



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** October 19, 2009
From: Phyllis L. Carlyle **File:**
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
Re: **Restorative Justice Recidivism Rates for 2004 to 2006**

Staff Recommendation

That the report of the General Manager, Law & Community Safety dated October 19, 2009, entitled *Restorative Justice Recidivism Rates for 2004 – 2006*, be received for information.

Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
(604-276-4104)

Att. 2

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER 		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES CVC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES GTD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

Community Safety Committee requested a report on the recidivism rates for the Richmond Restorative Justice Program.

Analysis

The City's Restorative Justice Program, currently operated by Touchstone Family Association, is in its fourth year in the community. In 2008, City Council approved a three year contract with Touchstone.

The purpose of the City's restorative justice program is to repair the harm done through the commission of an offence. This differs from the traditional justice system that focuses on determining guilt and assigning punishment. The program is delivered in a safe, controlled setting in which an offender, victim and their respective families and supporters are brought together with a trained facilitator to discuss the offence and its effects, and to decide jointly on how to right the wrong that has been committed.

One measure of the effectiveness of the City's Restorative Justice Program is the recidivism rate. Recidivism is the repetition of criminal behaviour. For the purposes of this report, recidivism is defined as the laying of a criminal charge.

In measuring recidivism it is important to allow sufficient time to pass before determining the rate of recidivism. Therefore, only individuals referred to the restorative justice process from January 1st, 2004 to December 31st, 2006 were queried on the Province wide Police Database - Police Retrieval and Information Management Environment (PRIME) to determine those individuals charged with a criminal offence after participating in a Community Justice Forum (CJF).

Attachment 1 illustrates that between 2004 and 2006, 100 youths (17 years old and younger) were referred to the Restorative Justice Program. Community Justice Forums were conducted with 74 youths and 67 completed an agreement arrived at during the Forum. Of the youth who completed their agreements, 12% re-offended.

By comparison, in the group of 7 youths who did not complete their agreements, 57% re-offended. In the group of youth who were referred, but did not participate in a forum, 61.5% re-offended.

In addition to youth, adults were also referred to the restorative justice program (Attachment 2). Of the 37 adults referred to the process, 24 participated in a forum. Of the participating adults 100% did not re-offend whether or not they completed their agreement. By comparison, 31% of the adults who were referred, but did not participate in a forum, re-offended.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

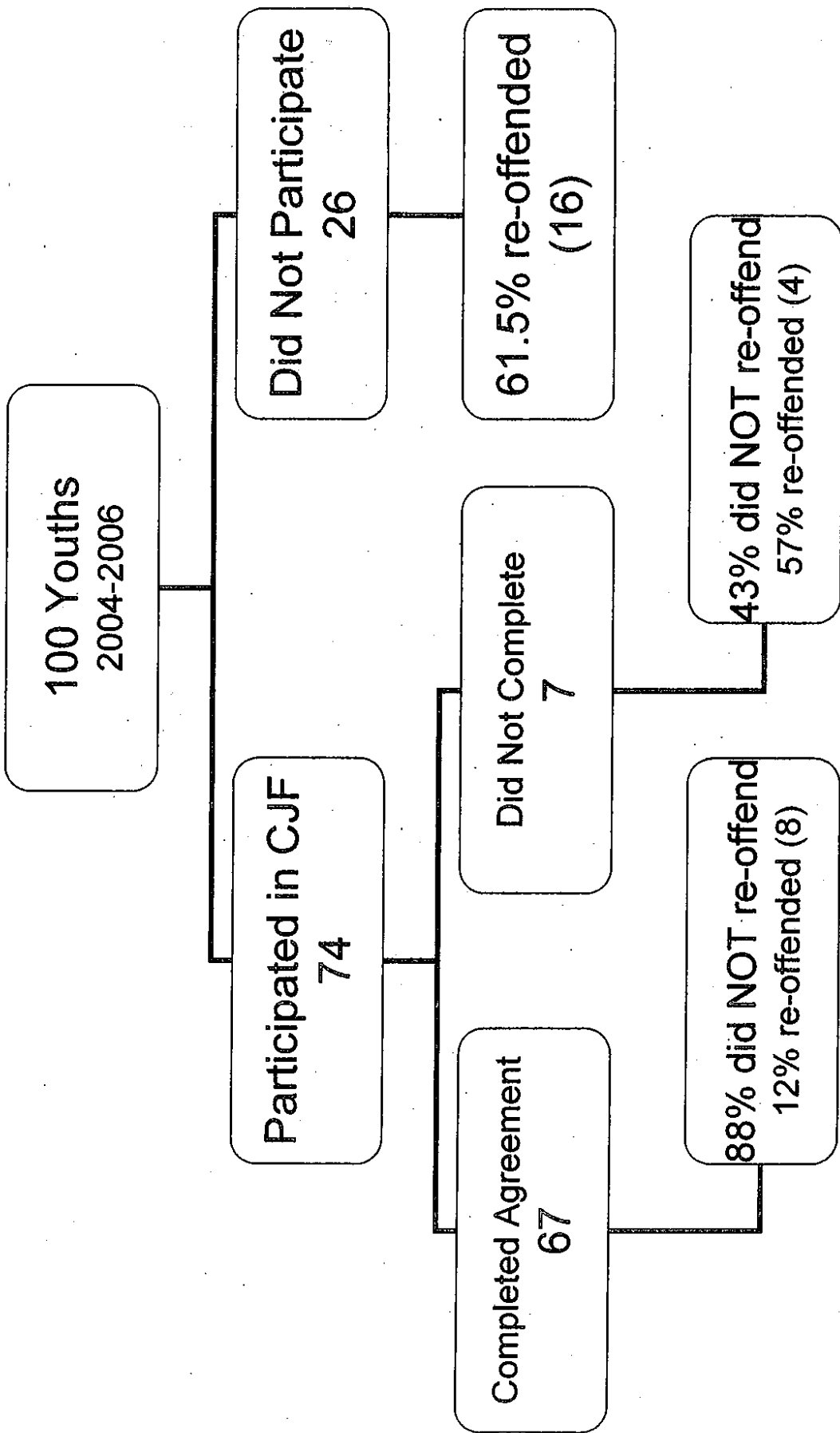
Conclusion

The recidivism rates for the Richmond Restorative Justice Program demonstrate the success of restorative justice in deterring further criminal behaviour with both youth and adults.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R Hahn", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ruth Hahn
Supervisor, Youth Services
(604-207-4712)

Youth Recidivism



Adult Recidivism

