Canadian Youth Justice Conference

June 25–26, 2014 | Oakham House, Ryerson Student Centre, Toronto

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

— Responding More Effectively to Juvenile Crime in Canada: The Legal Context
— Panel Discussion: Bridging Collaboration between Mental Health and Youth Justice Services
— Envisioning International Youth Justice: Global Trends and Future Prospects
— Interactive Panel Discussion: Overview of the Impact of the YCJA Over the Past Decade in Ontario
— Understanding Youth Gangs and Gang-Related Violence in the Canadian Context
— New interventions and treatment options for young people

30+ OUTSTANDING SPEAKERS INCLUDING:

Professor Nicholas Bala, Queens University
Professor Barry Goldson, The University of Liverpool
David Altschuler, John Hopkins University, Baltimore
Dr. Scot Wortley, University of Toronto
The Hon. Brian Weagant, Ontario Court of Justice, Toronto
Dr. Mitesh Patel, Forensic Psychiatrist, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
Catherine Latimer, John Howard Society of Canada
Irwin Elman, The Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, Ontario
Dr. Carla Cesaroni, University of Ontario Institute of Technology

Supporting youth justice reforms, key youth justice issues and effective programming for early intervention, diversion and rehabilitation.

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IIR Healthcare Conference Series
It is my pleasure to present the first Canadian Youth Justice Conference.

The comprehensive two-day conference agenda was developed through consultation with leading experts and features emerging developments in juvenile justice both locally and internationally. Amongst other themes, the conference will delve into core aspects of treating and assessing mental health issues in youth, gang-related crime, early intervention and diversion, rehabilitation, the role of education, and much more.

We are fortunate to have secured a cross-section of Canada’s top researchers, provincial representatives, youth advocates, judiciary and frontline staff to share their knowledge on best practice research, policy, and innovative programs being implemented throughout Canada.

I am honoured to welcome two international keynote speakers. Professor Goldson (UK) will consider the global context for youth justice. Professor Altschuler (USA) will present a re-entry model for how high-risk young offenders can be reintegrated into the community.

The conference features two interactive, pre-conference workshops to provide in-depth, practical training for ‘working with youth with co-occurring mental disorders’, and on the newest ‘SNAP’ cognitive-behavioural therapeutic strategy developed by the Child Development Institute aimed at young males (12+) involved in criminal activities.

This conference presents a unique opportunity to meet new contacts and to be a part of conversations driving youth justice in Canada today. Through interactive panel discussions, workshops, and case-studies, there will be ample opportunities to engage with your peers in an open and frank dialogue.

I’d like to thank our official supporters, The John Howard Society, Operation Springboard, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton, and the St Leonard’s Society for their assistance in the planning and research stages and to all of the experts who provided their feedback on the program.

Wishing you an informative and inspirational two days in June.
Canadian Youth Justice Conference
Wednesday June 25, 2014

8:30 Registration and Breakfast
9:00 Conference Opening:
   Risha Premarajah, Conference Manager, IIR Healthcare Conferences
9:05 Opening Remarks From Chair
9:10 **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**
   Responding More Effectively to Juvenile Crime in Canada: The Legal Context
   YCJA: a qualified success.
   Leading YCJA precedents.
   2012 amendments: rhetoric and reality.
   Nicholas Bala, Professor of Law, Queen’s University
9:50 **NATIONAL KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**
   Envisioning International Youth Justice: Global Trends and Future Prospects
   How might youth justice reform in Canada be situated within a comparative international context? Is it possible to identify core global trends? What are the prospects for international youth justice? This paper will address such questions by outlining alternative visions.
   Professor Barry Goldson, Department of Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology, The University of Liverpool, UK
10:30 Morning Refreshments
11:00 **INTERACTIVE PANEL SESSION:**
   Overview of the Impact of the YCJA Over the Past Decade in Ontario
   Ontario’s Ministry of Children and Youth Services began transformation of youth justice services in 2004 to align with the principles and sentencing provisions of the Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA) and better integrate services with the broader system planning for youth.
   A panel will present an overview of the impact of the YCJA over a ten year period and specific examples of approaches developed to improve outcomes for youth. Included will be the Ministry’s partnership with the evidence-based SNAP® (Stop Now and Plan) program, implementation of new programs and approaches to provide diversion and response to the needs of youth with mental health issues in the criminal justice system and approaches to working with Aboriginal youth that focus on innovative programming, consultation and cultural awareness training.
   Julie Erbland, Senior Policy and Program Analyst, Youth Justice Strategic Policy and Planning, Youth Justice Services Division, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, MCYS
   Donna Irvine, Manager, Effective Programming and Evaluation, Youth Justice Services Division, MCYS
   Sandy Palinski, Manager, Mental Health and Specialized Client Services, Youth Justice Services Division, MCYS
   Paul Wheeler, Manager, Special Projects, Youth Justice Services Division, MCYS
12:00 Evolving Youth Criminal Justice: Past, Present, and Future
   The presentation will cover the issues that prompted the Youth Criminal Justice Act and how they were addressed; current challenges in youth justice, including numbers in remand, and supporting services for youth with mental health and other needs; and some suggestions for the future direction of youth justice.
   Catherine Latimer, Executive Director, John Howard Society of Canada
12:30 Lunch and Networking
1:00 Aboriginal Specific Interventions for Youth
   Jonathan Rudin, Program Director, Aboriginal Legal Services of Toronto
1:30 The Importance of Assessing and Treating Mental Health Issues in Justice-Involved Youth
   This presentation will provide a brief overview of the types of mental health issues typically relevant in justice-involved youth, highlight the importance of assessing and treating mental health issues in addition to the well-known criminogenic risk factors related to reoffending and, review the evidence regarding the impact of appropriate intervention on rehabilitation with this group of youth.
   Dr. Tracey Skilling, Clinical & Forensic Psychologist and Clinician Scientist, Child, Youth and Family Services, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
2:00 A Process Evaluation of Toronto’s First Youth Mental Health Court
   This presentation describes the results of a process evaluation of the court, which focused on the following objectives: 1) to understand and represent the court’s program theory, 2) to explore program model implementation within the context of the YCJA, 3) to describe how the court operates (with a particular focus on whether it is servicing its intended population), 4) to examine what factors predict successful court completion, and 5) to examine how the court addresses the mental health and criminogenic needs of its clients.
   Michele Peterson-Bedali, Professor, University of Toronto
2:30 Adolescent Onset Psychosis and Youth Justice
   Examine and explore the area of psychosis as it relates to youth justice. Case studies will be discussed from open custody management. Strategies will be explored.
   Dr. Mitesh Patel, BSc, MD, FRCP(C), Forensic Psychiatrist, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health; Forensic Youth Psychiatric Service; Hincks Dell’iCrest Centre, Turning Point Youth Services; Turning Point Youth Shelter
3:00 Afternoon Refreshments
3:30 Peacebuilders’ Innovative Restorative Justice Program for Youth
   Eva Marszewski, Executive Director and Founder, Peacebuilders
4:00 PANEL DISCUSSION:
   Bridging Collaboration between Mental Health and Youth Justice Services
   **PANELLISTS:**
   The Honourable Brian Weagant, Ontario Court of Justice, Toronto
   Dr. Mitesh Patel, Forensic Psychiatrist, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
   Debbie Schatia, Director, Programs and Services, Turning Point Youth Services
   Dr. Joanna Henderson, Child, Youth and Family Program, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
5:00 Closing Remarks From Chair
5:10 End of Day One. IIR invites all speakers and delegates to an informal drinks reception to discuss the day’s issues and network with their peers
### International Keynote Address
**Implementing EBPs in a Reentry Context: The Whys, What, Where, When and Hows**

Reentry is a process that directly links the experience in a “placement” facility with what occurs following release from placement. Reentry involves continuity of care across multiple stages of reentry and a systematic approach to providing overarching case management. The keynote will highlight this reentry model with particular attention focused on six critically important programmatic dimensions: 1) assessment for risk, strengths and needs, 2) cognitive-behavioral interventions, 3) family engagement, 4) release readiness, 5) permanency planning, and 6) staffing and workforce skills.

David Altschuler, Principal Research Scientist, John Hopkins University, Baltimore

### Social Problem or Moral Panic: Understanding Youth Gangs and Gang-Related Violence in the Canadian Context

This presentation will provide a typology of youth gangs and gang-related violence, review personal and community-level characteristics predictive of gang involvement and, the reasons youth join gangs and the reasons they decide to desist from gang activity. It will be argued that an understanding of these motivations is crucial to the development of effective gang prevention and intervention strategies.

Dr. Scot Wortley, Associate Professor of Criminology, Centre for Criminology and Sociolegal Studies, University of Toronto

### The Role of Education – Innovative School Model for Youth Exiting Incarceration

This presentation will cover; unique challenges of transitional age youth, mental health and addictions, our model of service and innovative use of technology and, our evaluation framework and outcomes.

Karen Zanone, Manager of Youth Residential and Reintegration Services, Elizabeth Fry Society of Peel-Halton

### Tracking the Progress to Engage the Video Game Generation: Responding to Diverse Needs in Youth Justice

Springboard will present their innovative digital, community of practice strategy called the Community Learning HUB designed to help service providers better meet the diverse needs of the young people they serve. Along with a demonstration of new play-based digital skill development programming, this presentation will outline the progress and results achieved over the past 2 years.

Marg Stanowski, Executive Director, Operation Springboard

### Supporting Girls – In the Community and within the Justice System: A 25 Year Retrospective

We have been providing trauma-informed and gender responsive resources, supports and programs to reduce the marginalization of girls since 1985. We will identify a history of best practices in supporting girls in the justice system and the community, and the struggles and supports necessary for this work to continue.

Deb Riddle, Manager, Program Design and Evaluation, Operation Springboard

### Dream, Dare, Do: An Innovative Transitional Aged Youth Program

This presentation will cover; unique challenges of transitional age youth with mental health and addictions, best practices and research about transitional age youth, mental health and addictions, our model of service and innovative use of technology and, our evaluation framework and outcomes.

Julia Vanderheul, Program Coordinator, Transitional Aged Youth, LOFT

### Closing Remarks From Chair

Irwin Elman, The Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, Ontario
Pre-Conference Workshop A:
Mental Health, Trauma and Addictions:
Working with Youth with Co-occurring Disorders

WORKSHOP DURATION:
3 hours – 9am-12pm

WORKSHOP GOAL:
The workshop goal is to give participants strategies for identifying and addressing co-occurring mental health, substance use and trauma-related problems in youth involved with the justice system. Upon course completion, participants will be able to identify strategies to use in their own practice that are based on best available evidence. They will learn about the importance of early identification of concerns across domains and of understanding the interconnections among disorders. As well, participants will learn how to motivate engagement in interventions and about integrated treatment options. Strategies will be discussed on ‘meeting youth where they are at’ to build and implement intervention plans. Interagency collaboration will also be discussed.

WORKSHOP LEADER:
Dr. Joanna Henderson PhD CPsych Clinician Scientist, Child, Youth and Family Service, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto, Ontario

Joanna Henderson is a Clinician Scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. She has worked extensively with youth with substance use and/or mental health concerns. Dr. Henderson is a Lead Investigator on two federally-funded projects to develop innovative approaches to understanding and addressing youth substance use and mental health concerns. Dr. Henderson’s additional research interests include trauma, youth risk-taking, help-seeking behaviour, youth engagement, and innovative models of knowledge translation and exchange.

MAJOR OBJECTIVES:
1. Understand the importance of identifying and addressing co-occurring mental health, substance use, and trauma-related problems in the care of youth involved with the justice system.
2. Understand strategies to identify co-occurring disorders and to intervene to improve outcomes.
   - Screening for mental health, substance use and trauma-related concerns in youth.
   - Exploring the interconnections among disorders.
   - Engaging youth in interventions to address co-occurring disorders.
   - Offering integrated treatments based on best available evidence.
   - Practicing trauma-informed care.
3. Understand the importance of interagency collaboration in meeting the complex needs of youth with co-occurring disorders involved with the justice system.

Pre-Conference Workshop B:
SNAP® Youth Justice: Engaging Justice Involved Youth in an Emotion-Regulation, Self-Control and Problem Solving Skills Program

WORKSHOP DURATION:
3 hours – 1pm – 4pm

WORKSHOP GOAL:
Child Development Institute (CDI) in partnership with the Ministry of Child and Youth Services (MCYS) – Youth Justice Services Division (YJSD) with support from Justice Canada’s Guns and Gangs Initiative launched the SNAP® Youth Justice (SNAP® YJ) project based on a comprehensive implementation framework designed to develop, train, and support sustainable replication and evaluation of an intervention approach for youth.

The key strategy of this project is SNAP®, an award winning, evidence based, cognitive-behavioural therapeutic strategy, designed to improve emotion regulation, self-control, and problem-solving skills. This newest model in the SNAP® family was adapted for justice involved youth using key findings from evidence based research to develop an engaging targeted program to reduce the risk of further contact with the law and/or gang membership, while maintaining the core components of the SNAP® strategy. The program development process of SNAP® YJ incorporated youth and staff feedback on the design and content of the modules, SNAP® app, and graphic novels.

The project engages males aged 12+ who are involved in the youth justice system. Implementation of SNAP® YJ includes training Youth Justice System professionals, front line workers, and community partners.

WORKSHOP LEADER:
Dr. Leena K. Augimeri, Director, Scientific & Program Development & Centre for Children Committing Offences at the Child Development Institute and Adjunct Professor, University of Toronto. Her work has focused on the development of a comprehensive mental health crime prevention model for young children engaged in antisocial behaviour with a focus on police-community referral protocols, evidence-based interventions (co-founder of the SNAP® models), and risk/need assessment tools (EARLs). She is a noted author, consultant and presenter.

ADDITIONAL PRESENTERS
Margaret Walsh, Manager, Research and Evaluation, Child Development Institute (CDI)
Sarah Woods, Coordinator, CDI, SNAP® Youth Justice, CDI
Nadine Wallace Project Lead, CDI, SNAP® Youth Justice, CDI
Che Latchford, SNAP® Trainer-Consultant, CDI, SNAP® Youth Justice Lead, CDI

Full Biographies can be found online at www.healthconferences.ca/youth

MAJOR OBJECTIVES:
1. Highlight the SNAP® technique and development of SNAP® YJ model that uses interactive technology to engage justice involved youth;
2. Discuss the training and implementation process of SNAP® YJ;
3. Share preliminary feedback of the first SNAP® YJ test pilot that took place at the Roy McMurry Youth Centre (RMYC).
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