



**City of Richmond**

**Report to Committee**

**To:** Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 28, 2005  
**From:** Shawn Issel **File:** 09-5000-00/Vol 01  
 Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs  
**Re:** **Richmond Substance Abuse Task Force Phase 1 Report & Phase 2 Workplan**

**Staff Recommendation**

That the Richmond Substance Abuse Task Force Phase 1 Report & Phase 2 Workplan be approved, and

That \$50,000 for Phase 2 be approved from the casino revenues set aside by Council in 2001 for substance abuse initiatives.

Shawn Issel  
 Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs  
 (4184)

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY					
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>			
Budgets .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
Policy Planning .....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>REVIEWED BY TAG</b>	YES	NO	<b>REVIEWED BY CAO</b>	YES	NO
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## Staff Report

### Origin

Council appointed the RSATF in April 2002 (Richmond Substance Abuse Task Force). The RSATF's key objectives were to develop the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy and work with key stakeholders to implement the strategy. The strategy was completed and approved by Council in July, 2003. The implementation of the strategy is in two phases, funding for implementing Phase 1 of the strategy was approved by Council February, 2004. The RSATF completed Phase 1 of the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy in December, 2004, and have now identified their workplan for the second, final phase of the strategy.

In accordance with their Terms of Reference the RSATF have completed a report to Council on Phase 1 and their proposed workplan for the Phase 2 of the strategy (June 2005-December 2006), including a request for funding. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the RSATF's report (*Attachment 1*) and staff's commentary.

### Analysis

#### Phase 1 Achievements

The Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy has five pillars – Prevention & Education, Harm Reduction, Treatment, Enforcement and Inter-Agency Cooperation. In 2004 the RSATF implemented Phase 1 of the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy. The RSATF identified an awareness campaign, an outcomes measurement tool, and a web-based single information source as their focus for Phase 1 of the strategy. The web-based single information source has not been started and is included in the Phase 2 workplan. Highlights of their achievements from Phase 1 include:

- “Opening Minds, Opening Doors” Stakeholder Forum at Gateway Theatre which attracted 75 participants from agencies and organizations in the community. Brenda Locke, Minister of State for Mental Health and Addictions was the keynote speaker.
- An “Opening Minds, Opening Doors” awareness campaign with ads in local newspapers and bus shelters throughout the city
- “Opening Minds, Opening Doors’ Youth Film Festival
- Needs Assessment updated, and telephone survey underway
- Hosting a presentation by David MacIntyre, Director, Vancouver Drug Treatment Court
- Hosting a meeting with senior representatives from City of Richmond, School District 38, Richmond Health Services and Richmond RCMP, who agree to serve as the Senior Leadership Coalition for the strategy

The RSATF have endorsed the philosophy that the strategy's success depends upon a wider group of stakeholders in the community taking ownership and responsibility for substance abuse issues and initiatives. The most significant outcome of the Task Force's efforts has been their ability to influence other stakeholders to take more ownership of the strategy. This has been

demonstrated through funding of initiatives, in-kind contributions and other agencies utilizing the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy to provide direction for substance abuse initiatives:

- The Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy has been used by Richmond Health Services to provide direction for their Mental Health & Addictions framework. Jan Weaver, Director, Primary Health Care, Mental Health & Addictions is using the RSATF in an advisory capacity, and has indicated an interest in maintaining that relationship with members of the Task Force even after their mandate to the City is fulfilled.
- Richmond Safe Communities Alliance identified a need to support the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy and as result will be implementing a Meth Watch Program for Richmond. Richmond Health Services has contributed \$6,000 to implement this program.
- Richmond Health Services contributed the funding for an assessment of treatment services.
- Richmond Addictions Services has given one half day per week in-kind support by providing a staff person to act as a coordinator.
- SUCCESS
- The local media have donated approximately \$4,000 in newspaper space to date.
- Heart of Richmond Aids
- Richmond Addictions Services
- Membership on the RSATF now includes representatives from the Richmond District Parents' Association, the Ministry for Children & Family Development, and SUCCESS.

#### Phase 2 Workplan

The final phase of the RSATF's workplan maintains the five pillar approach – Prevention & Education, Treatment, Harm Reduction, Inter-agency cooperation and Enforcement.

Highlights of the workplan include:

- Prevention and Education - the RSATF has identified four target groups – youth, parents, multicultural and business communities. They have identified asset-building and the City's Youth Strategy specifically as tools for developing initiatives targeted at youth. They are working with their RDPA (Richmond District Parents' Association) representative about partnering with the RDPA and PAC's (Parent Advisory Committees) on educational materials and topic specific events. They have identified working with SUCCESS Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society, and faith-based organizations to target Richmond's diverse population.
- Harm Reduction - engaging the business community to assist with the Meth Watch Program.
- Treatment – continue to work with Richmond Health Services to ensure funding and implementation of treatment services
- Interagency Cooperation – continued collaboration with the Richmond Safe Communities Alliance.

- Enforcement – examine options for access to a Drug Treatment Court

The RSATF has also identified the need to begin discussions about how to transition the work of the Task Force to other community groups at the end of the strategy. There have been preliminary discussions about Richmond Health Services utilizing existing Task Force members in a formal advisory capacity and continuing to use the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy to provide direction.

### Financial Impact

In Phase 2 the RSATF is proposing a total budget of \$90,500. Richmond Addictions Services is contributing \$10,500 through in-kind support, and \$30,000 is being requested from Richmond Health Services. Preliminary discussions with Jan Weaver, Director, Mental Health & Addictions indicate that Richmond Health Services would be interested in funding specific initiatives as shown in the following table. The total amount being requested of the City by the RSATF for completion of the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy is \$50,000.

In Phase 1, Richmond Addictions Services provided a staff resource one half day a week. However, the RSATF found they did not have sufficient resources to coordinate and fully implement the workplan and were therefore unable to utilize all of the funding approved. In Phase 2, the RSATF has identified the actions necessary to complete the strategy and fulfill their mandate. However, based on their experience completing Phase 1, they do not anticipate being able to complete the strategy with the existing level of support from Richmond Addictions Services. Within the \$50,000 being requested, the RSATF recommends that the City contribute \$5,000 funding to increase the level of staff support being provided by Richmond Addictions Services.

The following table outlines the request for funding, including in-kind contributions and funding source.

Budget Items	Cost	Funding Type	Funding Source
Educational materials - Purchase, develop and produce resource materials, pamphlets and information sheets for dissemination to youth, parents, business, faith-based groups, public, service providers.	\$10,000	financial	City
Translation services for educational materials	\$5,000	financial	City
Meeting and event costs	\$1,500	financial	City
Promotion and Advertising related to events (November is Addictions Awareness Month, etc)	\$4,000	financial	City
Volunteer Richmond Information Services; 12 months, development and operation of centralized information resource	\$39,500	financial	RHS (\$20,000) City (\$19,500)

<b>Budget Items</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Final Survey evaluation and measurement tool conducted	\$10,000	financial	RHS (\$5,000) City (\$5,000)
Contribution to RSATF staff resource from Richmond Addictions Services	\$10,000	financial	RHS (\$5,000) City (\$5,000)
Dedicated staff time (over 12 months)	\$8,000	in-kind	Richmond Addictions Services
Technological support (computer, telephone, e-mail, fax, photocopier)	\$2,500	In-kind	Richmond Addictions Services
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,500</b>		

<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Financial support being sought from City of Richmond	\$50,000
Financial support being sought from Richmond Health Services	\$30,000
In Kind Contributions	\$10,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,500</b>

In April, 2001, \$230,000 was allocated from casino revenues to Community Safety initiatives (\$180,000 of this amount came from funds previously allocated to the Mayor's Task Force on Drugs and Crime, later known as the Richmond Substance Abuse Task Force). If approved, the \$50,000 would come from the remaining revenues allocated for Richmond Substance Abuse Task Force initiatives. The table in *Attachment 2* outlines the history of the \$230,000 casino revenues from 2001 to the present.

### **Conclusion**

The RSATF has concluded Phase 1 of the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy. Phase 2 of the strategy is anticipated to be complete by the end of 2006. At that time the RSATF will have completed its mandate to the City.



Shawn Issel  
Manager, Policy Development & Corporate Programs  
(4184)

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***Richmond Substance Abuse***

***Task Force Report***

***To***

***CITY OF RICHMOND COUNCIL***

***MAY 2005***

**RSATF report to Council: April 2005**

***Mandate of the Task Force***

In June 2003 City Council approved The Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy developed by the Substance Abuse Task Force. That strategy is based on a five pillar approach that includes Education and Prevention, Treatment, Harm Reduction, Enforcement and Inter-Agency Cooperation, with specific goals, outcomes and action strategies developed for each pillar.

Following Council's approval of the strategy, and the allocation of resources for its first year of operation, the Task Force set about the task of implementation. Through an in-kind contribution, a staff member from Richmond Addiction Services was assigned to work with the Task Force one-half day per week to assist in coordination of sub-committee work and implementation of tasks and events.

This report outlines achievements to date for each goal area, what we will work to accomplish in the next 12 – 18 months and identifies the resources that we will require to get the job done.

**Phase I of Implementation: June 2004 – January 2005**

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***Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy: Five Goal Areas***

**1. *Prevention and Education:***

**GOAL:** Children, youth and adults in Richmond are generally knowledgeable about the implications of substance use/misuse issues.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Mayor declared November as Addictions Awareness Month.
- Held a successful Stakeholder forum involving 75 participants from agencies and organizations in the community. The purpose of the forum was to inform participants about the range of information, programs and services regarding substance use and addictions that exist in Richmond.
- Community events were posted on the Centre for Addictions Research of BC website.
- General awareness campaign launched; full-page sections in 2 local newspapers; full sized ads on bus shelters throughout the city.
- BC Lions support in the form of a Richmond-resident football player lending his fame to publicly support Richmond's strategy.
- Youth campaign launched- film contest held; films were viewed at the Stakeholder Forum.

**2. *Harm Reduction***

**GOALS:** Harm Reduction is understood, accepted and supported generally within the community as an appropriate approach for addressing substance use/misuse in Richmond;

- The RSATF's Harm Reduction strategies are successful.
- There is a measurable reduction in disease transmission and harm associated with illicit drug use.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Members of the RSATF attended and participated in Gilwest Clinic Advisory Meetings.
- Richmond Health Services developed a continuum of Harm Reduction services required within Richmond Addiction Services.
- Community agencies participating in the Stakeholder Forum have greater knowledge regarding Harm Reduction and its role in the treatment of substance use and addiction issues.

**3. *Treatment***

**GOAL:** The range of services for the prevention and treatment of substance use and misuse are available in Richmond, are sufficient to meet the community's needs, and are adequately funded.

**ACHIEVEMENTS:**



- A baseline survey to determine (a) community attitudes towards substance use and addiction and (b) treatment capacity needs in Richmond is nearing completion;
- An update of the Needs Assessment conducted in Richmond in 2002 has been completed;
- Received agreement and commitment from VCHA that residential treatment is needed in Richmond;
- Preliminary positive discussion of how the RSATF can act in an advisory capacity to VCHA/RHS;
- Volunteer Richmond Information Services has agreed to work with the Task Force to implement a pilot community access point to drug, alcohol, and addiction information and referral for students, parents, professionals, community agency staff and the public at large.
- This will act as a centralized resource in Richmond for literature, information, fact sheets, online resources, and contact information for local services and programs for additional addiction information.
- Information would be screened to ensure accuracy of information and best practices by local health service providers.

#### **4. Enforcement**

##### **GOALS:**

- a) Richmond is a safer community;
- b) Illicit drug availability, selling and use are severely restricted by the effectiveness of Richmond's law enforcement strategies;
- c) The Court system is structured to deal effectively with drug cases.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Hosted a presentation and discussion session by David MacIntyre, Director, Vancouver Drug Treatment Court;
- Youth Officers as well as officers from other sections, were invited to, and attended, Stakeholder Forum.

#### **5. Inter-Agency Cooperation**

**GOAL:** The community, the City of Richmond, Richmond School District, Richmond Health Services, Richmond RCMP and service providers in Richmond are committed to, and engaged in, finding solutions to these issues.

##### **ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- The Senior Leaders from the City of Richmond, School District 38, Richmond Health Services and the Richmond RCMP met and agreed to serve as the Senior Leadership Coalition for Richmond's Substance Abuse Strategy. In doing so they declared their support and the support of their respective agencies to the work of the RSATF in implementing the strategy;
- A Stakeholder Forum, "Opening Doors, Opening Minds" was hosted by the RSATF; Minister of State for Mental Health and Addictions was the keynote speaker; event was very well attended by community service providers and stakeholders (approximately 75 participants);
- Expanded membership of the RSATF has included other agencies;
- Addiction services information was printed on the "positive tickets" distributed by the Richmond RCMP.

***In-Kind Contributions:***

There has been immense support for implementation of the strategy by way of in-kind contributions. The work that has been accomplished to date would not have occurred without this support.

- Task force members:
  - 11 members, 1.5 hours per monthly meeting
- Richmond Addiction Services
  - staff member contribution of 3.6 hours per week; contributed to initiatives by taking on a lead organizing role
- City of Richmond staff contribution
  - Staff Liaison attends all meetings, 1.5 hours per month
  - Administrative assistant organizes, prepares agendas and minutes for each RSATF meeting
  - Meeting space and refreshments at City Hall

**Phase II of Implementation: June 2005 – December 2006**

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***Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy: Five Goal Areas***

***Goals for next 12-18 months, Phase II:***

*The next 12-18 months of the implementation of the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy are critical. The framework must be established for future collaboration and joint effort in the areas of use, misuse and addiction. Although the implementation phase is a concrete time period, the work of the strategy will be ongoing years beyond Phase II of the implementation*

***The Role and Structure of the Richmond Substance Abuse Task Force in the Future:***

The RSATF is moving toward a more integrated relationship and involvement with Richmond Health Services. The provision of services in the community of Richmond are the direct mandate of Vancouver Coastal Health Services through Richmond Health Services. However, the success of the implementation and ongoing work of the substance abuse strategy is the joint responsibility of all stakeholders. As such, the immense importance is highlighted by the area of the Strategy titled Inter-Agency Cooperation. The Task Force included this area as a component just as significant as the other areas simply because it is. Without the inclusion, support and cooperation of the stakeholders, the strategy will not be successful.

The Task force has also identified a core group of key stakeholders. This group which includes The City of Richmond, Richmond School District, RCMP, Richmond Detachment and Richmond Health Services has publicly supported the Strategy and voiced support for the implementation of it.

***As a result of sub-groups identifying areas and initiatives for Phase II in the implementation of the strategy; the following goals have been identified:***

***1. Prevention and Education:***

- ***Youth:***
  - Examine current City of Richmond's Youth Strategy to determine how substance use, misuse and addiction prevention and education can be inserted or built upon.
  - Utilize the BC Lions in their offer of support and involvement in future awareness campaigns that are initiated by the RSATF.
  - Focus on asset-building and resiliency skill development for continuity of philosophy between services and to promote best practices.
- ***Parents:***
  - Facilitate strategic involvement between parents and community agencies to encourage awareness and education about high-risk behaviors, specifically substance use and misuse. To accomplish this, a number of specific action items were identified :
    1. To compile a list of available educational resources, information, education and training available to the RDPA and PAC's; also identify resources that are currently unavailable to these groups.

2. Survey parents to solicit what type of information would be beneficial for them to have.
  3. Identify parents groups other than Richmond PACs.
  4. Develop and disseminate information that promotes asset development in the context of resiliency from drug-using/risk-taking behaviour.
  5. Encourage public educational displays at community events specifically for parents and caregivers.
  6. Disseminate information specific to parent needs in a variety of places. Some places could include: RDPA website, column in local newspapers, through schools for students to take home, etc.
- **Diverse Populations**
    - Facilitate discussions between ethnic-serving organizations and addictions agencies to determine how these organizations can best work together.
    - Work with Richmond Multicultural Concerns Society.
    - Access Richmond's social service inventory to identify other groups to be involved.
    - Identify current venues or initiatives of Task Force member organizations as well as agencies and organizations throughout the community that can be linked or built upon for the purposes of enhancing or introducing A&D prevention and education.
    - Explore the need and desire for educational and awareness opportunities within Richmond's faith communities. Develop and implement special initiatives which may include peer education.
  - **Business Community**
    - Engage the business community and the Richmond Chamber of Commerce in education and prevention by way of assisting the Richmond Safe Communities Alliance with the Richmond Meth Watch initiative; also make available resources tailored to the needs of the business community.
- 2. Harm Reduction**
- Support the work of the Richmond Safe Communities Alliance in their development and implementation of Meth Watch, and their exploration of the feasibility of more needle receptacles in the community.
  - Harm Reduction as a philosophy will be addressed in an ongoing way through youth, parent, ethnic communities and public education.
  - Continuous collaboration with mental illness serving organizations to ensure stable housing availability.
- 3. Treatment**
- Richmond Health Services recognizes that the funding and the implementation of treatment services are their responsibility as part of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority.
  - The RSATF will be involved in advocacy, planning, and monitoring progress through a process yet to be determined.

- Links to other groups such as housing and mental health will also be pursued.

**4. Enforcement**

- There will be a continued effort to pursue and examine options for access to a Drug Treatment Court for individuals that meet the criteria and are charged in Richmond.

**5. Inter-Agency Cooperation**

- Continued dialogue with other like-minded municipalities that have developed their own drug strategies.
- Continued collaboration with the Richmond Safe Communities Alliance on the creation and implementation of a Meth Watch Program for Richmond, as well as other issues of safety as they directly relate to substance use, misuse and addiction. Richmond Health Services has contributed \$6000 to implement this program.
- The continued commitment of the four major stakeholders, The City of Richmond, School District #38, RCMP, Richmond Detachment, and Richmond Health Services will also continue to be an essential strength in the implementation and success of the Strategy.

**Resources required for Phase II, the final phase of the implementation:**

The RSATF is currently pursuing ongoing funding for some elements of the strategy once it is implemented. Although the future and the success of the Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy beyond implementation is a community responsibility, it is especially dependent on the support of the four key stakeholders. This support may look different from each stakeholder. Types of support may include financial contributions, collaboration, partnership, ongoing dialogue, recognition, a commitment to strategically including elements of prevention and harm reduction within existing programs and services, among others.

As well, through the Richmond Safe Communities Alliance, some initiatives that relate directly to safety in the areas of substance use, misuse, and addiction will be able to apply for grants and funding.

<b>Budget Items</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding Type</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
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In Kind Contributions	\$10,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$90,500</b>

**Membership of the Task Force**

*The Task Force is made up of representatives from various sectors of the community.*

*The membership includes:*

*RCMP, Richmond Detachment: Tony Mahon*

*Richmond Health Services: Jan Weaver*

*School District #38: Rob Inrig*

*Richmond Addiction Services: Vince Battistelli*

*Richmond Addiction Services: Christa Mullaly*

*Heart of Richmond Aids Society: Brian Wardley*

*Richmond District Parents Association: Donna Sargent*

*Turning Point Recovery Society: Peter Stanger*

*SUCCESS: Francis Li*

*Ministry for Children and Family Development: David Phillips*

*Staff Liaison: The City of Richmond, Shawn Issel*

*Council Liaison: Community Safety Committee, Linda Barnes*

## Casino Revenue Allocated to Substance Abuse Initiatives 2001-Present

<b>Item</b>	
Casino Revenues (\$50K – Community Safety Initiatives; \$180K – Substance Abuse Strategy)	\$230,000
Funding transferred to Council Provision (April 2003 - \$38,000, September 2003 - \$50,000)	-88,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>\$142,000</b>
Substance Abuse Strategy Development	-42,000
Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy -Phase 1	-26,000
<b>Current Balance</b>	<b>\$74,000</b>
Richmond Substance Abuse Strategy - Phase 2	- 50,000
<b>Balance of casino revenues</b>	<b>\$24,000</b>