

MCYS



**Youth Justice Services**

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20 April 2016

Karen Tinning, Probation Officer  
Youth Policy Portfolio  
POAO Board of Directors

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your letter of inquiry with regard to our role as Probation Officers in the West Region with the Provincial Moving on Mental Health Strategy. Moving on Mental Health (MOMH) is an important part of Ontario's Mental Health and Addictions Strategy.

Mike Tennant, Pauline Irving and Rosanne Roy have dubbed ourselves the 3 MOMHigos from West Region. Our official start date was late June of 2015 and we were tasked with developing a solid understanding of our Ministry's leading role and its commitment to the governments ***Moving on Mental Health/Open Minds Healthy Minds Strategy***. Our next step was to relate this to the 68 % of the youth we serve in Youth Justice who have mental health concerns.

We had the opportunity to travel over 2500 km. within our region sharing information about the Moving on Mental Health Strategy with our colleagues, the Lead Agencies and some of our counterparts within the Ministry. We also listened to our colleagues concerns in regard to the increasing complexity of our Youth Justice kids and the issues they are facing. A survey was developed to help capture this, provide a snapshot of our youth and to note potential trends from different areas across the region. As our West Region YJ Probation Survey nears completion we will be rolling out the survey responses and sharing these results with our colleagues, lead agencies, regional and corporate offices, as well as other community partners.

YJS 300-211 (06/04)

CAUTION: THIS RECORD CONTAINS INFORMATION ABOUT A YOUNG PERSON  
WHICH IS SUBJECT TO THE YOUTH CRIMINAL JUSTICE ACT!

Information about a young person as defined in the Youth Criminal Justice Act is subject to publication, use and access restrictions set out in the Act to protect the privacy of the young person. The penalty for violation may result in imprisonment for up to 2 years.

It was also apparent from our “road trip” experience that many of our community partners did not have a clear understanding of our role as Youth Probation Officers. With the feedback we gathered from our fellow P.O’s and the technical wizardry of Mike, we designed some Prezi presentations to clearly explain our diverse role as expert youth system navigators and we have used these to help inform our youth system counterparts.

Thank you for your expressed interest in our work. We look forward to continuing our focus on supporting positive outcomes for youth in our communities.

Yours truly,

Pauline Irving, Mike Tennant, Rosanne Roy  
Probation Officers  
West Region

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