

Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System

2008/09 Annual Report



Marking 35 years of serving families in the legal system

Welcome from the Executive Director

As we mark 35 years of helping families, it is gratifying to look back on recent accomplishments and program growth.

We've welcomed several new staff members this year and launched one new program. The Intensive Intervention Service extends both psychological and psychiatric consultation to referred youth probationers as well as the possibility of on-going therapeutic support. We were pleased to partner with the Ministry of Children & Youth Services to develop this new service model.

In 2009, our community celebrated the first anniversary of London's Youth Therapeutic Court, to which we contribute a staff clinician. We are honoured to be part of this multi-disciplinary team of caring professionals. We're also starting an exciting new project with Alberta partners to strengthen protectors in children who have lived with violence. We continue to receive rave reviews for our e-learning curriculum on cognitive behavioural intervention.

As we start the next year, our focus is squarely placed on maintaining the financial viability of the agency. The Centre continues to appreciate the support of our government funders: the Ministry of Children & Youth Services, the Ministry of Community & Social Services, and the Ministry of the Attorney General. Yet these are challenging days for all non-profit organizations in Canada. Like our sister agencies, we see no decline in demand and yet are faced with increases in the costs of "doing business!"

You see on the cover of this year's report a photograph of our staff. I am enormously proud of our teams and the dedication with which they use highly specialized skills to serve clients. When families need help through difficult times, I know there is no more capable group of professionals to understand and meet their needs.

Linda Baker, Ph.D. C.Psych.

Executive Director

Message from the Board Chair

I write this message as the out-going Chair of the Centre's Board of Directors. In June of 2009, after three years in the position, I pass the torch to the capable hands of Judy vanLeeuwen who will guide the Centre through its on-going strategic review.

We have a strong Board with representation from key sectors including law, business and finance. This year, we've focused diligently on financial sustainability in these difficult economic times. As always, we continue to rely on the vision and guidance of our Executive Director, Dr. Linda Baker. We must also thank the Centre staff for their hard work and flexibility as we seek to get the Centre on firm financial footing. I am optimistic for the future, knowing first hand the talent of the Centre staff and the depth of their commitment to helping families. At the same time, we must be aware of the larger context and the substantial challenges facing the non-profit sector. On balance, I am optimistic about the ability of the Centre to navigate these challenges and continue to do its important work.

Jack Little

Chair, Board of Directors

Arun Gandhi delivered the 2007 Margaret McCain lecture, reminding us that "We Must Be the Change We Wish to See in the World," a quotation from his grandfather, Mohandas K. "Mahatma" Gandhi.



Pictured from left to right: Jack Little, Arun Gandhi, Margaret Norrie McCain, and Linda Baker.

Quick Facts and Centre Overview

The Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System is a non-profit, registered charity funded partially by the Ontario government and overseen by a voluntary Board of Directors.

The Centre opened in 1974 under the name "London Family Court Clinic," modeled after the family court clinic in Toronto.

The first and only service offered in 1974 was to conduct pre-dispositional assessments when requested by judges of the Juvenile Court.

The Centre now has 11 service areas:

- ADR-LINK
- Child Welfare Assessment/Consultation Services
- Child Witness Project
- Expert Testimony and other consultation to the courts
- Intensive Intervention Services with youth probationers
- London Custody & Access Project
- Multi-disciplinary Clinical Supports Program
- Research Services
- Training and Resource Development Services
- Youth Justice Assessment Services
- Youth Mental Health Court Service of the Youth Therapeutic Court

About 800 youth (and their families) are served each year across these programs

We have 25 full-time or part-time staff, including clinical psychologists, social workers, other clinicians and therapists, administrative staff, a nurse, a criminologist, a part-time psychiatrist and accounting personnel

Funding comes from annualized government dollars for some service areas, fee-for-service revenue, research & project grants, and charitable donations

Dr. Linda Baker assumed the role of Executive Director in January of 2002



The London Family Court Clinic was initially housed in the Middlesex County Courthouse on Dundas St. in London, Ontario. Since 1990, the Centre is located at 254 Pall Mall St., second floor.

Director Emeritus Dr. Peter Jaffe continues to conduct training and do clinical work through the Centre. In 2009, Peter was appointed to the Order of Canada in recognition of his work in the area of violence against women and children

Each year about 10,000 people across Canada and the United States attend training workshops and other presentations by Centre staff

The Centre's web site www.lfcc.on.ca receives almost 300,000 visitors yearly coming from over 200 countries

We have available over 70 original resources, research reports and books for download in electronic format or for purchase in hard copy

Each year we supervise 6 to 8 students on placement and internships, mostly from social work, psychology and social service work programs

In 1999 we became known as the Centre for Children & Families in the Justice System

Senior Management Team

The Senior Management Team is made up of (left to right):

Karen Rhiger

Director of Corporate Services

Dr. Dan Ashbourne

Director of Clinical Services

Dr. Linda Baker

Executive Director

Alison Cunningham (seated),

Director of Research & Planning



Recent Highlights

Another Successful International Conference

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive for our third London conference on children and domestic violence in 2007. Conference co-hosts were our Centre, the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children, and the CAMH Centre for Prevention Science. Highlights were the opening remarks by Governor General Michaëlle Jean and a great slate of plenary speakers including Arun Gandhi, Cindy Blackstock of the First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada, Aldijana Sisic of Amnesty International, and Jackson Katz.



Linda Baker is pictured with her conference co-directors, Peter Jaffe (left) of the CREVAWC and David Wolfe of the CAMH Centre for Prevention Science.

International Visitors

We've recently welcomed visitors from Norway, New Zealand, Ireland, South Africa, Hong Kong, Japan, Brazil, and lots of Swedes and Australians. Our web site gets visitors from 213 countries (we're still waiting for North Korea). Our publications were purchased from places as far away as Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and China.



Linda Baker accepts gifts from a Taiwanese delegation.

Alberta Project Starts

2009 marks the start of a three-year project with the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters and the shelters in five First Nation communities to collaboratively develop an intervention model for young children who lived with violence at home. Funding comes from the National Crime Prevention Centre in Ottawa and the Alberta government. Five amazing women are now working in the five communities to support families who have left the shelter and hope to stay resident in the local area.



Alison Cunningham and Linda Baker (fourth and fifth from the left) spent a day in a tepee at the Ermineskin Women's Shelter in Maskwacj with members of the Project Guidance Circle for the Walking the Path Together project.

Margaret McCain Lecture

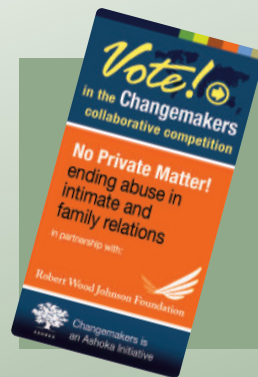
The third lecture in this series was delivered in April 2009 by Ben Barry. As a teenager, Ben founded the first modeling agency to represent models of all ages, sizes, backgrounds and abilities, challenging the status-quo beauty ideal. Each lecture in the Margaret McCain lecture series addresses a topic of interest shared by Margaret and our staff, such as the early years and the effects of violence on children. Proceeds go to the Centre's Upstream Endowment campaign, building a legacy for the next generation.



Peter Jaffe, Ben Barry, and Linda Baker.

Social Entrepreneurship Nomination

From among 243 entries from 46 countries, the Centre was honoured to be one of 15 finalists named in this Changemakers collaborative competition in 2007. Four judges, representing the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and the Waitt Institute for Violence Prevention, said the finalists reflected "outstanding demonstration of innovation, social impact, and sustainability." On their web site, you can find descriptions of the three winners, the 15 finalists and the 243 submissions. Our project was about helping abused women as mothers.



Youth Mental Health Day

In April of 2009, a day-long conference for 300 people at the London Convention Centre showcased local examples of outreach and intervention for youth struggling with mental health challenges. The event coincided with the first anniversary of the Youth Mental Health Court, now renamed the Youth Therapeutic Court.



Linda Baker with keynote speaker Dr. Jean Clinton and Justice Deborah Livingstone (with puppet friends)

Service Evolutions

Centre Celebrates 35 Years of Operation

In 1974, the London Family Court Clinic was created to conduct "pre-disposition assessments" for the juvenile court. As we mark 35th years of operation in 2009, Wayne Willis celebrates his 35th year with the Centre. Along with Rotha Blackwell, Wayne was the first person hired in 1974.



Wayne Willis is the senior clinician on the Youth Justice Assessment Team.

Centre Part of the Youth Therapeutic Court Team

The Centre provides screening and other clinical services as part of London's Youth Therapeutic Court team. This service, developed in partnership with the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Children & Youth Services, identifies and supports youth age 16 and older with a diagnosed or suspected serious mental illness, traumatic brain injury or developmental disability. When charges have been laid, one possible outcome is a request to the Crown Attorney for diversion from the formal court process, followed by referral brokerage and on-going support.



London is one of 11 Ontario cities piloting mental health courts for youth.

Photo: Ken Wightman - SunMedia

ADR-LINK Pilot Underway

The Centre's ADR-LINK service is funded by the Ministry of Children & Youth Services to connect children's aid societies in the South West Region of Ontario to ADR services, specifically child protection mediation, family group conferencing, or original dispute resolution for First Nation families. To play this brokerage role, ADR-LINK maintains a roster of qualified ADR practitioners in our region (Bruce County, Chatham-Kent, Elgin, Huron-Perth, London-Middlesex, Grey, Oxford, Sarnia-Lambton, and Windsor-Essex). Referrals come from CAS child protection workers.



Mnaasged Child & Family Services held a two-day Original Dispute Resolution Symposium in March of 2008, the first step towards development of Aboriginal-specific approaches to child protection ADR in our region.

Parenting Coordination Service Available

Since 1980, the London Custody & Access Project has helped separating parents focus on the best interests of children in the context of high-conflict divorces, using mediation and assessments. Parenting coordination services are now used by parents who seek guidance and assistance from a neutral party to craft a viable parenting plan and mediate any disputes arising when putting the plan into practice.



A parenting coordinator helps separated parents minimize conflict and understand their children's needs and perspectives on divorce.

Immunization Clinics for Youth in Residential Settings

Young people in custody, detention or therapeutic care settings often have missed the immunizations routinely available through the schools such as DPT, Hepatitis B and Meningitis C. Working with the Middlesex London Health Unit, Rose Santos organizes immunization clinics two or three times per year as needed in several settings across Middlesex County, so far vaccinating over 130 youth who had missed shots in their childhood or teenage years.



Rose Santos is a registered nurse and member of the Multi-disciplinary Clinical Supports Program.

Intensive Intervention Program Available to Probationers

Our newest service provides psychological and psychiatric consultations in relation to young probationers, along with the possibility of on-going therapeutic support. Candidates for the service are referred by probation officers and funding comes from the Ministry of Children & Youth Services. We are pleased to be a part of this service innovation to enhance the responsiveness of local services to the needs of youth.

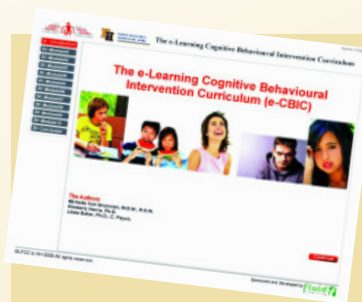


Our newest program is called Intensive Intervention Services and is provided to referred youth probationers.

Training Initiatives and Recent Publications

On-line learning curriculum for CB

With so much good research supporting cognitive-behavioral approaches, we were pleased to partner with Huron House Boy's Residential Home to develop an on-line curriculum for front-line staff working with at-risk youth. Over six months, students of the e-Learning Cognitive Behavioral Intervention Curriculum (eCBIC) combine instruction on theory with opportunities to practise skills in their work settings using both in-the-moment strategies and new approaches to structured one-to-one times with youth clients. Instruction is delivered using live workshops, interactive on-line modules, readings, quizzes, homework, graded assignments and a final exam. Successful program completers receive a certificate.



On-site training about children & domestic violence

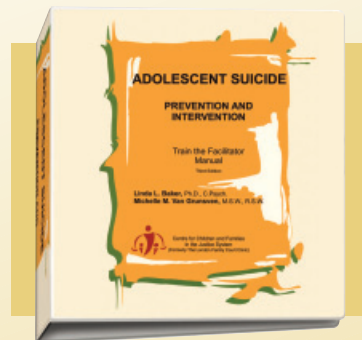
Centre staff routinely travel across Canada and the United States to deliver training workshops on the topic of children living with violence against their mothers. Sometimes we get invitations from farther afield, like Japan, Guam, Brazil, and the U.K. Training material is tailored to the length of time available, audience, and level of instruction desired, from a basic introduction through to skill building for seasoned therapists. The approach is highly interactive and attendees have the opportunity to understand better the needs of these children and teens and to take back concrete ideas for intervention.



Linda Baker is pictured in Hong Kong where she delivered a two-day training workshop for psychologists in 2006.

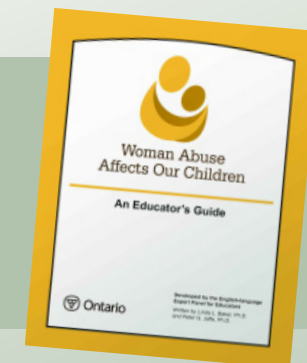
Train-the-facilitator manual for adolescent suicide prevention

Suicide is the number two cause of death in Canadian teenagers. Over three days, attendees learn to facilitate training with their co-workers serving high risk/high needs youth. Facilitators increase their knowledge about adolescent suicide, learn about risk indicators and protective factors, and enhance skills for reducing harm and supporting young people. Facilitators hone their facilitation skills and practise training peers. Successful candidates receive certification from the Centre. The work continues when facilitators return to their settings and train co-workers using the ten-module training manual provided, thereby building their agency's capacity for responding to suicidal youth.



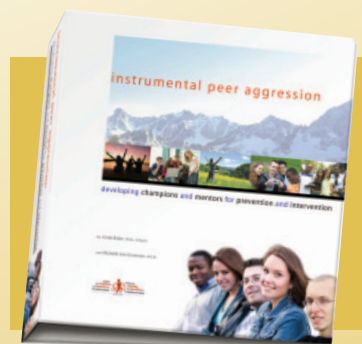
Province-wide training for educators

A series of workshops for teachers and other educators about the needs of elementary students who live or lived with domestic violence at home was rolled out across the province from 2007 to 2010. Partners on this initiative were the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario and Springtide Resources, with funding from the Government of Ontario. Both a resource guide and facilitator manual are provided to participants. Download a copy of the resource guide from the Centre's web site.



Training on instrumental peer aggression in custody

Fear of peer victimization is a common concern among youth entering detention or custody facilities. This train-the-facilitator manual creates champions and mentors who can raise awareness about instrumental peer-to-peer aggression (IPA) in custody settings. Program content includes learning modules for both staff and youth. In a three-day workshop, attendees both experience and facilitate the modules they will eventually use with co-workers and clients. Facilitators learn how to recognize IPA, understand its nature and consequences, know how it is used in the facility culture and its connection to power/ status/ respect, and create strategies to reduce the risk. Successful completers receive a certificate from the Centre.



Violence against a mother shapes children as they grow

The National Clearinghouse on Family Violence in Ottawa funded the development of this 40-page booklet in 2007. Topics addressed include facts & figures, ten ways a child can be changed by living with violence at home, and some myths about woman abuse and children. This is a concise resource for anyone wanting to understand how children experience violence against their mothers and how those experiences may shape them as they grow, from infancy to adolescence.



Sustainable strategies for safe schools

Created with generous funding from the Trillium Foundation of Ontario, this CD and companion administrator's resource can be used by educators as an individual staff development tool or discussion platform with a variety of audiences. The Stages of Change School Assessment Checklist yields information useful in the development and implementation of a safe school plan. View the CD on-line through the web site of the Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children.



Child witness training in the Territories

In this initiative funded by Justice Canada, Centre staff delivered presentations on the topic of children and court testimony in Yellowknife, Inuvik, Whitehorse, Watson Lake and Iqaluit. The visits afforded the opportunity to learn about the unique challenges of victim support within the context of northern circuit courts. This knowledge informed the development of the Journey to Justice training resource which was distributed across the north in 2009.



Pam Hurley (left) and Alison Cunningham in Inuvik, NWT.

Helping the helpers of abused women

Of relevance to anyone who works with women, the 2008 resource called Helping an Abused Woman provides insight into how abuse affects women and gives concrete ideas to apply on the front line, including worksheets for group or individual interventions. If you need training for new staff, or a booster for seasoned staff, this is the perfect resource. Readers learn key assumptions about abuse in intimate relationships, service principles, why all helping professionals must understand abuse dynamics, paradoxes of abuse, common control tactics and rationalizations of abusive men, thoughts and feelings blocking emotional leaving, and 10 promises not to make to women. The second guide in the series applies this understanding for staff of abused women's shelters, refuges or transition houses.



The Journey to Justice in Canada's North

This 90-page guide from 2009 takes the basic principles of helping children and teenagers testify in court and adapts them for use in Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut where circuit-court parties travel to isolated communities and sometimes hear the evidence of children in criminal trials. Also addressed are the needs of witnesses with diagnosed or suspected fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). The document was developed and distributed with funding from the Policy Centre for Victim Issues which is part of the Department of Justice in Ottawa.



Several translations now available

We are delighted when other non-profit agencies ask to translate our work for use with families in other countries. We grant permission so long as the Centre is acknowledged as the author and copyright holder, no profit is made by the sale of our work, and they send us a copy of the final product. Here are some examples. The Taipei Women's Rescue Foundation translated both the handbook and trainer's manual for early childhood educators, called Understanding the Effects of Domestic Violence. Guilford Press translated this 2004 book into Japanese: Protecting Children from Domestic Violence. Twelve of our resources are already available in French.



"A Full and Candid Account" booklets

These seven bilingual booklets from 2007 were produced and distributed across Canada with funding from the Department of Justice in Ottawa. They help prosecutors, victim-support workers, judges and others understand and meet the needs of children who testify in court. Topics covered are: overview of issues related to child testimony, testifying outside the courtroom (e.g., via CCTV), witness screens, video-recorded evidence, designated support person, hearsay evidence and children, and children and teenagers who testify in domestic violence cases.



Financials 2008/09

Revenue

Operating grants	1,664,930
Ministry of Children & Youth Services	
Ministry of Children & Youth Services, Youth Justice	
Ministry of the Attorney General	
Fees for services	962,740
Research & project grants	185,346
Amortization of deferred contributions related to capital assets	7,080
TOTAL REVENUE	2,820,096

Expenses

Salaries	1,583,689
Consultative & professional fees	535,030
Employee benefits	235,653
Administrative	156,762
Occupancy costs	126,767
Travel	94,737
Amortization of capital assets	48,207
Publication printing	27,931
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,808,776

Excess of revenues over expenses 11,320

Our auditor is BDO Dunwoody. The audited financial statement is available upon request.

Board of Directors (March 31, 2009)

Jack Little
(Chair)

Judy vanLeeuwen
(Vice-chair)

Henryka Anderson
(Secretary-treasurer)

B. Ross Chapin Jr.
(retired from the Board June, 2009)

Brenda Barr

Simon Davies

Deputy Chief Brad Duncan

Brian John
(retired from the Board June, 2009)

Marinus Lamers

Heather Lane

Marjie Macoun



In June 2009, Ross Chapin retired from the Board after 20 years of membership. Ross served in a variety of capacities and was Chair for three years in 2003 to 2006. We will miss his steady support and wise counsel. Also retiring this year was Brian John. We welcome Gail Ure as our newest member of the Board in September of 2009.

Front cover:

Seated (left to right)

Dr. Kim Harris, Dawn Lashbrook, Ryan Mackay, Dr. Dan Ashbourne, Alison Cunningham, Dr. Linda Baker, Karen Rhiger, Pam Hurley, Martha Pierce.

Standing (left to right)

Lynda Stevens, Carol Thornton, Mary Kay Arundel, Wayne Willis, Rose Santos, Julie Menten, Dr. Rida Mirza, Jacque Officer, Dr. Karen Bax, Patricia Berendsen, Brigitte Leclerc, Tammy Riley, Dr. Joyce Radford, Michelle Van Grunsven, Rebecca Warder.

Absent: Mary Jane Millar.



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