discretion is a large component at the front end of the youth justice process. For children under twelve, police discretion is a must, since formal charges cannot be laid. The Under 12 Outreach Program ensures that all key community stakeholders - police, child welfare, fire fighters, school officials, community agencies and families themselves can refer children to the multi-faceted program and ensures the young people are held accountable for their actions.



The **Conferencing** component is a critical part of the Halton approach to youth crime. A trained facilitator leads the Conference where the victim, offender and supporters for both parties meet to discuss how the incident affected them. The victim and their supporters are able to hear the offender admit to their crime and take responsibility for their actions. The offender has the opportunity to gain some understanding as to how the victim might be affected. After everyone has had the opportunity to address the Conference, the discussion focuses on repairing the harm. All participants have an opportunity for input. Family Group Conferencing is not right for all situations. Officer discretion is utilized, in consultation with department social workers, the offender and the victim. When appropriate, and when all parties agree to participate, the results are extremely positive.

Community based alternatives to the formal court process are the core of each component of this approach. The social workers on staff and the strong community collaboration ensure that appropriate needs for service are identified in the assessment stage. Flexibility, brokerage and referral take place in a timely manner for all youth. The whole process is individualized and addresses issues known to be correlated to recidivism such as school problems, child welfare issues and peer factors. There is a strong focus on **rehabilitation and reintegration** of youth into the community.

The Under 12 Outreach Program is comprehensive including SNAP (Stop Now And Plan), individual befriending to connect the youth to structured recreation activities, school advocacy, parent training, family counseling, victim restitution, crisis intervention and TAPP-C Assessment for children who have fire involvement.

The fact that the three components of Project C.A.P.E.R. all address youth crime issues has been successful is confirmed by both formal and informal evaluation. Testimonials from parents, youth, community social workers, teachers and police officers outline the benefits of the programming available through the Under 12 Program, Diversion and Family Group Conferencing. Young people are learning the impact of their behaviour on the victim, their family, the community and on their own futures. The entire approach helps children and youth see their crimes as part of the larger community, within the social context that it has occurred, far more than a punitive approach ever could. Recidivism rates for first time offenders have declined.

The cross section of community partners involved in the entire process helps to ensure that at risk youth are not slipping through the cracks. This involvement has enhanced the communication both within the Service and among our partner agencies as we meet to deal with ongoing youth criminal justice issues. Referrals can come from many directions in addition to the police.



The model addresses youth crime in a holistic manner, taking into account the child's family situation, support network, school performance and providing a means for restitution to the victim. It has assisted in:

- Holding young people accountable for their actions.
- Fostering respect for societal values.
- Emphasizing responsibility to the victim and the community.
- Helping young people understand the impact of their actions.
- Allowing young persons to make the connection between the offense and its consequences.
- Encouraging the involvement of parents, families, and the community in the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth.
- Assisting particularly disadvantaged groups or communities.
- Increasing community involvement in the youth justice system.
- Reducing the chance of children under 12 entering the youth justice system.

This integrated model has significantly changed the police response to youthful criminal offenders. In 2001, 2081 youth were processed, yet only 605 were eventually charged. The number charged in 2002 decreased to 520, despite an increase in the number of youth processed (2,471). Police officers have recognized that this process provides accountability for the young person. This has resulted in an increasing number of young people being diverted.

Rehabilitation starts with taking ownership of the offending behaviour, an element that is addressed broadly in the Halton approach. This is a model that can be replicated by other police services. In time, we believe other communities will benefit from this model, as they strive to find timely interventions that reinforce the link between the offending behaviour and its consequences.

The Halton Regional Police Service has responded to the increasing issues of youth crime that were identified in the mid to late 1990's. By providing the required early interventions that address the root causes of youthful offending, the Service and the community are working to prevent repetition of the offending behaviours.



Lessons Learned - Evaluation

Parent/Youth Crisis Line Not Needed

At the outset of the program, the partners whom established the project identified the need for a "crisis line" for parents of young people who were in conflict with the law. Police officers carried a card given to parents when a young offender was arrested or "in trouble" with the law. A crisis line was staffed by rotating volunteers who would be paged should a call come be received. The help/crisis line was not used - it was cancelled after three months.

Parent Information Sessions Not Attended

Partner agencies working with police recommended that Parent Information Sessions covering a variety of topics be offered over a four-week period. Parents indicated they were searching for information on how to deal with many behavioural problems that have or would lead to criminal behaviour. Sessions were arranged, parents were offered the series of an evening program, and other that the first session did not attend the subsequent planned nights. In spite of a review of the program and methods used, no specific determination was made as to the cause for the lack of interest.

Non-traditional Staff (Social Workers) Can Work in a Police Environment

Social workers, as full time staff are not traditionally utilized working alongside police officers. Trust, confidence and credibility can only be attained through excellent work and positive results that take time. Being part of the "Team" requires a transitional process supported by patience.

Independent Evaluation - An Excellent Strategy

The program used the services an independent evaluator (Dr. A. Leishied) to provide critical points of view on the program. The results provided credibility for the program, made suggestions for future direction, provided rationale for funding sustainability, and gave the police organization some confidence that the innovative direction aligned with research on effective youth justice responses. It provided an opportunity for the police to be committed to the response. It was a boost to marketing the present and future youth initiatives.

Celebrate Successes

Sharing positive "human" stories, successes, and results assisted the evolution of the program.



Place for Volunteers

There is a place for volunteers in positions of critical responsibility. Not all programs require staffing by professionals.

Persistence

Persistence and patience are required when implementing strategies and responses that change the philosophical direction of the police organization. A commitment to creative and innovative responses is supported by a strong vision, determination, and support all helps the transition.

Conclusion

Conclusion

The development of Project C.A.P.E.R. followed and was guided by research and worldwide best practices that supported the principles of Restorative Justice. The Halton Regional Police Service adapted to contemplated changes in legislation long before they were enacted. The vision of finding a better way to deal with youth crime and reducing its impact on the community continues. This continual improvement process enhances the ability of the Service to meet the changing needs of the community and ensure that Halton Region remains a safe place to live and work.



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HALTON UNDER 12 OUTREACH PROJECT (SNAP™)¹

*SNAP™ has helped me with bullying and the **stuff...given** me the power to tell me to stop. I am stronger, can make better decisions. I really liked going to groups and camp, I wish I could still go!... Michael H., SNAP™ participant*

I have seen a remarkable difference in my son since participating in SNAP™. Before SNAP™, he was headed towards self-destruction. As a parent, you feel this horrid sense of helplessness. Now he has better self-control in situations where he had none, and seems to reason out more situations before he reacts. Watching him, I believe he has more self confidence and self esteem and feels good about the new control he has over him self. The staff were great in their ability to reach my child, and help him find positive solutions to potentially negative situations. He was clearly headed for serious trouble before participating in SNAP™. With great appreciation for what you have done for us...SNAP™ parent

I. OVERVIEW

Transitions for Youth, formerly Community Resource Services (Ontario) is a charitable not for profit organization. It was established as a community development project of the Burlington Social Planning Council in 1981. The goal was to meet the identified needs of Burlington youth involved with or at risk of becoming involved with, the criminal justice system. For many years, the agency focused on clients already involved with the system in the Halton Region. However, as times change and the organization evolves it is apparent that an important area of focus needs to be prevention and early intervention.

a OUR MISSION

The Mission of Transitions for Youth is to serve our community by helping at-risk youth and young adults improve relationships with others, identify, and work towards reaching their full potential, and to interact with their community in a positive way.

b OUR VALUES

- We believe that people have unique and individual needs and will make significant changes in their lives when provided with the opportunity.
- We believe in providing a safe, supportive environment for the people we serve.
- We believe that involvement of family members should be encouraged.
- We accept the responsibility to advocate on behalf of the people we serve.
- We believe in the core values of respect, responsibility, and reliability.

¹ SNAP™ is used under license from EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre. Program is adapted from EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre, Toronto, ON.

c OUR HISTORY

- 1981 Community Resource Services established initial service to supervise and monitor Community Service Order dispositions for courts.
- 1983 First residential program established, Grader House for youth ages 16-19
- 1985 Phoenix program established in Burlington, open custody residential program for 12 to 16 year-olds.
- 1988-1994 Addition of two more residential programs, Spruce Lane in Acton and Delwood in Milton. Secured contract for Alternative Measures in Halton Region. Court offices opened in Milton and Oakville.
- 1994-2000 Early intervention and prevention programs introduced. Partnerships established with Oakville YMCAs, Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre and Woodview Children's Centre.
- 2000-2002 Expansion of GOALS and Aftercare Programs. Halton Under 12 Outreach Project and Bridging the Gap are implemented.

d OUR PROGRAMS

Transitions for Youth offer six different areas of programs and services. These include:

- 1) Prevention/ Intervention Programs - Halton Under 12 Outreach Project (SNAP™), OPTIONS and Goals
- 2) Re-integration Programs - Aftercare
- 3) Programs that address homelessness - Bridging the Gap
- 4) Court Based Programs - Community Service Orders, Alternative Measures, Court Liaison
- 5) Residential (Custody/Detention) Programs- Macmillan, Phoenix and Spruce Lane
- 6) Residential (Group Home) Program - Mackenzie

II. THE PROJECT: HALTON UNDER 12 OUTREACH PROJECT (SNAP™)

The Young Offenders Act of Canada (1985) prohibits laying criminal charges against children under 12 who are caught engaging in activities that those over 12 can be charged. This leaves a huge gap in how we help young people under the age of 12 who have come in contact with the police through minor and moderate offences, in minimizing the risk of them being involved in more serious and future criminal activity.

The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project, (adapted from the EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre) helps children under the age of 12 who come into contact with police or who are engaging in behaviour that would involve the criminal justice system if they were 12,

improve self-control and learn problem-solving skills. As well, it helps parents better monitor and guide their child's behaviour. The project began nine months ago as a pilot project with funding from the Department of Justice and the Community Mobilization Program.

Halton Regional Police Services, Children's Aid Society, schools, Fire Departments, parents, and agencies within the Halton Region make referrals to the project. Once the intake call (referral) is taken, a child and family worker from the project makes contact within 2 working days to connect with the family and enrol the child in the program. If necessary, the worker will visit the family to ensure that the program fits their needs and identify any other services and support that may be required. The program is offered at no cost to the family.

The Child's involvement is in a club where children learn to SNAP™, Stop Now and Plan in difficult situations. They participate in discussions, role-play, and sports activities. The Clubs meet after school and evenings for one hour and a half. They are held for approximately 12 consecutive weeks and include a visit to a local police or fire station depending upon the child's presenting problems. The family's involvement includes counselling, parent education, and support during crisis times.

The Children's' group sessions include:

- Goal setting
- Stop stealing
- Group Pressure
- Fair Play
- Rewarding Yourself
- Police Station/Fire Station Visit
- Group Pressure to Steal
- Angry Feelings
- Avoiding Trouble
- Accusations
- Apologizing
- When you are not sure

The Parents' group 12 week session which runs concurrently with children's groups' offers self-control and problem solving support. Topics include:

- Tracking
- Charting
- Time Outs
- Listening
- Encouraging
- Giving Commands
- Monitoring
- Problem Solving Skills

Other components of the Halton Under 12 Project include; SNAPP Stop Now and Plan Parenting - individual family counselling; In Home Academic Tutoring - connecting child with a volunteer tutor or resource centre; School Advocacy and Teacher Consultation - assisting to build a bridge between the school and parents for more effective communication and Victim Restitution - "Fix It Agreement".

III. EXPECTED AND MEASURABLE OUTCOMES. EVALUATION

A risk assessment is completed before a child becomes involved in the program. The purpose of risk assessment is to speculate in an educated way about the violence that an individual might commit and to identify what is required to stop such violence from occurring.

The assessment tool used is the Earl 20B. It is an assessment that helps identify the risk of a child engaging in future antisocial behaviour. It helps in identifying children's levels of risk to themselves and to others. It also offers a picture of the entire family in order to provide support appropriate to their needs. The assessment is also completed mid way and upon completion of participation in the program to determine progress; identifiable risks still present and further action and support that may be needed.

Other than the Earl 20B assessment tool, it is difficult to track measurable outcomes of the program as it has been in operation for nine months. Expected and hopeful outcomes include no further involvement with the police, the ability of the child to be able to solve potential problems without getting into trouble and positive changes at school and at home.

IV. BUDGET

Expenses	Budget 4/1/02-3/31/03	Actual 4/1/02- 9/30/02	Proposed 4/1/03 – 3/31/04
Project Workers (3)	\$99,000	\$48,764	\$112,110
Benefits	\$12,198	\$5,730.48	\$14,328
Program Supplies/Expenses	\$4,500	\$1,079.10	\$3,000
Paging/Equipment Charges	\$379	\$86.34	\$200
Mobile Equipment/Charges	\$1,330	\$668.62	\$2,250
Promotion/Public Awareness	\$1,125	0	\$1,000
Staff Training/Development	\$2,000	\$10	\$2,000
Staff Recruitment	0	0	\$500
Travel/Mileage	\$3,000	\$2,189.24	\$7,000
Office Supplies	\$1,250	\$647.78	\$1,800
Computer Equipment Charges	\$1,500	0	\$1,000
Telephone	\$1,200	\$445.82	\$1,000
Office/Program Space Rental	\$4,000	\$1,940.10	\$4,000
Allocated Central Administration	\$14,609	\$5,324.40	\$16,687
TOTAL	\$146,091.00	\$66,885.88	\$166,875.00

Revenue	Budget 4/1/02-3/31/03	Actual 4/1/02- 9/30/02	Proposed 4/1/03 – 3/31/04
Community Mobilization Fund (pilot)	\$49,556	\$49,556	
Department of Justice (pilot)	\$96,535	\$96,535	
Requested Funding (not secured)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trillium Foundation • Corporate Donations • Counselling Foundation 			\$44,000 \$22,875 \$100,000
TOTAL	\$146,091.00	\$146,091.00	\$166,875

HALTON UNDER 12 OUTREACH PROJECT (SNAP™) PROGRAM NUMBERS

	2002/2003	2003/2004
Children and families	34	76

V. SUMMARY

Current Research indicates a "continuum of support including emphasis on a range of preventive programs significantly enhances the success rate of programs when targeting reduction in recidivism rates for youth at risk of involvement in delinquent activity." (Leschied, Andrews, 1992.) Similarly, Our Promise For Children, published by the Canadian Institute Of Child Health in 1997 contends that we need to focus on ways to help all children develop to their full potential, thus seeking to prevent problems rather than mainly addressing problems once they occur. The development of a continuum of services that begins with early identification and prevention initiatives is supported as a means of providing comprehensive services to communities.

The implementation of the Halton Under 12 Outreach Project (SNAP™), addresses a critical gap in the range of services within the Halton Region. In discussions with Halton Children's Aid Society, The Halton Regional Police and Halton Board of Education, it was clear that there existed and still exist a number of children and families that were readily identified as "at risk". This was determined particularly in terms of their current or previous involvement with existing services and as those who presented difficulties in schools, at home and in the community. Halton Under 12 Outreach Project (SNAP™) has strived to meet the challenge of providing services to children and families in Halton Region who have come in contact with the police for criminal activity. Voluntary participation in this program has allowed these children to benefit from a range of services designed to meet their needs and identified risk factors at a much lower cost than future formal court sanctioned processes.

It costs \$2,200.00 to provide this program to one child and their family, in an attempt to reduce the risk of further future criminal activities of a much more serious nature. It costs \$60,000 to incarcerate a young person and research would support the fact that unless this young person receives support while

incarcerated they will return, as they get older to more serious criminal involvement.

We respectfully ask the Counselling Foundation of Canada to consider supporting the operation of this program with a financial commitment of \$100,000. This financial support will ensure 45 children and their families in the Halton Region are able to participate in the Halton Under 12 Outreach Project and receive the help and support so badly needed..

VI. CONTACT INFORMATION

Marg Fraser: Director of Resource Development
Mailing Address: 3365 Harvester Road, Burlington ON L7N 3N2
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E-mail: marg@transitionsforyouth.on.ca

HALTON U12 OUTREACH PROJECT
Transitions for Youth
Attn: Mrs. Sue Brooks.

December 17, 2002

Dear **Sue** and of course, **all** the **U12** employees,

I **would** like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for this wonderful program, you have made it possible to better understand **Shasta-Dawn's** thoughts and actions.

Shasta-Dawn has had one tough go of it with school as well as friendships, preferring adults or younger children to her peers. When Sue Brooks got involved last summer and took **Shasta-Dawn** out one-on-one on a weekly basis, we noticed differences. When Sue offered **Shasta-Dawn** a spot in the S.N.A.P. summer-camps, I jumped at the opportunity. **Shasta-Dawn** absolutely loved it. She started to smile again and became much more upbeat, she felt great! People who could understand and help her were a rarity! She is used to being told how she should behave, but not shown how she can achieve and control that behavior and use it properly.

About three months ago **Shasta-Dawn**, her little sister and I joined other parents and children at a local school for the family SNAP **program**, which was offered for twenty sessions. The sessions were absolutely wonderful. The parents were shown videos of the **work** the counselors did with the children, **we** had discussions as a group, **role-playing**; we received many tools to **help** us cope better.

Today, the things both her and I have learned over the past number of months have made such a huge difference, I have actually seen some of her behavior include the tools she has been shown. Day-to-day it is **still** a challenge, but it has become a more manageable one.

I hope this program will be able to assist many other families, as it has helped us. My family and I are looking forward to a much more than a wonderful Christmas season, it **will** be more like the first Christmas of the rest of our lives

Wishing you all and your families the most wonderful things of the season and the very **best** wishes for 2003!!

Yours truly,

Mrs. Carharina
_ _

HALTON U12 OUTREACH PROJECT

Transitions For Youth

3365 Harvester Rd, Burlington, Ontario, L7N 3N2

Telephone (905) 632-6531 or 1-888-389-5535; Fax (905) 632-6560

I think that this is an excellent program/forum to help parents understand and manage their children and to help understand and change ~~my~~ parents methods of ~~the~~ interacting with children. I have personally found the program useful and believe it has contributed to improved interaction with Eric.

Leah

Jodi **Finch**
Transitions for Youths
3365 Harvester Road
flurlington, ON
L7N 3N2

Karen 1

Oakville, ON
L6H 1X2

To Jodi,

I am writing to say how pleased I am with the SNAP program that is offered through Transitions for Youths. I was having a lot of problems with my 10-year-old son **Kyle** both at home and at school. I **heard** about the **program** on one of my many trips to **the** school in order to pick Kyle up as he had been suspended again. The **principle** at the school gave me your flyer for the Gold program I **believe**. At first Debbie was coming to our house once a **week**, after a few weeks **she** suggested the SNAP program and gave me the number to **call** I did **and** life has **been** much better since. We still **have** our off days but nothing as bad or as often as before and I believe that the **program had** a lot **to** do with this and I would certainly recommend it to anyone in **the** same situation that **we** were. Kyle **himself seems** to have more self-esteem and has **made** new friends and that means **the** world to me.

Thanks guys for all the great help you **gave** Kyle and I, and I hope you can keep the program going in order to help a lot of others going through the same **thing**.

Regards

Karen

August 31, 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Snap

Six months ago there were very few positives in my eight-year-old son's life outside the home and the anxiety this created was now spilling over into the home. Due to events leading up to this, I had sought out assistance and direction from the Halton branch of Community Resource Services (Ontario). With our workers assistance, we made a few attempts to set Matthew up in existing programs ran by the Community Resource Services Team, but for various reasons i.e. was much younger and immature than the **average** participant, Matthew was not a good fit to achieve any type of success or receive an appropriate level of value from these programs.

In February my worker approached me regarding a program called '**SNAP**' that had been running in the Toronto Area for approx. **10** years and was now approved to pilot in the Halton area. After some discussion and investigation, Matthew was deemed a good candidate and we were enrolled **for** the initial session starting in March.

We were about a third of the way through the program, the weekend after the session on stealing, an event occurred that made me realize the impact the program was having with Matthew. There was a dispute going on outside between Matthew and his group of friends. Upon investigation and talking with the boys, I found out that Matthew had just admitted to one of his friends that he had '**kept**' two Yugio cards that he had left at our house two months ago even though Matthew knew they **didn't** belong to him. To further the issue, Matthew had lost the two cards in question and could not return them. This behavior had never come up before with Matthew and was a shock to me that things had escalated further than I thought. My immediate response was to punish Matthew for his actions, but the boys all started to clamor that everything was okay and they had come to a resolution. Apparently, prior to my involvement, Matthew had not only admitted to keeping the cards but had also recommended that he give his friend the choice of any two cards from his collection in repayment **for** the lost cards. This solution was acceptable to Matthew's friend and the issue was closed as far as they were concerned. I then reconsidered and felt that to punish now would negate the positive feelings and behavior that Matthew had exhibited by taking responsibility for his actions. Fortunately for Matthew, this incident did not have a lasting impact on his friendship and the two boys remain good friends.

When I spoke to Matthew later that day regarding what had transpired, one of the questions I asked him was what prompted him to come forward with this information after two months. He responded that he had been feeling guilty ever since and that the stealing session from SNAP made him realize that the only way he was going to feel better about himself was to admit what he had done and hope that his friend would accept his apology and resolution. This was a giant step for Matthew, and he continued to enjoy the relationships and learn from the program.

The SNAP program along with the program administrators have had a very positive effect on Matthew and myself. The attention, support and positive attitudes provided by the program administrators has not only been contained to the program itself. They have assisted us with getting Matthew into an appropriate school setting and sourcing summer camps that will help build Matthew's confidence and self-esteem. As a result, Matthew and I have a more positive outlook for what lies ahead and feel that we have support behind us.

Regards,


Janet

HALTON U12 OUTREACH PROJECT

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Just a little note to let you know that the SNAP Program has been very rewarding and informative for my son and myself. It was great to get together with other people and feel that you are not alone and that there are other families experiencing difficulties with Anger Management in their homes.

The program has been very helpful for all of us and to know that there is support in our area is a great relief to many of us. The 3 months program seemed to have gone by quite quickly and many of us will still need some on going guidance and support. As a parent to feel that there is still need for some of us to continue to keep in close contact with the workers and maybe continue to meet with them every so often to keep on top of the implementation of the program. It would also be great if there was further funding for the children to keep in touch as well through a summer camp or meeting as the children really bonded together and have a lot in common.

September 25th, 2002

RECEIVED
OCT 03 2002

Sue Brooks.
Project Coordinator
Halton Under 12 Outreach Program
Transitions For Youth
3365 Harvester Road
Burlington, Ontario

Dear Sue;

Re: SNAP - Stop Now and Plan

Just a short note to let you know how Michael is doing since he was enrolled in SNAP. Hopefully this program will continue, and other children having anger management and impulsive behavior disorders will be able to take advantage of this program.

It has helped Michael control his anger. He stops now and thinks about how he feels, and actually talks himself through his emotions and the consequences to his reaction. It has helped at home and at school in conflicts with his siblings, classmates and also myself and **Brian**. He has developed new relationships and is doing well at school. What SNAP has taught him is a conscious reasoning process. It just took whatever you guys do, and how you relate to the kids, to get through to him.

The parent group was quite **helpful** to Brian and I. It helped us work out a **plan**, so that we were on the same track when dealing with Michael. It also gave us a forum to discuss what we were going through with other parents, give and get suggestions, and helped to feel like we were not the only ones on the face of the earth having problems.

Thanks again for all your support.

Sincerely;



Deborah

HALTON U12 OUTREACH PROJECT

Transitions For Youth

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Dec. 10/02

This program is beneficial, if not crucial to keeping families together. When there is one or more "troubled" member in a family, the support of a program such as this one is very necessary.

Our family has been involved in several other programs and groups. This one has been the most beneficial and supportive by far.

The continuing support after the program finishes will help us deal with any future crises.

J Anne.

HALTON U12 OUTREACH PROJECT

Transitions For Youth

3365 Harvester Rd, Burlington, Ontario, L7N 3N2

Telephone (905) 632-6531 or 1-888-389-5535; Fax (905) 632-6560

I would like to thank the SNAP group for a wonderful program. I learned parenting techniques, my son learned behavior modification techniques and my daughter loved the sibling group. The program dealt with issues my son has already encountered and others he is sure to have to deal with.

Please continue to fund this program for other children and parents!

Kendy :
Eric : (7)
Kelly : (9)

Oakville ON
L6H 4E8

Michael H ,

' SNAP has helped me with bullying and stuff..
given me the power to tell them to stop. I am
stronger , can make better decisions. I really
liked going to groups and camps , I wish I could
still go "

Matthew W:

"Snap has helped calm me down ... to know if what I'm doing is right or wrong ... if it is a good thing to do. If I keep using SNAP, I will get in less trouble at school."

Halton Children's Aid Society

Head Office
5045 South Service Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7L 6M9

Burlington, (905) 333-4441
North Halton, (905) 878-2375
Fax, (905) 333-1844
Legal Fax, (905) 333-2860
TTY, (905) 333-9761
Long Distance, 1-800-465-2145

Charitable Registration No. 0159939-01

November 13, 2002

To Whom It May **Concern,**

I am writing to support ongoing funding to the Halton Under **12** Outreach Project offered through Transitions for Youth. Since the implementation of the Halton Under **12** Outreach **Project**, I have had many opportunities to work with the Project staff.

The Halton Under **12** Outreach Project has been an excellent resource to our agency and to the families we serve. It is a unique program that reaches out to families and youth in their own community. This is an extremely valuable service in Halton considering the fact that the Halton region is very large and that many of **our** clients have historically been unable to access services because the services have only been offered in certain parts of the region. The Project is also very unique in the sense that it provides youth and their parents with a group experience as well as individual follow up. The preventative nature of the Project is very exciting and the staff have done an excellent job engaging even our most difficult clients.

I have noted many positive changes in the youth and families with whom this Project has served. The parents have been noted to have more effective skills in managing their children's difficult behaviour. Furthermore, the parents feel much more supported by the community. The youth have been noted to have more effective problem solving skills and more **self-control**. Without the Under **12** Outreach Project, I am confident that our community would have far more youth **entering** the Young Offender System and far more parents feeling alone and unsupported. I strongly urge you to continue providing funding to this program as a way of supporting at risk youth.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at **519-853-1090**.

Sincerely,



Laura Johnson, B.A., B.S.W.
School Based Family Service Worker



HALTON CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

802 DRURY LANE, P.O. BOX 5308, BURLINGTON, ONTARIO. L7R 4L3

TELEPHONE (905) 632-6300 FAX (905) 333-4661

November 11, 2002

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2002

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to write this letter of support for *The Halton Under 12 Outreach Program*. This program has operated at St. Patrick Catholic Elementary School in Burlington and the Principal reports that it has met its objectives:

- Assisting children who are involved in stealing, vandalizing, break and enter, assault, fire setting, shoplifting and trespassing.
- The Principal reports that in speaking with parents and students they all felt a great deal of **benefit** from the instruction.
- The students learn in a small group setting learning the SNAP Philosophy (*Stop Now And Plan*).

A corresponding parent group was established which was a real positive. The provision of individual family counselling is also seen as a positive for families.

It is without reservation that I support the continuation of this worthwhile program.

Yours very truly,

Brian P. Fichaud
Superintendent of Education

:ws

The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project Protocol

**For Children Under 12 in Conflict
With the Law**

January 2002

The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project Protocol

For Children Under 12 in Conflict With the Law

BACKGROUND

The Young Offenders Act of 1984 prohibits the prosecution of children under the age of 12. Children under 12 who commit offences fall under provincial child welfare legislation. In Ontario, child welfare intervention is indicated where a child under 12 has committed a murder, seriously injured another person, caused serious property damage or engaged more than once in behaviours injurious to others or resulting in property damage (Child and Family Services Act, R.S.O. 1990). However, for various reasons, many of these children and those committing less serious offences are not receiving appropriate support and services.

Given the wide range and severity of problems of young children under 12 in conflict with the law, there is a need to develop procedures and best practice activities which will help develop mechanisms to establish communication systems between the police, fire service, child welfare, schools and community agencies. As well, a collaborative effort is needed between the participants to reduce repeat "offending" in the under 12 population. The following is a list of concerns:

- There is no centralized or systematic mechanism for the police, child welfare or other community agencies to refer children under 12 years of age in conflict with the law to services.
- > There are no specific services designed for these children in Halton Region.
- There is no systematic process to get children the help they need.
- There are no police/interagency procedures for "red flagging" repeat offenders.

Since January 2001 the Halton Regional Police Service, Community Resource Services, Children's Assessment and Treatment Centre, the Halton Catholic and Public District School Boards and other major stakeholders including child welfare and other community agencies, in consultation with EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre (Toronto, Ontario), have collaborated to develop a centralized protocol for children under 12 who engage in criminal activity.

This Protocol is based on the Toronto Centralized Services **Protocol launched on February 1, 1999 for Children Under 12 in conflict with the law.** The Protocol establishes a **coordinated procedure amongst agencies who are prepared to ensure that children under 12 years of age in conflict with the law anywhere in Halton Region are connected with appropriate services in their own community.** Access to appropriate services can be reached by calling a new Intake Line at (905) 632-6531 to make the referral. The community of service providers will monitor referrals, presenting problems and disposition using common data collecting tools and ensure appropriate services.

POLICE REFERRAL PROCEDURE

When a police officer comes into contact with a child under 12 years of age engaging in activities but for their age they would be charged, an officer may consider referring the child with permission from the parent/guardian to the Intake Line. An officer would not refer the child if they have not received permission from the parent/guardian or the offence is so minor that a caution is sufficient. If a parent/guardian refuses to give permission for referral to the Intake Line and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that a child is deemed to be at risk, the officer is obligated to consult with the *Children's Aid Society of Halton*.

- 1. When assigned to an incident involving criminal or behavioural difficulties by a child under 12, the police officer shall:**
 - Investigate thoroughly to determine the circumstances surrounding the incident
 - > Check local files (HEART / CIMS) to determine any previous history
 - > Speak with parent /legal guardian or other care giver

- 2. When the criteria are not met for referral to The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project Protocol, having considered all the circumstances the police officer shall:**
 - Release the child to a parent or legal guardian
 - Submit a General Occurrence under the appropriate heading for the offences committed, and detailing all circumstances and noting that the child was cautioned
 - > Forward a copy of the occurrence to the District Youth Officer (advise the youth officer if on duty)

- 3. When the criteria are met for referral to The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project Protocol, the police officer shall:**
 - Comply with section 2 above and
 - Ask the parent/guardian for their consent to refer the child
 - If consent given call the intake line at (905) 632-6531

Note: Parents should be informed that the Halton Under 12 Outreach Project Staff will initiate contact with the family within 2 working days. Arrangements will be made in conjunction with the parent/guardian for the most appropriate treatment for the child.

4. When the criteria set out in the Child and Family Services Act section 37(2)(j)(k) are met, the police officer shall (if a child under 12 has committed a serious act and his/her parent/guardian refuses to cooperate with the voluntary services to receive help for their child, the referral source has a legal obligation to contact Children's Aid Society of Halton which then has the authority to begin an investigation).

- Apprehend the child as a "child in need of protection"
- > Contact Intake at the Children's Aid Society of Halton at (905) 333-4441
- Submit a General Occurrence under the appropriate heading for the offence

*Note: A police facility may be used to temporarily shelter a child in need of protection pending the arrival of the **Children's Aid Society of Halton.***

FIRE FIGHTERS, SCHOOL OFFICIALS OR COMMUNITY AGENCIES REFERRAL PROCEDURES

When fire fighters, school officials, or community agencies have contact with a child under 12 years of age engaging in delinquent activities (e.g., bullying, stealing, shoplifting, vandalism, arson, assault, break and enter, substance abuse), they may inform the child's parent/guardian that there is help available. The family may be given the number of the Intake Line or give verbal permission to the intervening agency to call on their behalf. In the event that the parent/guardian refuses voluntary services, call the *Children's Aid Society of Halton* to investigate and determine if that child is in need of protection.

PARENTAL ACCESS

Parents whose children under 12 years of age are engaging in antisocial behaviour, may access the Halton Under 12 Outreach Project directly by calling (905) 632-6531.

Co-ordinated Access Protocol

The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project can be accessed directly by contacting the Intake Worker at Community Resource Services (905) 632-6531.

- > Intake Workers for any of the agencies will respond to calls.
- > In the event that the Intake Worker is unavailable, calls will be responded to within one working day.
- The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project will initiate contact with the family within 2 working days.
- If required, face-to-face contact with the family will be made within 5 working days.

CHILD WELFARE PROTOCOL

The *Children's Aid Society of Halton* may become involved where a child under 12 years of age has caused serious injury to another person, caused serious damage to another person's property, on more than one occasion has injured another person, or caused loss or damage to another person's property, AND/OR the caregiver has encouraged the child's behaviour, AND/OR the parent or person having charge of the child does not provide, or refuses or is unavailable to provide those services or treatment, AND/OR adequate supervision is necessary to prevent a recurrence; the child's parents or person having charge of the child does not provide adequate supervision for the child, AND/OR the child's parent is passive in finding the required treatment resources or in providing adequate supervision to prevent the commission of serious acts.

Child Welfare Referral Process

When the police officer or others working with a child under 12 years of age in conflict with the law have reason to believe that the child who is the subject of their service may be in need of protection, a call should be initiated to the *Children's Aid Society of Halton*. Telephone referrals should be directed to the Intake Social Worker on call (normal business hours) or to the emergency services (after business hours) where there are immediate safety concerns for the child or where the referral cannot be effected on the next working day by the person having the referral information. In situations where the intake worker determines that the family is already receiving service from the child welfare agency, the matter will be referred to the assigned social worker for follow-up.

Children's Aid Society of Halton Telephone Number: 333-4441 Fax Number: 333-1844

Note: In Halton referrals may come through **Connections Halton**.

The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project

For Children Under 12 in Conflict With the Law

The following agencies and organizations support the Halton Under 12 Outreach Project:

1. Earlscourt Child & Family Centre _____
2. Halton Trauma Centre _____
3. Children's Assessment & Treatment Centre _____
4. Community Resource Services _____
5. Nelson Youth Centre _____
6. Creative Resultz for Kidz _____
7. Halton Regional Police Service _____
8. Halton District School Board _____
9. Halton Catholic District School Board _____
10. Halton Region Health & Social Services _____
11. Child & Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatric Unit, _____
Halton Health Care Services
12. Halton Children's Aid Society _____
13. Halton Area Fire Departments _____
14. Halton Adolescent Support Services _____



Building on strength. Creating brighter futures.

COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENT

This document will serve as the collaborative agreement between **Transitions for Youth, Halton Child and Youth Services, Halton Regional Police Services, Halton Catholic District School Board, Halton District School Board, and EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre.**

Transitions for Youth will play the role of lead applicant taking responsibility in the agreement with Trillium Foundation for the management of the project, and will speak publicly on behalf of the collaborative.

Roles

- o Transitions for Youth - delivery of the project
- o Halton Child and Youth Services - clinical support and expertise
- o Halton Regional Police Services - referral source and staff support to parent groups, station visits
- o Halton Catholic District School Board - referral source and donation of program space
- o Halton District School Board - referral source and donation of program space
- o EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre - ongoing consultation and training for program staff

Purpose

The collaborative was formed initially to implement the pilot project for the Halton Under 12 Outreach Project. The project addresses a critical gap in the range of services within the Halton Region. In discussions with Halton Children's Aid Society, Halton Regional Police Services and Halton Boards of Education, it was clear that there existed and still exist a number of children and families that were readily identified as "at risk". This was determined particularly in terms of their current or previous involvement with existing services and as those who presented difficulties in schools, at home and in the community. The Halton Under 12 Outreach Project has strived to meet the challenge of providing services to children and families in Halton Region who have come in contact with the police for criminal activity. Voluntary participation in this program has allowed these children to benefit from a range of services designed to meet their individual needs and identified risk factors at a much lower cost than future formal court sanctioned processes.

Goals of the collaborative are to:

1. Ensure children in contact with the police are connected with the appropriate services in their community
2. Help children stay in school
3. Help children improve their self control and problem solving skills
4. Help parents better monitor and guide their child's behavior.
5. Reduce the rate of recidivism by helping them avoid further contact with the police

Timeframe

The terms of this agreement are April 1, 2003 until March 31, 2006. At this time there will be an opportunity to revisit and renew the collaborative if deemed appropriate.

Decision Making Process

The collaborative will meet quarterly to review the project and its goals.

1. Transitions for Youth will have the authority to spend money on behalf of the organization based on the budget submitted and agreed upon by the group.
2. Hiring decision will be made by Transitions for Youth and Halton Child and Youth Services.
3. Decisions about policy or direction that the program will take will be made by the entire collaborative **with** Earls court taking the lead in program matters, as they are the agency that developed the model.
4. Decisions to apply for grants can be made by any of the members as long as the others are informed and they fit the missions and ethics of each partner. In the case of a conflict of interest the group would need to discuss as a whole in order to come to a majority decision that meets everyone's needs.
5. Planning decisions will be made by Transitions for Youth and Halton Child and Youth Services, in consultation with Earls court and the Police when applicable.
6. In situations where conflicts cannot be resolved, the issues will be presented to the Executive Directors of each of the collaborative.

How the Fund's Will Be Managed

Transitions for Youth are authorized to distribute the grant funds as necessary. Invoice payment will be the responsibility of Sheila Erickson, CMA, Manager of Finance and Administration. Expenditures and revenues are recorded using computerized accounting software with financial statements prepared on a monthly basis. Statements for Trillium Foundation will be prepared on behalf of the collaborative by Sheila Erickson, CMA, Manager of Finance and Administration, Transitions for Youth.

Signed by:



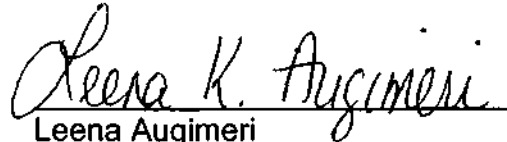
Karen Hewden
Manager of Community Programs
Transitions for Youth



Heather Cook
Director of Clinical Services
Halton Child and Youth Services



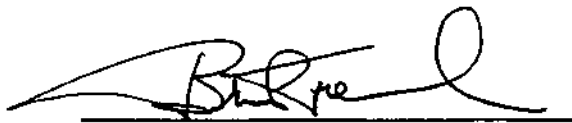
Dan Okuloski,
Superintendent
Halton Regional Police Services



Leena Augimeri
Director, CCOO
EarlsCourt Child and Family Centre



Gary Sadler
Superintendent Community Relations
Halton District School Board



Brian Fichaud
Superintendent of Education
Halton Catholic District School Board

Issue 3
Special Edition
December 2002

A Publication of Earls court Child and Family Centre

Referrals for children at-risk for police contact in Toronto can be made through the Central Intake Line: **416-654-8981**

Community Partnerships at Work: Four New Children Under 12 Protocols Developed in Ontario

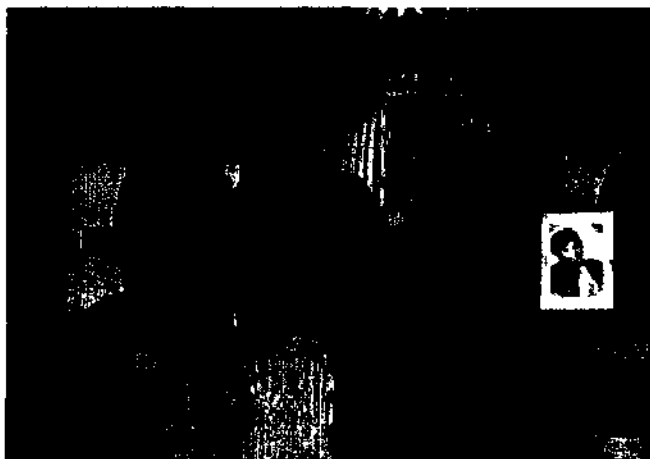
Four new protocols have been established in communities across Ontario to deal with children under 12 in conflict with the law. Facilitated by Earls court Child and Family Centre (ECFC) that sponsored the development of Canada's first community-police protocol in conjunction with the Toronto Police Service in 1999, the signing of these protocols represents a significant step toward ensuring that services are provided to these children and their families in a timely fashion.

Effective June 2002, Barrie, Chatham-Kent, Thunder Bay and Kawartha Lakes each have a formal referral process for children who come to the attention of authorities as a result of their antisocial behaviour. The four sites reflect both rural and urban settings, large and small populations, and differing models of police service delivery.

The protocols were the result of focused work by Task Forces comprised of police, fire, child welfare, education, children's mental health, and other community-based stakeholders. The process unfolded concurrently in the four sites, and took just under six months for signed documents to be produced.

An evaluation of the process was undertaken by a researcher at arms length from the process. The results were extremely positive and are highlighted throughout this issue.

These protocol developments processes were expedited by ECFC's Centre for Children Committing Offences under contract with the Ontario Ministry of Public Safety and Security. We thank Jane Rogers, **Samina Sami**, Frances McKeague, Eve Roknic and the Ministry for their continued commitment to crime prevention.



Chatham Protocol Task Force Member Mike Neuts and Brenda Neuts

A Tribute to Myles: Child Tragedy Results in Positive Change

Only 10 years old, Myles Neuts was found unconscious hanging from a coat hook in a school bathroom in October 1998. It was alleged at the time that two boys under the age of 12 with a history of antisocial behaviour played a part in his death. In the months after the incident, the Chatham-Kent police came under scrutiny for their inability to obtain statements from the students who were the only suspects in the case. Due to its striking similarity to the case of 3 year-old James Bulger who was murdered by two children in England in 1993, the Neuts case attracted international attention on the issue of children and the law, and in particular, how the police go about interviewing child witnesses.

The incident prompted a Coroner's inquest which led to a symposium on children under 12 in conflict with the law hosted by the Chatham-Kent Police Service. Earls court Child and Family Centre presented at this two-day event in October, 2000 which was attended by scholars, educators and experts on police interviewing techniques with children, clinicians who work with anti-social youth, and members of the general community. The goal of the conference was to understand and correct mistakes and failures within the system of community service providers to prevent similar tragedies. Unofficially known as "The Myles Protocol", the Chatham-Kent Centralized Service Protocol for Children Under 12 in Conflict with the Law was officially launched on June 25, 2002.

Protocol Launch
Photos

Develop a
Protocol

Protocol Posters
in Ontario

Rewards
Already Gained

Our Challenge:
Guest Editorial

The People Who Made it Happen: Protocol Development Participants



Barrie Signees

Launched: June 24, 2002



Chatham-Kent Task Force & Signees

Launched: June 25, 2002



Kawartha Lakes Task Force & Signees

Launched: June 20, 2002



Thunder Bay Signees

Launched: June 27, 2002

Protocol Workplan Steps

A workplan was developed for use in each of the four demonstration sites. Overall, the workplan was judged to be helpful by 98% of the Task Force participants who participated in a follow-up interview about their protocol development experience. For each community, the specific steps in the workplan were as follows:

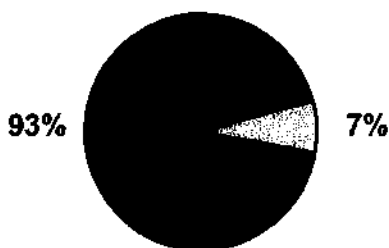
1. Identify key stakeholders;
2. Establish a task force;
3. Review/examine current legislation and community practices;
4. Examine local policing practices for children under 12;
5. Assess local service needs and resources for children under 12;
6. Review current responses and services offered through social service agencies and children's mental health services;
7. Attend community mobilization meetings to develop the protocol;
8. Launch the protocol; and
9. Evaluate the protocol process.

*"Was a protocol needed? Absolutely!
They're needed in every community.
There are gaps in services for under 12s.
It's felt by everyone around the table."*

Barrie Task Force Participant

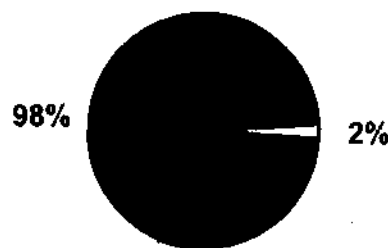
Selected Protocol Evaluation Findings

Do you think a Protocol was needed in your community?



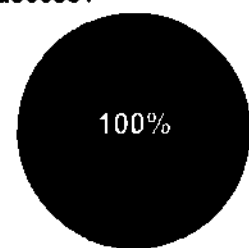
■ YES □ NO

Do you think that the Protocol will benefit your community?

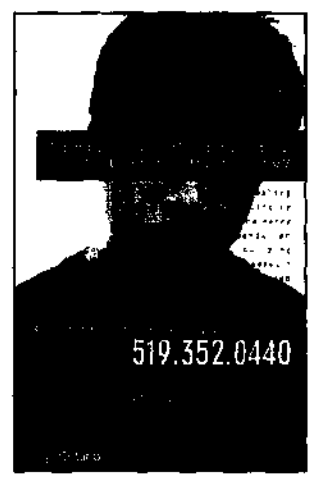
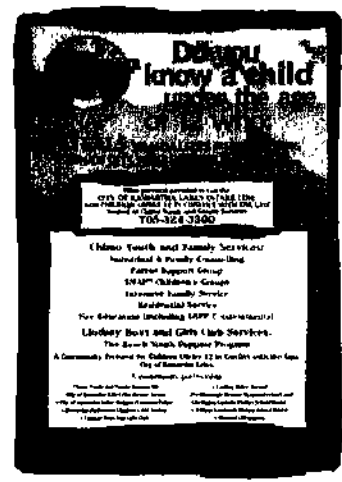
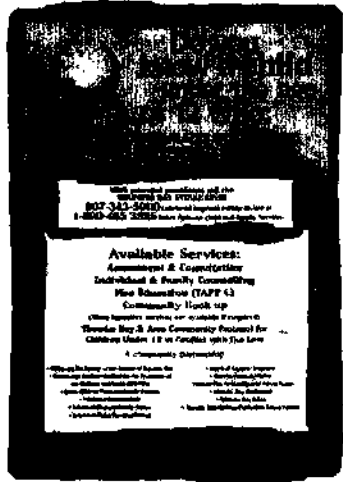


■ YES □ UNSURE

Do you think that the development of the Protocol in your community was a success?



■ YES



Demonstration Site Police-Community Protocol Posters (L-R): Barrie, Thunder Bay, Kawartha Lakes, Chatham-Kent

Positive Protocol Benefits Already Realized at Demonstration Sites

The evaluation of the four demonstration site police protocol projects revealed that attending protocol development meetings has already strengthened partnerships amongst community service providers – one of the most frequently cited benefits from the project:

“Everybody can win in this situation. The problem doesn’t just belong to one group of service providers. The more that everyone participates, the better the outcome.”

Task force members stated that key ingredients for success were knowing when meetings were, stating expectations up front, having regular updates, and sticking to timeframes. To this end, having strong commitment at each of the four tables and a skilled facilitator were viewed as crucial elements contributing to the success of the project. Many stressed the need to push forward with protocols in spite of less than ideal resources or anticipated outcomes:

“They should not be deterred by the current lack of resources and take a narrow ‘here and now’ focus. Take a step back and see how you could improve the lives of a cohort of kids a generation away.”

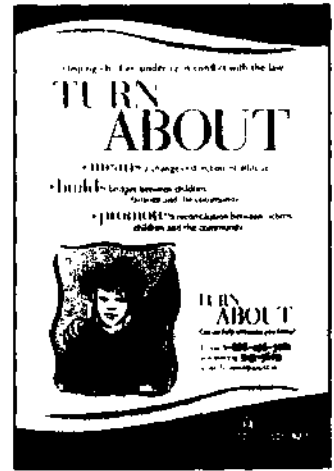
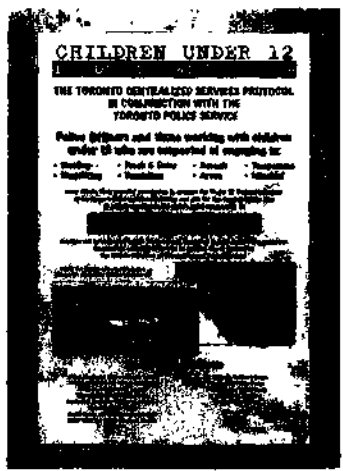
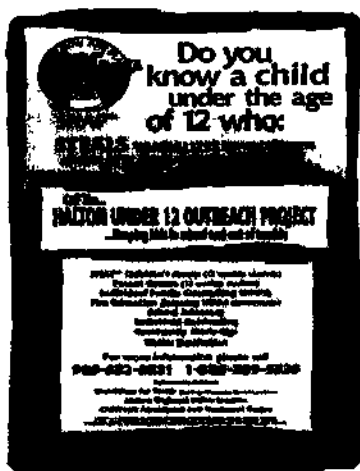
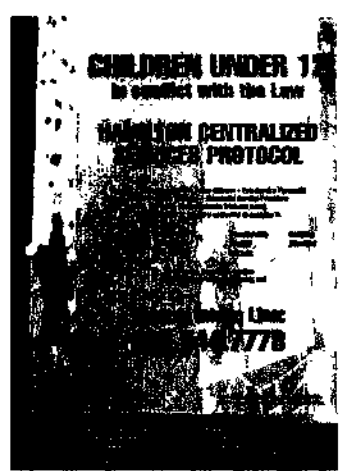
Future Directions: Protocol Recommendations

Protocol task force participants were pleased with the protocol development model used by the EarlsCourt facilitators:

“Other communities should look to having outside facilitation. The government should continue to fund this kind of facilitation – not reinvent the wheel and/or make things complex. They should focus on what is working in the community and not focus on weaknesses.”

The evaluation report of the demonstration project concludes with a number of recommendations to the Ministry of Public Safety and Security:

- Conduct a follow-up evaluation of the demonstration site projects;
- Continue crime prevention initiatives by supporting an encouraging the development of police/community protocols across Ontario;
- Enable EarlsCourt’s Centre for Children Committing Offences to monitor and promote Police Protocols across Ontario.



Police-Community Protocol Posters (L-R): Hamilton, Halton Region, Toronto, Province of Manitoba



Putting childhood back together.

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W: www.earls court.on.ca

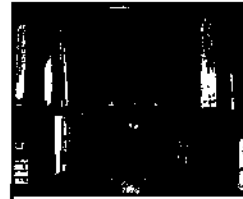
THE TORONTO PROTOCOL TEAM



Dave Saunders



Leena Augimeri



John Carey



Barbara Kozlov



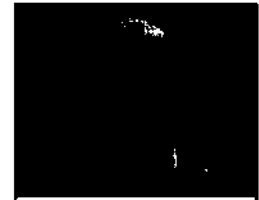
Chris Koegl



Krista Abbott



Sarah Chanda



Chris Webster

Please contact us: If you are interested in becoming a protocol partner, or have suggestions on how to improve services for children under 12 in conflict with the law.

Det. Sgt. Dave Saunders, Youth Crime Coordinator, Toronto Police Service; **Leena Augimeri**, Director, Centre for Children Committing Offences (CCCO); **John Carey**, Manager, Under 12 Outreach Project; **Barbara Kozlov**, Office Receptionist, CCCO; **Chris Koegl**, Research Consultant, CCCO; **Krista Abbott**, Researcher, Under 12 Outreach Project; **Sarah Chanda**, Protocol Liaison Worker, CCCO; **Chris Webster**, Senior Research Consultant, CCCO.

Manitoba Adopts Province-Wide Protocol for Under 12s

Manitoba is the first province in Canada to adopt a province wide protocol for children under 12 in conflict with the law. Modeled after the Toronto Protocol, the shared goal of "Turnabout" is to prevent children under 12 from having further police contact. Operated by Manitoba Justice and Healthy Child Manitoba, the protocol is grounded in partnerships between police and community based agencies across the province.

Because it applies to the entire province and not one community in particular, a degree of flexibility was incorporated into the Protocol which was shaped by a series of consultations that identified local priorities and preferences across a range of communities. Unlike other protocols developed to date in Canada, *Turnabout* will promote reconciliation between the child and the person who was harmed by way of apology or some other action.

Protocols Across Canada

Established Police-Community Protocols
Toronto, Hamilton, Halton Region, Kawartha Lakes, Barrie, Chatham-Kent, Thunder Bay, Province of Manitoba

In Process
Peel Region, Durham Region

The Challenge Before Us – Comments from the Field

By Douglas Good

Executive Director, Choices Child & Adolescent Services Ltd.
Chatham-Kent Task Force Member

Children do not suddenly begin committing offences after their 12th birthday. Everyone who works with children has at some point provided services to a child and uttered out loud "How did this kid get this way? Why wasn't something done earlier?" The age-old reply has always been, "They fell through the cracks." Over the years, our system has developed more cracks instead of less.

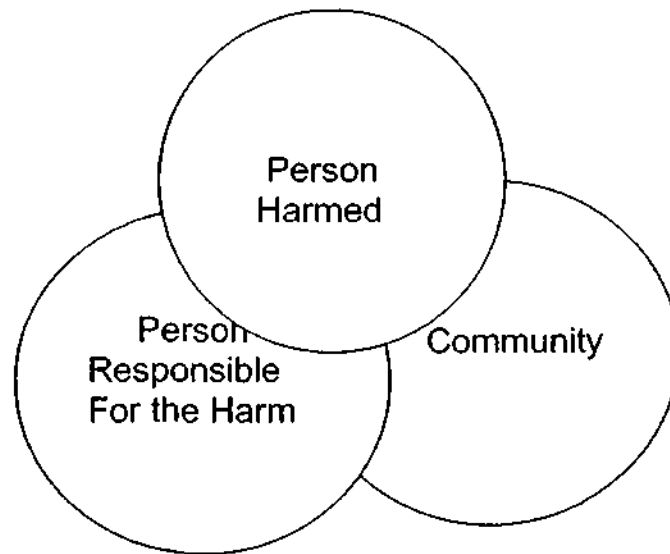
Service providers are dealing with year 2002 problems and populations with 1980s budgets. Programs and interventions have not kept pace with the changes in our communities. We have been listening to the cries of "early intervention" for years: Healthy Babies programs spring forth, child welfare laws are changed to make intervention available in a more timely manner, Under 12 Protocols are put in place in communities – all good and worthwhile steps, but what do we do with these children once they have been identified? We put them on waiting lists for under funded, under staffed programs. We then sit back and wait for them to turn 12 so that they can be involved in the youth justice system which is also under funded and overwhelmed by the demand and wonder "How did this kid get this far without getting some help?"

We need to cement the cracks with well thought out, well funded, proven effective programs. The biggest gap in resources is for children in the 6-12 age group – and let us not only address the highest risk of these children. We need appropriate resources available at all ends of the spectrum to close the cracks effectively.

Halton Justice



Conferencing Program



Resolution of Disputes A Restorative Justice
Program for Community
Resolution of Disputes

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6. Pamphlet --designed for consumers
7. Conferencing Consent Form — reviewed and signed with conference facilitator
8. Reparative Agreement Form
9. Post Conference Questionnaire — V --person harmed, three months after conference
10. Post Conference Questionnaire - R - Person responsible, three months after conference
11. Post Conference Questionnaire — P --Participant, three months after conference

REAL JUSTICE™

A Restorative Justice Model Using Family Group Conference

In the past few years the public have demanded that governments take a harder stand on crime. The argument has been based on the fact that current practices do not appear to be working. However, the real dilemma comes from trying to define what does work? What are the best practices for dealing with youth crime? Our past response has been based in a retributive model of justice that comes through a philosophy of punishment. If someone offends their community, they are often asked to pay back that community through community service work. The young person is placed on probation or removed from their community through the imposition of a custodial disposition or sentence. This method represents only half a response. Within our current adversarial system, the victim, as a person, is unheard and not represented to their satisfaction. This particular aspect our current judicial system is now being recognized. Societal response is moving from a retributive model to a restorative model.

What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice is a philosophy and practical approach that supports the idea that when a crime is committed in a community, the incident should be dealt with by those directly affected so that any injury is repaired and all persons work towards being restored to the way they were before the crime.

The practice of restorative justice encourages victims, offenders and supporters of each, and the community, to "make things right" after hearing all the facts and feelings of those involved.

How is this accomplished? Restorative Justice Conference.

A Conference is a meeting led by a trained facilitator where the victim, the offender, and supporters for both parties meet in a community room to discuss how that incident affected them. The offender is asked to describe the incident, what they were thinking at the time, what have they thought about since the incident, who they think has been impacted by their actions and how have they been affected. The purpose here is for the victim and their supporters to hear the offender admit to their behaviour and to acknowledge some understanding of how the victim might be feeling. The victim then has the opportunity to face their offender and to describe their reaction at the time of the incident, how they feel about what happened and the reaction of their support system in learning about the incident. After everyone has had the opportunity to address the

HALTON JUSTICE CONFERENCING PROGRAM

Pre-Conference Assessment Summary

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____
(names and addresses if different from above) _____

Ph: _____ Ph: _____

The conferencing process has been explained to the person who caused the harm. He/she has verbally consented to consider conferencing as an appropriate means for resolving this situation.

SUMMARY OF CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE OFFENCE: (brief summation of the details of this incident and any pertinent historical events involving similar behaviour with the same or any other victim).

FAMILY DYNAMICS: (including, parents marital status, visitation agreements, family members reaction to the incident).

HALTON JUSTICE CONFERENCING PROGRAM

Conferencing Consent Form

A Community Conference offers individuals who have been harmed, persons who have caused harm, and their community of support an opportunity to meet in a safe, confidential environment, with the help of a neutral facilitator. During the Conference, persons harmed, persons who caused the harm and their support persons can talk openly about their feelings. Discussion also includes suggestions on how the harm can be repaired.

We understand that the facilitators do not impose their values or make suggestions about what they think should be an agreement. Only participants themselves can make the terms of the agreement.

We understand that we can at any time and for any reason choose another alternative.

We understand and agree that everything said during the conference is confidential except, where the safety of another individual is concerned.

We agree to carry out the agreement if the conference results in a written agreement.

Print Name: _____ **Signed:** _____
(person harmed)

Print Name: _____ **Signed:** _____
(person who caused harm)

Print Name: _____ **Signed:** _____
(Parent of person who caused harm – willing to support the fulfillment of terms)

Facilitator: _____ **Signed:** _____

Date: _____/_____/_____
(day) (month) (year)



Name: _____ **Case I.D. #** _____

Date: _____ **Conference Site:** _____

Facilitator: _____

1. Provide a genuine apology to the victim: YES NOT REQUESTED

IN PERSON immediately by: _____

IN WRITING due date: _____ delivered to: _____

2. Compensation/Reparation Terms:

Action	Deadline

I, _____, have participated in developing this contract and agree to complete all conditions by the deadlines as noted. I understand all aspects of this agreement as presented to me. It is my responsibility to complete the conditions as outlined. I understand the program will monitor and verify completion of the terms. I understand that if I do not complete my responsibilities outlined here, or if the deadline is missed, my case will be reviewed by the referring party.

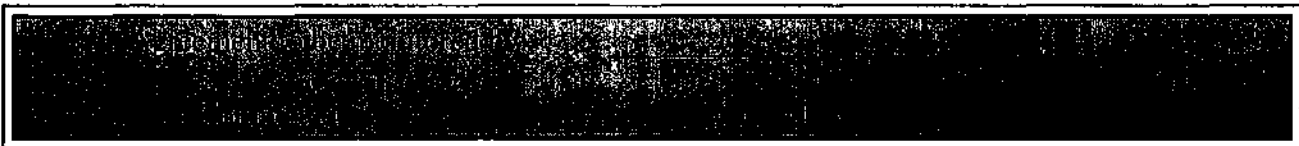
Print Name: _____ Signed: _____

Print Name (Parent/Guardian): _____ Signed: _____

Print Name (Harmed Person) _____ Signed: _____

Print Name (Facilitator) _____ Signed: _____

Date: _____



[REDACTED]

Reference # _____

Date of the conference: _____/_____/_____
(day) (month) (year)

Today's Date: _____/_____/_____
(day) (month) (year)

1. Did you know the person who caused the harm before the offence occurred? YES NO
If multiple persons knew all knew one or more knew none
- 1a. If yes, how did you know this person? If multiple offenders check all that apply.
 Friend Acquaintance Neighbour Other: _____
(Specify)
2. Of the possible effects of the incident on your life, which one was the most important to you?
 a greater sense of fear the loss of property
 the damage to property a feeling of powerlessness
 the hassle of dealing with police and court officials
3. How satisfied were you with the way the system handled your case?
 Very satisfied satisfied dissatisfied very dissatisfied
4. Do you believe that your opinion regarding the incident and the person(s) who caused the harm was adequately considered in this case? Yes No
5. Do you believe the person who caused the harm was adequately held accountable for his/her behaviour?
 Yes No
6. Do you believe that Conferencing should be offered, on a voluntary basis, to all persons who have been harmed?
 Yes No
7. Do you feel that being in the conference was your own choice? Yes Yes, under pressure No
- 7a. If yes, why did you choose to participate in the Conferencing Program?
 to get paid back for losses to receive answers to questions I had
 to help the person(s) who caused the harm to receive an apology
 to let the person(s) who caused the harm know how I felt about the incident
 other: specify _____
8. Would you say the tone of the conference was generally:
 Friendly Hostile Other: Specify _____

9. Were you surprised by anything that occurred in the conference session? Yes No

9a. If Yes, by what?

- it went better than I expected
- the person(s) who caused the harm seemed sincere
- it was worse than I expected the person(s) who caused the harm were arrogant
- Other: specify _____

10. Did the person who caused the harm seem to be sorry about the way he/she hurt you? Yes No

If multiple persons: all seemed sorry one or more seemed sorry none seemed sorry

11. Did the person who caused harm offer an apology? Yes No

If multiple responsible persons: all apologized one or more apologized none apologized

12. Was it helpful to meet the responsible person(s) in the conferencing setting?

very helpful somewhat helpful not at all helpful

13. Was restitution or a community service agreement negotiated during the conference? Yes No

13a. If Yes, was the agreement fair to you? Yes No

was the agreement fair to the person responsible? Yes No

If multiple responsible persons: fair to all fair to one or more fair to none

14. How likely do you think it is that the responsible person will commit a similar act against somebody?

very likely unlikely very unlikely

If multiple responsible persons: likely for _____ unlikely for _____

15. Would you recommend Restorative Justice Conferencing to other harmed persons? Yes No

16. Given your understanding of fairness, did you experience fairness in your case? Yes No

17. For the following, please indicate how important each item was to you during the conference:

To receive answers to questions I wanted to ask the responsible person(s)

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To tell the responsible person(s) how their actions affected me.

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To get paid back for my losses by the responsible person(s)

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To see that the responsible person(s) got some counseling or other type of help

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To see the person(s) responsible punished:

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To have the responsible person(s) say he/she is sorry:

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To have the opportunity to negotiate a repayment with the responsible person(s) that was acceptable to both of us:

very important important unimportant very unimportant

18. If you had it to do over again, would you choose to participate in a Restorative Justice Conference?

Yes No

19. The following are statements that are sometimes made by harmed persons who participate in Restorative Justice Conferences. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

Restorative Justice Conferencing allowed me to express my feelings about being harmed.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Restorative Justice Conferencing allowed me to participate more fully in the system.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) responsible was sincere in his/her participation.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

I have a better understanding of why the offending act was committed against me

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) responsible participated only because he/she was trying to avoid punishment

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Conferences make the justice process more responsive to my needs as a human being

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

20. Of the following items, please rank from 1 to 3, the 3 most important concerns you have related to fairness in the system, with #1 being the most important.

Rank

- _____ Punishing the responsible person(s)
- _____ Paying back the harmed person(s)
- _____ Getting help for the responsible person(s)
- _____ Having the responsible person(s) personally make things right
- _____ Actively participating in the process
- _____ Receiving the offender's expression of apology
- _____ Other: (please specify) _____

21. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Restorative Justice Conference session with your person(s) responsible or about how your situation was handled?

Reference # _____

Date of the conference: _____ / _____ / _____
(day) (month) (year)

Today's Date: _____ / _____ / _____
(day) (month) (year)

1. How satisfied were you with the way the situation was handled?
 Very satisfied satisfied dissatisfied very dissatisfied

2. Do you believe you were adequately held accountable for your actions?
 Yes No

3. Do you feel that being in the Restorative Justice Conference was your own choice?
 Yes No

3a. IF YES: why did you choose to participate in the Restorative Justice Conference Program?

- to pay back the person(s) I harmed to let the person(s) I harmed know why I did it
 to help the person(s) I harmed to offer an apology
 to take direct responsibility for making things right
 other: *please specify*: _____

4. Would you say the tone of the conference was generally,
 friendly hostile other: specify _____

5. Did you apologize to the person(s) you harmed in the conference setting? Yes No

6. Was it helpful to meet with the person(s) harmed in the conference setting?
 not at all helpful somewhat helpful very helpful

7. Were you surprised by anything that occurred in the conference session? Yes No

7a. IF YES, by What?

- it went better than I expected the person(s) harmed seemed to care about me
 it was worse than I expected the person(s) harmed was so angry
 other: *please specify*: _____

8. For the following, please indicate how important each item was to you during the conference:

To be able to tell the person(s) I harmed what happened:

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To pay back the person(s) harmed by paying them money or by doing some work:

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To have the opportunity to work out an agreement with the person(s)I harmed that was acceptable to both us

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To be able to apologize to the person(s) harmed for what you did

very important important unimportant very unimportant

To be able to apologize to my family and friends for what I did

very important important unimportant very unimportant

9. Was a 'repayment' or community service agreement negotiated during the conference? Yes No

9a. IF YES, Was the agreement fair to you? Yes No

Was the agreement fair to the person(s) harmed? Yes No

10. Which of the following best describes your attitude toward the person(s) you harmed?

very positive positive mixed negative very negative

11. Do you think the person(s) harmed has a better opinion of you after the conference? Yes No

12. Do you think your family/friends have a better opinion of you after the conference? Yes No

13. How likely do you think it is that you will commit a similar act?

very likely likely unlikely very unlikely

14. Which of the following best describes your attitude about the conferencing session?

very positive positive mixed negative very negative

15. If you had it to do over again, would you choose to participate in a Restorative Justice Conference?

Yes No

16. Would you recommend Restorative Justice Conferencing to others who face similar trouble?
 Yes No
17. Do you believe that your opinion regarding the situation and circumstances was adequately considered in this case?
 Yes No
18. Given your understanding of fairness, did you experience fairness in this case? Yes No
19. Of the following items, please rank from 1 to 3, the 3 most important concerns you have related to fairness in the system when someone does something wrong, with #1 being the most important.

Rank

- _____ Punishing the responsible person(s)
- _____ Paying back the harmed person(s)
- _____ Getting help for the responsible person(s)
- _____ Having the responsible person(s) personally make things right
- _____ Allowing the responsible person(s) to apologize to the person(s) they harmed
- _____ Allowing the responsible person(s) to apologize to their family
- _____ Other: (please specify) _____

20. The following represent statements that are sometimes made by persons who are responsible for causing harm, who participate in Restorative Justice Conferences. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

Too much pressure was put on me to do all the talking in the conference

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

I felt I had no choice about participating in the conference with the person(s) I harmed.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) harmed was sincere in his/her participation.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

I have a better understanding of how my behaviour affected the person(s) I harmed.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) harmed participated only because he/she wanted the money back or to be paid for damages

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Conferences make the justice process more responsive to my needs as a human being.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Without Restorative Justice Conferences I probably would have gotten punished much worse.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

21. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Restorative Justice Conference session or about how your case was handled?

Date of the conference: _____ / _____ / _____
(day) (month) (year)Today's Date: _____ / _____ / _____
(day) (month) (year)

1. How satisfied were you with the way the situation was handled?
 Very satisfied satisfied dissatisfied very dissatisfied
2. Do you believe the responsible person(s) was adequately held accountable for their actions?
 Yes No
3. Was it helpful to meet with the harmed person(s) and the responsible person(s) in a conference setting?
 not at all helpful somewhat helpful very helpful
4. Were you surprised by anything that occurred in the conference session? Yes No
- 4a. If Yes, by what?
 it went better than I expected the person harmed seemed to care about the person responsible
 it was worse than I expected the person harmed was so angry
 other: (specify) _____
5. For the following, please indicate how important each item was to you during the conference:
- To be able to tell the person(s) harmed how you felt*
 very important important unimportant very unimportant
- To be able to tell the person(s) responsible how you felt*
 very important important unimportant very unimportant
- To help work out an agreement with the person(s) harmed and the responsible person(s) that was acceptable to everyone*
 very important important unimportant very unimportant
- to observe the person(s) responsible apologize for what he/she did*
 very important important unimportant very unimportant
6. Was a 'repayment' or community service agreement negotiated during the conference? Yes No

- 6a. IF YES: Was the agreement fair to you? Yes No
Was the agreement fair to the person(s) harmed? Yes No
Was the agreement fair to the person(s) responsible? Yes No

7. Which of the following best describes your attitude toward the person(s) responsible right after the conference?

- very positive positive mixed negative very negative

8. Do you think the person(s) harmed has a better opinion of the person(s) responsible right after the conference?

- Yes No

9. Do you have a better opinion of the person(s) responsible after the conference? Yes No

10. How likely do you think it is that the person(s) responsible will commit a similar act?

- very likely likely unlikely very unlikely

11. Which of the following best describes your attitude about the conferencing session?

- very positive positive mixed negative very negative

12. If you had it to do over again, would you choose to participate in a Restorative Justice Conference?

- Yes No

13. Would you recommend Restorative Justice Conferencing to others who face similar trouble?

- Yes No

14. Do you believe that your opinion regarding the situation and circumstances was adequately considered in this case?

- Yes No

15. Given your understanding of fairness, did you experience fairness in this case? Yes No

16. Of the following items, please rank from 1 to 3, the 3 most important concerns you have related to fairness in the system when someone does something wrong, with #1 being the most important.

Rank

- _____ Punishing the responsible person(s)
_____ Paying back the harmed person(s)
_____ Getting help for the responsible person(s)
_____ Having the responsible person(s) personally make things right
_____ Actively participating in the process
_____ Receiving the offender's expression of apology
_____ Other: (please specify) _____

17. The following represent statements that are sometimes made by others who participate in Restorative Justice Conferences. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

Too much pressure was put on the responsible person(s) to do all the talking in the conference

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) responsible was treated with respect during the conference.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) harmed was sincere in his/her participation.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

The person(s) responsible was sincere in his/her participation.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

I have a better understanding of how the responsible person(s) behaviour affected the person(s) harmed and others.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Conferences make the justice process more responsive to person(s) responsible needs as a human being.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

Without Restorative Justice Conferences the person(s) responsible probably would have gotten punished much worse.

strongly agree agree disagree strongly disagree

18. Is there anything else you would like to say about the Restorative Justice Conference session?

Conferencing

*A process for
Making things right for
Everyone*

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

*Eileen Walker
(905-825-4747 ext. 2406)*

Your conference will be held:

DATE: _____

TIME: _____

LOCATION: _____

Halton Justice



Conferencing Program



**A Restorative Justice
Program for Community
Resolution of Disputes**

What is Conferencing?

A conference is a forum where people deal with wrongdoing and conflict. All participants can speak, express their feelings and, most importantly, have a say in the outcome. A conference is a democratic experience in which those most affected by a problem decide how to respond to it.

The conference facilitator brings the participants together, creates a safe and supportive environment, keeps the process focused and records the decisions of the group. The conference facilitator does not make or influence the decisions, but lets participants express themselves and find their own creative solutions. Conferencing encourages those who have been harmed, those who have caused the harm, supporters of each and the community to 'make things right' after hearing all the facts and feelings of those involved.

How does it work?

A conference is a meeting led by a trained facilitator where the following people who have been impacted by a particular incident meet in a community room to discuss how that incident affected them:

- Persons harmed
- Persons responsible for the harm
- Supporters of both
- Community members impacted by the harm

An agreement is reached by all participants. The individual(s) who caused the harm promises to fulfill the terms of the agreement.

A conference allows the person(s) harmed to

- gain healing and closure
- tell the person(s) who caused the harm how they feel
- receive support from family and friends
- have a say in how the harm is to be repaired

A conference allows the person(s) who caused the harm to

- face the real consequences of their actions
- recognize how they have harmed others
- opportunity to apologize
- provide reparation for the harm they have caused
- start the process of restoring trust

Automated attendant: 905-825-4747
Main switchboard: 905-878-5511

Your local offices:

Burlington 905-634-1831
440 Locust St.
Burlington, Ontario L7S 1T7

Youth Officer: Ext. 2306
Social Worker: Ext. 2308

Oakville 905-825-4777
1229 White Oaks Blvd.
Oakville, Ontario L6J 5C7

Youth Officer: Ext. 2208
Social Worker: Ext. 2224

Milton/Georgetown/Acton
490 Childs Drive 905-878-5511
Milton, Ontario L9T 5G2

Youth Officer: Ext. 2421
Social Worker: Ext. 2406

HALTON YOUTH JUSTICE PROGRAM

PRE-CHARGE DIVERSION



HALTON REGIONAL POLICE SERVICE

1151 Bronte Road
Oakville, Ontario
L6J 6E1

905-878-5511

MISSION STATEMENT:

To promote and foster a healthy community by providing effective and timely intervention while working with youth at risk.

What is Pre-Charge Diversion?

A program designed to deal with youth in conflict with the law. If the youth meets the criteria, he/she may be considered for an alternative to the court process. This program holds youth accountable for their actions while offering an opportunity to deal with the underlying issues contributing to a youth's criminal behaviour.

What is the criteria?

1. Youth 12 – 17 yrs of age
2. There is enough evidence to proceed with a charge.
3. The youth accepts responsibility and is willing to participate in the program.

What types of offences are considered appropriate for diversion?

- Shoplifting
- Vandalism
- Minor Property Damage
- Minor Fraud
- Take Motor Vehicle without Consent
- Minor Assaults
- Possession of controlled substance (drugs)

This is not an all inclusive list. The circumstances of the offence are also given careful consideration.

What happens next?

* A designate from the youth office will be in contact to schedule an appointment. Parent(s)/guardian(s) are encouraged to attend with the youth.

* A meeting will be held to explain the program and to determine if the criteria has been met.

* If the criteria has been met, the youth enters into a contract with specified conditions. Conditions may include;

- curfew
- school attendance
- abstain from alcohol or drug involvement
- abide by parental rules and discipline
- community service work/restitution
- written assignment
- attend for counseling
- any other condition deemed appropriate

If the youth successfully completes the terms of the contract, the charge is ***not*** laid.

If the youth fails to abide by the terms of the diversion contract, the agreement is cancelled. The original charge will be laid and the youth ***will proceed to Youth Court.***

Name

Date of Birth

Part I - Assessment of Risk and Needs

1. Prior and Current Offenses/Dispositions

Comments (include mitigating and aggravating factors)

- a. Three or more prior convictions
 - b. Two or more failures to comply
 - c. Prior probation
 - d. Prior detention
 - e. Three or more current convictions
- Total _____

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (1-2)
- High (3-5)

Source(s) of information

2. Family Circumstances/Parenting

Comments

- a. Inadequate supervision
 - b. Difficulty in controlling behavior
 - c. Inappropriate discipline
 - d. Inconsistent parenting
 - e. Poor relations/father-child
 - f. Poor relations/mother-child
- Strength Total _____

Risk Level:

- Low (0-2)
- Moderate (3-4)
- High (5-6)

Source(s) of information

3. Education/Employment

Comments

- a. Disruptive classroom behavior
 - b. Disruptive behavior on school property
 - c. Low achievement
 - d. Problems with peers
 - e. Problems with teachers
 - f. Truancy
 - g. Unemployed/not seeking employment
- Strength Total _____

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (1-3)
- High (4-7)

Source(s) of information

4. Peer Relations

- a. Some delinquent acquaintances
- b. Some delinquent friends
- c. No or few positive acquaintances
- d. Nor or few positive friends

Strength

Total _____

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (2-3)
- High (4)

Comments

Source(s) of information _____

5. Substance Abuse

- a. Occasional drug use
- b. Chronic drug use
- c. Chronic alcohol use
- d. Substance abuse interferes with life
- e. Substance use linked to offense(s)

Strength

Total _____

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (1-2)
- High (3-5)

Comments

Source(s) of information _____

6. Leisure/Recreation

- a. Limited organized activities
- b. Could make better use of time
- c. No personal interests

Strength

Total _____

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (1)
- High (2-3)

Comments

Source(s) of information _____

7. Personality/Behavior

- a. Inflated self-esteem
- b. Physically aggressive
- c. Tantrums
- d. Short attention span
- e. Poor frustration tolerance
- f. Inadequate guilt feelings
- g. Verbally aggressive, impudent

Total _____

Strength

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (1-4)
- High (5-7)

Source(s) of information

8. Attitudes/Orientation

- a. Antisocial/procriminal attitudes
- b. Not seeking help
- c. Actively rejecting help
- d. Defies Authority
- e. Callous, little concern for others

Total _____

Strength

Risk Level:

- Low (0)
- Moderate (1-3)
- High (4-5)

Source(s) of information

Part II Summary of Risk/Need Factors (from pages 1 to 5)

Prior and Current Offenses	Family	Education	Peers	Substance Abuse	Leisure and Recreation	Personality and Behavior	Attitudes and Orientation	Overall Total of Scores

Overall Total

- Low (0-8)**
- Moderate (9-22)**
- High (23-34)**
- Very High (35-42)**

Part III - Assessment of Other Needs/Special Considerations

1. Family/Parents

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chronic History of Offenses | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/Accommodation Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Abusive Mother |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional Distress/Psychiatric | <input type="checkbox"/> Uncooperative Parents | <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Family Trauma
(Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drug-Alcohol Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/Ethnic Issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marital Conflict | <input type="checkbox"/> Abusive Father | |

Comments

2. Youth

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Problems | <input type="checkbox"/> Peers Outside Age Range | <input type="checkbox"/> Third Party Threat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed | <input type="checkbox"/> History of Sexual/Physical Assault |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Low Intelligence/Developmental Delay | <input type="checkbox"/> Low Self Esteem | <input type="checkbox"/> History of Assault on Authority Figures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Disability | <input type="checkbox"/> Inappropriate Sexual Activity | <input type="checkbox"/> History of Weapon Use |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Underachievement | <input type="checkbox"/> Racist/Sexist Attitudes | <input type="checkbox"/> History of Fire Setting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Problem Solving Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor Social Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> History of Escapes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim of Physical/Sexual Abuse | <input type="checkbox"/> Engages in Denial | <input type="checkbox"/> Protection Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim of Neglect | <input type="checkbox"/> Suicide Attempts | <input type="checkbox"/> Adverse Living Conditions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shy/Withdrawn | <input type="checkbox"/> Diagnosis of Psychosis | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Comments (Note any special responsivity considerations including the need for culturally specific services)

Part IV - Your Assessment of Juvenile's General Risk/Need Level

- Low Reasons: _____
- Moderate _____
- High _____
- Very High _____
- _____
- _____

Part V - Contact Level

Comments (Note placement considerations and court expectations, if applicable)

