

WRCPC Agenda

February 10, 2017

Waterloo Region Museum

10 Huron Rd. Kitchener, ON

Classroom A

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30a.m. networking)

Chair: Chris Cowie

Recorder: M. Allen

No	Item	Time	Att(s)
1.	Welcome and Introductions	20 min	
2.	Approval of Agenda	15 min	
3.	Declaration of Conflict of Interest		
4.	Approval of the January 13, 2017 Minutes		✓
	4.1 Business Arising		
5.	WRCPC 2017 Elections:	15 min	
	5.1 Election of Chair		
	5.2 Election of Vice-Chair		
	5.3 Election of Facilitating Committee Members		
6.	WRCPC Orientation	75 min	
7.	Other Business		
8.	Adjournment		
9.	Next Meeting: March 10, 2017		

WRCPC Minutes

January 13, 2017

Waterloo Memorial Recreation Complex

Hauser Haus Room

101 Father David Bauer Drive, Waterloo

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (8:30 a.m. networking)

Chair: Chris Cowie

Recorder: M. Allen

Present: Andrew Jackson, Barry Cull, Bill Wilson, Bryan Larkin, Carolyn Albrecht, Cathy Harrington, Chris Cowie, Courtney Didier, Denise Squire, Derek Haime, Don Roth, Doug Thiel, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Helen Jowett (conference call), Irene O'Toole, Jane Mitchell, Joe-Ann McComb, John Shewchuk, Jonathan English, Karen Spencer, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Ken Seiling, Liana Nolan, Liz Vitek, Mark Pancer, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shayne Turner, Tom Galloway, Trisha Robinson

Regrets: Alison Scott, Angela Vanderheyden, Carolyn Schoenfeldt, Felix Munger, Jennifer Mains, Karey Katzsch, Mike Haffner, Mark Poland, Michael Beazely, Pari Karem, Peter Ringrose, Peter Rubenschuh, Sarah Shafiq, Sharlene Sedgwick-Walsh

Staff and Students: Christiane Sadeler, Carlos Luis Zatarain, Daniel Bader, David Siladi, Dianne Heise, Juanita Metzger, Michael Parkinson, Tracy Jasmins

1. Welcome:

Chair Ken Seiling provided greetings to WRCPC members, guests and staff. He thanked the WRCPC on behalf of Regional Council for all of their contributions and on-going hard work.

Chris Cowie thanked Chair Seiling and introductions were made.

Mayor Dave Jaworsky brought greetings from the City of Waterloo.

Tom Galloway announced that there will be no changes to the WRCPC budget for 2017.

John Shewchuk thanked Tracy Jasmins for all her contributions to the WRCPC over the past 13 years as she worked in her role as the Marketing and Communications Coordinator. Tracy has recently resigned from the WRCPC and accepted a position with the Family & Children's Services of Waterloo Region as the Event &

Community Awareness Coordinator. Christiane provided a tribute to Tracy Jasmins and to her work over the last 13 years.

2. **Approval of the Agenda:**

Moved by Courtney Didier and seconded by Sharon Ward-Zeller. Carried

3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

None

4. **Approval of the Minutes of December 9, 2016: Minutes:**

Moved by Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders and seconded by Andrew Jackson. Carried.

5. **Legalization of Marijuana:**

The Federal Government Task Force on Cannabis Legalization and Regulation, a body set up by the federal government in June 2016 to study marijuana legalization in Canada, released a report in December 2016 called [A Framework for the Legalization and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada](#). The framework includes a set of recommendations on how cannabis should be produced, sold and regulated. The recommendations will still need to be put into legislation and passed by Parliament. Draft legislation is scheduled for the Spring of 2017.

Shayne Turner asked the WRCPD to consider the possibility of preparing for this draft legislation. He asked the following questions:

1. Is this is an issue that the Council should review and establish a position?
2. What would this position look like?
3. Is this issue relevant to the work of Council?
4. Does the Council want to begin working on this issue or does it want to wait for the draft legislation?
5. Can Council align its work with other sub committees in the community that may have already begun to work on this issue?

The WRCPD had a discussion about its role in preparing for the legalization and regulation of cannabis and determined that it would be in the best interest of Council

to develop a public policy in preparation of the draft legislation.

Shayne Turner put forward a motion for a sub committee of the WRCPC to develop a terms of reference and a framework of a mandate re the legalization and regulation of cannabis in Canada and to bring back the terms of reference and the framework to the WRCPC for approval.

Seconded by Bryan Larkin. Carried.

Volunteers for the sub committee are as follows: Cathy Harrington, Kelly Anthony, Courtney Didier, and Shayne Turner.

6. Land Acknowledgement:

At the Council meeting in November 18, 2016 Council approved a motion to **consider Land Acknowledgement** at the beginning of each meeting. Before moving forward with this motion, Gerard Sagassige, a Knowledge Keeper was invited to explain the significance and the purpose of **Land Acknowledgement**.

Gerrard explained that when we acknowledge the land it is not that we are acknowledging the ownership of the land but rather it is about accepting that we are an earth-based human being and honouring our first mother and the relationship we have with our first mother. When we acknowledge the land, it is not so much the content of being within the first people's territory but rather, acknowledging our ancestry and that in our ancestry there are roots. It encourages hope, repair, responsibility, respect and wellbeing.

7. Approval of Smart Update (Consent Agenda):

Moved Jane Mitchell and seconded by Denise Squire. Carried

8. Approval of the Root Causes Statement of the WRCPC:

Dianne Heise brought forward the update Root Causes Statement for approval. Please see Attachment 1.

Moved by Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders and seconded by Sharon Ward-Zeller. Carried.

9. **Community Engagement League:**

Juanita Metzger, staff with the WRCPC and Barry Cull, Chair of the Community Engagement League provided an update and listed a number of recommendations for Council approval. Please Attachment 2.

Motion moved by Jane Mitchell and seconded by Joe-Ann McComb. Carried.

10. **Nominating Committee 2017 Slate for Approval**

Motion to go into closed session moved by Joe-Ann McComb and seconded by Kelly Anthony. Carried at 10:36 a.m.

Motion to come out of closed session moved by Shayne Turner and seconded by John Shewchuk. Carried at 11:00 a.m.



Root Causes Approach to Crime

“When I think “root cause” I don’t think about the plight of an individual, but rather the broad systemic, cultural and legislative contexts. Addressing the root cause means effecting large systems, changing cultural norms and influencing broad policy change. Those policies should then empower, facilitate and support agencies to provide services that address risk factors and build/enhance protective factors.” - WRCPC Chair, 2015

The Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council ‘advances ideas and actions that alleviate root causes of crime and improve social well-being’. Root causes of crime and victimization are found in social, economic, cultural and societal systems that can lead to inequities and disadvantages for some individuals, families and communities. These, in turn, can result in negative outcomes including crime, victimization and fear of crime.

The **root causes approach** is a way of thinking systemically and holistically about the complex, multiple, and interconnected roots of social problems such as crime. It calls for collaborative, comprehensive and sustained efforts to transform these underlying conditions rather than focus solely on the symptoms. The ultimate goal is to prevent crime and victimization from occurring in the first place by building a society that supports the well-being of everyone.

From Root Causes to Risk and Protective Factors

Over 100 years of research has produced many different theories about the causes of crime. Some theories focus on biological or psychological factors, others take a sociological, economic or life course perspective, or integrate multiple perspectives.¹ There is no direct or simple cause–effect relationship in any of these approaches. Instead, causal relationships should be viewed as chains of events over time, which impact individuals, families, communities and societies. These impacts vary depending on populations and contexts.²

Much of what we know about why crime and victimization occur comes from a growing body of knowledge about risks as well as protective factors. This research provides an important understanding of the many factors that increase or decrease the likelihood of

1 Wortley, S. (2008). The Root Causes of Youth Violence: A Review of Major Theoretical Perspectives. <http://www.children.gov.on.ca/htdocs/English/professionals/oyap/roots/volume5/index.aspx>

2 Sampson, R. J., Winship, C., & Knight, C. (2013). Translating Causal Claims: Principles and Strategies for Policy Relevant Criminology. *Criminology & Public Policy* 12, no. 4: 587–616.

negative outcomes such as crime. Though the terms ‘risk factors’ and ‘root causes’ are sometimes used interchangeably, there are important distinctions between them. For example, not completing high school is a ‘risk factor’ that strongly predicts delinquency. A ‘root causes’ approach would take a deeper look at the family, community and societal conditions over time that explain why some individuals are less likely than their peers to complete high school in the first place.

Risk factors are negative influences in the lives of individuals or a community that may increase the presence of crime, victimization or fear of crime.

Protective factors are positive influences that can improve the lives of individuals or the safety of a community by decreasing the likelihood that persons engage in crime or become victims. Building on protective factors makes individuals and communities stronger and better able to counteract risk factors. (Public Safety Canada, <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca>)

Factors that lead to crime most often go beyond the individual, their family and peers to the heart of the community. Risk and protective factors combine to make the probability of crime, victimization and fear of crime more or less likely. No one variable should be considered in isolation. Instead, crime and victimization are the outcome of interactions between risk and protective factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels. This is commonly referred to as the **ecological framework**.

“It is critical to address the larger societal and community level factors that can have direct and indirect influences on individual and family risks for violence. For example, parents working to maintain a strong relationship with their children and reduce their risk for violence are likely to be more successful if their community is providing the services and supports they need (e.g., reliable child care; safe and affordable housing).”³

Protective and Resiliency Factors

Individuals and communities have inherent strengths and capacities. Developing and building upon the assets and resources of individuals, families and communities promotes thriving as well as bolstering resilience to cope with adverse circumstances that might otherwise increase the risk of crime or victimization. A summary of some key protective

³ Preventing Multiple Forms of Violence: A Strategic Vision for Connecting the Dots. Atlanta, GA. Division of Violence Prevention, National Centre for Injury Prevention and Control, Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016, p.7.

factors appear below.

Important Protective Factors Essential to Promoting Resilience

Community Assets	School Assets	Family Assets	Individual Assets
Connectedness to community	Connectedness to school	Positive adult role models	Positive peer group
Positive and clear community norms and values	Supportive school environment	Positive communication within the family	Problem-solving skills
Effective prevention policies	Participation in after-school activities	Parental involvement in the child's life	Communication skills
Absence of weapons and firearms	Effective involvement in the school	Clear rules and consequences within the family	Positive conflict resolution skills
	Clear rules and consequences within the school	Time with family	A positive sense of self
			Ability to take responsibility for own behaviours
			Empathy and sensitivity toward others

Source: Adapted from Schneider, S. (2015). Crime Prevention Theory and Practice. CRC Press: FL., p. 123.

Key Factors Related to Crime and Victimization

The following are some of the factors reported in the literature:

Age

Research emphasizes the opportunities of focusing crime prevention efforts on early childhood because many persistent offenders begin their involvement in anti-social activities before and during adolescence, when risk taking behaviour tends to be more prevalent than during other stages of life.

Gender

Males are more likely than females to be involved in crime because crime tends to involve aggression and risk taking. These biological differences when seen within the context of social learning and cultural norms provide important opportunities for prevention.

Peer Influence

When youth lack a sense of belonging within the family and the community, they are more likely to associate with peers who are in conflict with the law, which in turn increases their risk of offending. This connection between the individual and peer behaviours provides key prevention opportunities through peer-based approaches. Ideally, however, children and youth have healthy attachments to their families and communities, which are more likely to lead to pro-social peer relations.

Difficulty in School

Schools provide an important setting for the promotion of healthy relationships and healthy development, which includes educational attainment. Students who at least complete high school tend to experience more positive outcomes including better employment opportunities. As children, many offenders were less successful in school, had lower attendance rates and were frequently more likely to leave school earlier than their peers. As much as 41% of inmates have learning disabilities and/or literacy issues.

Problematic Substance Use

The majority of inter-personal crimes are committed under the influence of drugs or alcohol or are related to problematic substance use. Regular alcohol and/or drug use during adolescence is associated with higher conviction rates in adulthood. Therefore, preventing or delaying the onset of substance use and reducing harms associated with problematic substance use can significantly reduce crime.

Mental Health

Persons with mental health issues are at higher risk of victimization or coming in contact with the law. People with psychiatric disabilities are also over-represented in correctional facilities. To reduce the risk, appropriate mental health facilities and supports need to be readily available and easily accessible.

Parenting

Frequently when people try to understand crime, they go from blaming the offender to

blaming the family. In reality, families must be seen within the broader social and community context. Research shows that parenting practices that are inconsistent, neglectful, overly punitive or permissive increase the risk of delinquency, as do parental criminality and serious family conflict. Supporting families and promoting positive parenting practices provides important opportunities for decreasing criminality.

Violence in the home

Interventions to reduce family violence will have positive inter-generational effects. While family violence and interpersonal violence that occur outside the home are crimes in and of themselves, they also significantly contribute to crime and victimization later in life. Victims of child maltreatment and neglect are more likely to come in conflict with the law. A high number of inmates experienced some form of physical or sexual abuse as children. Men who witnessed their fathers be violent toward their mothers are three times as likely to be violent toward their own wives. Reducing family violence, recognizing the impact of childhood trauma and providing trauma-informed systems of care, greatly contribute to community safety.

Social Exclusion

Many racialized groups continue to be over-represented in correctional facilities. Race/ethnic factors associated with crime, in reality, are the consequences of people being kept at a social and economic disadvantage. Decreasing stereotyping, discrimination and marginalization as well as increasing equity and belonging can go a long way to addressing such disadvantages.

Unemployment

A high number of youth and adults admitted to correctional facilities have been chronically unemployed and/or underemployed. Unemployment after terms of incarceration also increases the likelihood of re-offending. Improving employment opportunities greatly contributes to community safety.

Poverty

Poverty, income insecurity and other inequities are linked to chronic stress and health problems, unsatisfactory living conditions and relationship challenges. The effects are particularly stressful during pregnancy and for lone parents. An equitable distribution of resources and opportunities inevitably will lead to significant reductions in social ills including crime.

Note Regarding These Factors

The factors presented above do not comprise an exhaustive list. Researchers continue to explore other influences on crime such as entertainment/social media, nutrition, and exposure to environmental toxins. Ongoing commitment to evaluation and research will strengthen the evidence base for crime prevention.

In Summary

It is clear from the research that there is no single cause of crime. Crime is the result of a combination of social-economic, community and family conditions that create a predisposition to anti-social and criminal behaviour. These conditions also increase the risks of victimization.

“There are experiences, particularly early in childhood, that make it extremely predictable that individuals are at substantially higher risk for involvement with violence, be it interpersonal, youth violence, intimate partner violence, dating violence, or child abuse.”⁴

When children grow up in caring families, safe and healthy communities, and equitable and inclusive societies, their chance of living fulfilled and peaceful lives is exceedingly better than when these conditions are not met.

Risk factors point to the importance of early intervention and prevention in the lives of children. Protective factors and strengths-based approaches point to the opportunities for us to create optimal conditions for preventing crime and victimization before it happens. A root causes approach supports systemic understanding and upstream actions and must be part of any comprehensive crime prevention and reduction agenda.

The prevention of crime and other social ills follow the same principles. Effective prevention approaches are:

- Intensive never ad-hoc
- Happen in natural settings
- Start as early as possible
- Based in good evidence and community wisdom
- Work on multiple levels
- Place a high value on future generations
- Encourage citizen engagement and leadership

⁴ Wilkins, N., Tsao, B., Hertz, M., Davis, R., Klevens, J. (2014). Connecting the Dots: An Overview of the Links Among Multiple Forms of Violence. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Oakland, CA: Prevention Institute, p.1.

Community Engagement League: Final Report & Recommendations

2015 - 2016

The Community Engagement League arrived at the end of its two year term at the end of 2016. This final report outlines what it accomplished and the League's recommendations for the next steps.

We believe that the Friends of Crime Prevention initiative and the Community Engagement League have great potential to be a safe community space for people to learn, grow in their understanding of crime prevention issues, exchange ideas that further community change and help support putting them into action.

The Community Engagement League recommends that:

- In 2017, WRCPC staff recruit & coordinate a diverse group of Friends to help direct and lead the 2017 events, with support from WRCPC Community Engagement Staff and rooted in newly developed Friends framework & strategies
- CEL be supported with the capacity within & among Friends of Crime Prevention in order to move the initiative more squarely into the community (this would help to reduce confusion about WRCPC/Friends and clarify messaging)
- WRCPC staff lay the ground work internally for Friends of Crime Prevention to move more arms length from WRCPC
- There be a role for one of the Community at Large members of WRCPC to be a liaison on the Community Engagement League
- WRCPC explore funding sources to support more community led approaches to organizing and growing Friends of Crime Prevention

What is the Community Engagement League?

The Community Engagement League was designed with a BIG vision in mind: To dream up strategies and approaches that engage our community in creating a safe and crime-free community in which to work, live and grow: Then put those strategies into action.

The Community Engagement League was designed in 2014, then launched into action in January 2015. It had a 2-year mandate (2015-2016). The League membership included WRCPC members and a cross section of our community, Friends of Crime Prevention & Community Engagement Staff.

League members included Barry Cull, Pari Karem, Lisa Doran, Lisa Armstrong, Jeanean Thomas, Jeremy Steffler, Bill Walters (who left the League when he moved back to Newfoundland) and Jennifer Robinson.

The League met monthly for two hour gatherings and accommodated virtual participation via Skype, video calls and conference calling.

What was its purpose?

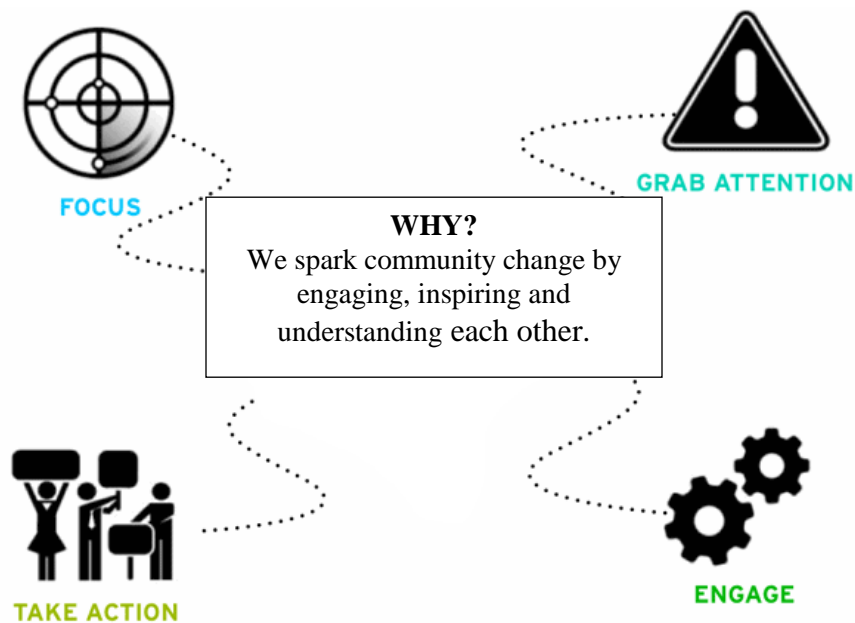
The CEL had two primary activities as its purpose:

- Develop and implement a process for defining & deeply understanding the “prevention” value of WRPCPC with respect to crime prevention through social development and community engagement
- Advance & boost the Friends of Crime Prevention initiative

What did the League accomplish?

The group had energy for the Friends work so that’s where we started.

- We schooled ourselves in knowledge areas relevant to Friends so that we could develop a common frame of reference: designing social movements, community engagement and [.....]
- Struggled and wrestled with our “WHY” (identity statement) for Friends of Crime Prevention and ultimately conquered that WHY in the following statement:
 - We spark community change by engaging, inspiring and understanding each other
- Developed a comprehensive framework for how we plan, structure and implement initiatives to animate & activate the Friends network.



- Hosted [Popcorn, Prisons & Prevention](#) in partnership with KPL featuring Howard Sapers and a Panel of local experts and people with lived experiences to highlight the realities of Canada's prison system
- Conducted a survey of Friends to determine short term directions for 2016.
- Developed 20+ Principles Statements to help potential Friends identify themselves as a Friend (i.e. You might be a Friend of Crime Prevention if you believe that you can create social change by working with others)
 - Statements will be used as part of recruitment & online campaigns
- Hosted a [Porch Chat series](#) in the gaol garden, June 2016
- Hosted the [Turn the Page Book Club](#), November 2016, together with community partners Community Justice Initiatives, Grand Valley Institution and Wild Writers Festival (The New Quarterly)
- Both the Porch Chat & Book Club events brought new voices to the table and people who had not heard of Friends of Crime Prevention before
- Started to identify some of the philosophical underpinnings of Friends of Crime Prevention
- Through low key recruitment, were able to increase number of Friends of Crime Prevention to 341 Friends (end of 2016)
- The CEL hosted some of the most engaging & productive 'meetings' (as commented by League members!),

We didn't get to the work of developing a value statement (similar to the collaboration statement) on the "prevention" value of WRCPD for three reasons:

- The CEL was so engaged on the Friends of Crime Prevention work
- WRCPD revised and changed its values statement so this task became moot
- WRCPD is reshaping its thinking on prevention with the sector roundtables

What did we learn?

A seemingly straight forward task is never quite so straight forward....

- We discovered we needed to go through our own learning process to better understand what the Friends initiative is about and how we could help to move it forward
- While in a much condensed format, we suspect we went through a learning curve similar to what other new Friends of Crime Prevention might experience, too
- We developed a better understanding of how Friends of Crime Prevention – the movement – can have an impact in our community
- With deeper understanding, individuals found clearer language to advance the dialogue about Friends of Crime prevention within their own networks and connections

- Partnering with other organizations for events helps to amplify the reach and connects to individuals and groups outside of our usual circles
- It would help CEL to be more firmly rooted in its work with clearer understandings of some core principles i.e. root causes of crime, crime prevention through social development, community engagement, prevention, social determinants of crime...
- The next iteration of the CEL will need to develop clearer indicators for measuring the success of its work
- The line/boundary between WRCPC and Friends of Crime Prevention is still blurry and leads to some confusion in the community
- We need to find a way to ensure that Friends of Crime Prevention are not confused with “volunteers for WRCPC”.