



## Volunteer Managers Meeting Minutes for March 11<sup>th</sup> 2008.

“Engaging Youth: Meeting them where they are”

**Guest Speaker:** Jerome Bouvier from PoCoMo Youth Services Society

Attendance: Stacy Ashton, Joanne Towe, Rose Puszka, Lynn Heinrich

- *Community Volunteer Connections*

Jodi Mason –*PLEA, Kidstart*

Dawne Windblad – *Community Ventures Society*

Donna White – *Terry Fox Foundation*

Lydia Steer - *Lower Mainland Purpose Society for Youth & Family*

Arlene Lewchuk-Hartley -*Chimo Achievement Centre*

Margaret Hansen – *Dogwood Pavilion*

Pam & Chloe –*West Coast Chocolate Festival*

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Jerome Bouvier is the E.D. of PoCoMo Youth Services Society which provides the first mobile drop-in centre and outreach program in BC. (Created by Jerome.) His experience is varied from working street outreach, residential treatment, developing media programs on drug education and media literacy, doing classroom presentations and school assemblies, to program management and International speaker. He focuses his attention on working with at risk youth, addiction and social oppression issues.

A. Informal Relationship building & how to nurture the relationship:

- **Do not discount an informal relationship**
- make a VISUAL impact (i.e. putting Positive Quotes on a tennis ball)
- Youth gravitate towards what is different
- LISTENING; provide their perspective or opinion
- ASK: What needs to happen to make you feel comfortable
- ASK: What does it look like (from their perspective)
- ASK: What is their Passion?
- Be Direct – have an informal conversation
- Discuss what you have in common
- LEAD: Set an example for Accountability (if you put up with “ “, youth will see that!)

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Note: realize that adult – youth ratios are extreme

- ❖ Ask yourself between K-Grade 12. How many Adult’s such as teaches had a profound effect on who you are today? Teachers will see a youth more than the youth’s parents each day.

### B. Motivating Challenging Youth

- Working from the Heart up to the head.
- If you can get them to feel you can get them to see and understand.
- Change your language! Know that kids hear 57 negative ‘s/ 7 positive comments in each day.
- Let youth know that you have Expectations Not Rules.

Modeling and mentoring

Show them how to stand up for themselves and create an activist

### C. Disengaged - “A Good Life” by Al Edmanski ( recommended reading!)

Need: Choice, Connection (relationship), Opportunity to contribute, Sense of Dignity (a ‘buck in the pocket’), Sense of Home

What is relationship building? What are you discussing?

- Are you spending too much time on the “issue” and not on the “relationship” based information
- Choice without judgment
- Social Responsibility – what do you need for a good life?
- Look at where you are seeing the world from – what is your perspective?
- Is our “system” open the hours that suits youth best (i.e. evenings/weekends?)
- Think Globally but act Locally
- Create a Process for the outcomes that you desire.
- Choose your framework... not how it is implemented



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### D. Supporting Youth in Taking on Leadership Roles

Making of the true leader; after they have their perks like the jersey or the material items that drew them to you or the program!

- Give Youth a Voice and a Challenge (call their bluff!)
- How can you implement leadership is by asking: how it would look like for them.
- Give youth the permission to think out of the box!
- Let them know how YOU can help to make this happen!
- Realize that this can promote both Social and Environmental Changes

Let youth know that they are “creating their own identity” by their actions and the way they talk. Is what people see and hear – telling people who they are and what they represent?

Bring into your life:

What you want and do it long enough so that it becomes part of your life!

Recommended Reading: A Good Life

CD: “Staying Human” Michael Franti & Spearhead