

YRAP Panel Guidelines

for Sentencing or EJS

Getting started:

- ❖ Introductions and Confidentiality
 - Welcome everyone and introduce yourself. Thank everyone for coming.
 - Start off by explaining the purpose of the panel. For example: “We have all come here today to get to know youth’s name and discuss the incident that happened (date/place/ nature of offense). It is important to understand that we will focus on what youth’s name did and how that behavior has affected others. We want to explore what circumstances led up to this incident, in what way people have been affected, and work towards repairing this harm”. Does everyone understand?
 - The youth should be made to know that:
 - Participation is a voluntary and the youth may stop the conference at any time and their matters will be handled another way.
 - If they are uncomfortable with the process in any way, they are welcome to call a lawyer for advice (this has never happened)
 - Everything said is confidential, EXCEPT child abuse/welfare issues (ie. Something that comes out indicates that a child is at imminent risk).
 - Only the court reporter will take notes. Those notes will be used to pass on what we talked about decided and why to the court. This will be done in a letter that the youth is welcome to read.
 - If it is a **bail** conference, advise them that we are here to support them and not to discuss matters before the court. Telling us about what they did or did not do in relation to the charges puts us in an awkward spot.

Getting to know suggestions

- ❖ We want to know what their strengths and their supports are, their struggles or risks, their interests, passions, and other details about them as a person.
- ❖ Family
 - Where were they born? Grow up?
 - Who do they live with? Who is important in their lives and why?
 - Parents, siblings, other family relationships
 - What is/was that like for them?
- ❖ School/work
 - What school, what grade? What job?
 - Relationships with teachers/co-workers/peers?
 - Favourite subject/job?
 - Future plans?
- ❖ Other Interests
 - Sports, arts, singing, etc.
 - Things they do and things they want to do.
 - Open it up
 - What makes you excited?
 - What do you look forward to?
 - What interests you/do you wish you knew more about?
 - What would you do with more free time?
- ❖ Friends
 - What do you do together?
 - Ask casually and non-judgementally if you want an honest answer 😊

- Involved in incident?
- Healthy relationships?
- What is their ideal?

What happened (Not for interim release)

- ❖ What led up to their charges
 - What happened? Start wherever they think it started, could be same day, or weeks/months in the making
 - What were you thinking about at the time?
 - What have you thought about since?
 - Who do you think has been affected by your actions?
 - How have they been affected/harmed? (Think about individual relationships as well as larger community)
- ❖ Ask the youth how this could be resolved.
 - What can you do to repair this harm?
 - Tell them this is their opportunity to contribute the decision.
 - Be honest regarding probable conditions: often AADAC or anger management counseling

Factors to consider in creating the plan for resolution:

- ❖ Were drugs or alcohol a factor in the offense?
 - If so, our plan or at least our report will have to address that somehow.
- ❖ Are there other underlying factors that have come up that we can address? Poverty? Racism? Homelessness?
 - Resolution and/or mentorship should try to address these.
- ❖ Who do they think was harmed most? (All participants can weigh in)
 - Resolution should address that.
- ❖ How do they think the harm can best be repaired?
 - Resolution should incorporate that somehow
- ❖ Where do you want to be in X (days, months, years)? What is that like? What's stopping you?
 - See if you can address this, too. If not now, mentor can use.
 - What supports would you like to get you to where you want to be?

Team Debrief (once youth and victims leave)

If anything comes up for you during or following a panel, please check in with other volunteers or contact YRAP staff for support and remember to practice self care.

It is helpful for volunteers to share their experiences with one another. We grow both as a group and as individuals by learning from the experiences of others. It can also be useful to examine how we responded to various aspects that come up in a panel.

- ❖ What stood out?
- ❖ What did we do well?
- ❖ What could we improve?
- ❖ How are we feeling now?