



Chief Executive Officer Report – January 2023

This report will highlight items related to the goals of our business plan. I have included success stories submitted by program staff.

Client success stories

NOVA (20 bed harm reduction supported living environment for youth)

NOVA recently worked with a non-binary youth who struggled to find shelter options that supported their gender identity. Jamie was able to stay in our NOVA REST program (1-week short stay program) where they completed a coordinated access referral and was accepted by a housing team. Jamie was then accepted into NOVA's STAY program (up to 18 months) where they were able to get support for their physical and mental health, as well as financial support. Jamie was able to work with their NOVA caseworker and Youth Housing First worker to find sustainable independent housing. This is a great example of the youth housing continuum that EJHS is able to offer.

Youth Housing First (moving youth from an experience of homelessness to stability)

YHF successfully housed 8 clients in one month with each youth provided tools for their continued success. YHF had 1 client graduate from drug court and our Housing Support Worker was able to participate in the court graduation ceremony and share about their experience working with the client.

Strategic Direction Setting Update

In my last report on Nov 22, I shared that Stack'd was meeting with our leadership team that day to review the current state assessment (a copy of the assessment has been shared with the board). The overall messaging from the assessment is that EJHS must develop a strategic direction for the organization (what are our priorities – the most important choices for us right now as an agency) before organizational redesign work can take place (structure follows strategy).

Once the organization has a strategic direction in place, organizational redesign work will follow. This means we will review and renew our organizational structure as well as the cultural norms and behaviors needed to achieve our direction.

It is governance best practice for the board to oversee the agency's strategy and its development. EJHS leadership have been working with Stack'd on a draft emerging strategy and priorities for the agency. Stack'd will be sharing this important work with the board and leadership on February 13, 2023.

This is incredibly important work for the agency. Key messages have been developed for our leaders to use as they discuss our new strategic direction with staff and stakeholders. These **key messages** are attached to this report.

Mark Cabaj will be joining our January 24th board meeting to provide a strategic thinking primer prior to our February planning session with Stack'd.

VP Finance Recruitment

Our first round of recruitment for VP Finance brought some strong candidates; however, we did not proceed with an offer. Gallagher has reposted the position and we will be starting a second round of interviews. Sophie Duncan is doing an excellent job providing financial leadership and oversight and will continue to do so while we finalize recruitment; thank you to Sophie for her support and leadership as we continue our search.

Government & Stakeholder Relations

The area of government and stakeholder relations will be a focus for the agency over the coming year (more discussion will occur during our strategic direction setting discussions). The majority of the agency's funding is from government and community safety is a priority (mandate) for our municipal and provincial governments. There is significant opportunity to grow our relationship with government and enhance our government funded programs and services to meet the evolving needs of clients and community.

- We have signed a government relations agreement with Alberta Counsel (they presented at our board retreat in May 2022). The **agreement** is attached and the main goal is to use the services of Alberta Counsel to develop a government relations plan for the agency
- Alberta Counsel has been beneficial so far. They assisted with the preparation of **written briefings (attached)** for meetings with Minister Shandro (Justice) and Minister Ellis (Public Safety & Emergency Services). We were pleased to be able to set out specific challenges, solutions and monetary asks. A huge thank you to Jim and Erika for attending these meetings with me and providing additional guidance
- The meetings were well received; both ministers requested additional information, which was provided. We were also invited to a meeting with the Deputy Minister and Assistant Deputy Minister of Public Safety & Emergency Services on Jan 12 to discuss reintegration in more detail.
- More details on the outcomes and next steps from these meetings will be provided during the board meeting
- We continue to attend career and resource fairs, networking opportunities and presentations to provide education and promote EJHS
 - In January this included a presentation at Westminster Junior High to acknowledge grade nine students for winning a \$5,000 grant for EJHS through the Youth Philanthropic Initiative (YPI) – students research and present a social issue including a community agency providing solutions for that issue
- I attended Change of Command Ceremonies at the Edmonton Institution and the Edmonton Institution for Women and EJHS was recognized in their programming
- I attended the MacEwan Corrections Services Academic Advisory Council meeting in January
 - EJHS was recognized for being an excellent student placement having placed 15 students since September (some of which are now employees)
- EJHS has been invited and will be attending in February the UofA Career Panel for Criminology hosted by the Criminology Undergraduate Student's Association

Human Resources

Due to funding losses for two programs within our Community Services portfolio (Integrated Offender Management program (IOM) and Gang Exit Community Outreach Services program (GECOS)) we must lay-off three employees effective March 31, 2023. We were able to place one employee from the IOM program into our Family Violence Outreach program. Employees have been notified of the lay-offs. Refer to the Government Relations section for work we are doing to increase our provincial government funding.

Our current active staff numbers are as follows:

Full Time: 88

Part Time: 95

Students: 2

8 staff on leave

As we finalize and implement a strategic direction for the agency, we will be considering a leadership development program for employees so that leadership and organizational capabilities can be developed and/or enhanced.

Volunteers

Our volunteer coordinator is working with leadership to identify opportunities to utilize and engage volunteers across our agency. Presently we only use volunteers in our Edmonton Drug Treatment Court program. We are hoping to expand volunteer recruitment for client programming (e.g. yoga, school of rock). Volunteers are a cost effective and nice way to supplement programming, enhance community awareness and increase engagement with clients.

Quality Improvement

We have received our final report from CARF and were successful in achieving accreditation for three years (the longest period you can be accredited before review). We received recommendations from our survey and will have an action plan in place by February 28. This action plan will be shared with the board.

We have successfully transitioned to automated accounts payable with Sage AP. The transition has been welcomed by employees. The next step is EFT payments this spring when the new VP is in place.

Holiday Festivities

About 75 community contacts, funders and staff joined us at our Festive Gathering in December at the Chateau Louis. As part of our strategic direction setting work, this event will be reviewed as part of a larger review of our community presence and stakeholder relations activities.

EJHS sponsored a Christmas Bureau Hamper for a family of six. Due to the generosity of our staff, we were able to fill six totes with Christmas dinner groceries and treats for the family. Staff also participated in secret Santa purchasing gifts that their colleagues would have wanted as a child. The gifts were then donated to Aboriginal Counselling Men's group for their children. We held a staff holiday party and had

an excellent turnout with 153 staff and their guests. Our residential units hosted holiday dinners/gatherings for our clients; many of these clients would not receive a holiday meal or gift otherwise.

Transition Place and Facility Upgrades

We are developing a maintenance and capital project schedule for the agency and updates will be provided to the board based on that schedule moving forward. Below are a few updates on some of the larger facility projects underway or beginning in 2023. Funding for these projects include ERI, operational budget and Holding Company.

- Replacement of front lobby doors at Transition Place (\$35K) will proceed early in 2023 (we are waiting a City permit to begin the work)
- Fire panel upgrades at Transition Place will proceed as soon as we receive a second opinion on the cost (\$170K)
- The power line upgrade at Transition Place (\$150K) was deferred from 2022-23 due to supply chain issues and we expect this project to proceed later in 2023
- Waterline upgrades at 101 St. are underway (began in 2022) and we anticipate will continue over the next two years. There are five phases to this work for a total cost of \$325K

Finance

Erika will provide a detailed financial report. I will provide a verbal update on our 2023-24 draft budget at the board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



DeAnn Hunter



Strategic Direction Setting Key Messages for Leaders

This is a communication tool for leaders so that we can share consistent messaging with staff and stakeholders about EJHS' current strategic direction setting work. This is a tool. Make it work for you.

Background & Current State

Over the past three years, much has changed within EJHS as well as in our external environment (leadership changes, COVID, political shifts, funding reductions and increased complexity of social issues). In the fall of 2022, EJHS began a strategic thinking process to gain insight into our current state and future direction.

From the current state assessment, it was determined that EJHS must develop a **strategic direction** for our agency and align **structure** and **culture** to achieve our strategic direction.

EJHS leadership and board are working together to develop a **strategic direction** that focuses on a set of priorities for the next year or two – what are the most important choices for us right now as an agency?

The goal is to share our new strategic direction with the agency in the spring of 2023. All employees will play a role in achieving our strategic direction. Moving forward, all employees will contribute to our strategic direction annually.

EJHS' 50-year business plan will be retired this year and remain a historical reference for the organization. Key actions from the business plan will be included in our new strategic direction.

Once the strategic direction is in place, we will review our organizational **structure** (mainly at the leadership level) to determine what is the best structure to support the direction of the organization.

The new strategic direction and structure will naturally drive **culture**. Our goal is to evolve our culture to support the new strategic direction. Some of the evolution will be natural and some will be intentional. The structure and culture work will be more evident in the spring/summer of 2023.

Why a new strategic direction?

To continue to serve individuals and families impacted by the justice system, homelessness and other social influences, we must:

- Be clear about who we serve and why;
- Be aware of and know how to respond to the changing needs of individuals we serve as well as the changing environments in which we serve

Employees have fully rallied around and identify deeply with EJHS' mission but the agency lacks an overall strategic direction – what are our priorities – the most important choices for us right now as an agency?

A clear, unified strategic direction will provide greater cohesion, clarity and impact. Knowing who we serve, how we serve and why will allow us to focus on what is most important. This will then allow us to create, enhance, expand and fund programs with intention and maximum impact.

Why a new structure and culture?

Organizational structure and culture are key enablers to achieve an organization's strategic direction. Structure is about operations (how the work gets done) and culture is about the beliefs and behaviors people bring to the table.

EJHS welcomed new executive leaders in 2022 and will continue to add new leaders in 2023 (prior to these changes, it was a decade since there was a change in executive leadership). With this comes opportunity to reflect and build for the future. How will we get the work done moving forward?

There are notable strengths in our culture. Some beliefs and behaviors will continue to be reinforced (fun, quality improvement, relationships). There are also culture elements that will be introduced and/or enhanced (vulnerability, collective decision making, autonomy, trust at all levels and connectedness across all programs).

What's in it for me as a leader?

- You will have a voice in organization-wide decisions
- You will be relied upon for your expertise
- You will be challenged and supported to enhance programming
- You will experience efficiencies making it easier for you to manage day to day operations
- You will have access to HR and other supports to allow you to focus more on programming and those we serve
- You will be provided learning and development opportunities to enrich the capabilities required to lead and achieve our strategic direction together

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT made effective this 1st day of January, 2023 (the "Effective Date").

BETWEEN:

Alberta Counsel Ltd.
800, 9707 – 110 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2L9
(the "Contractor")

Of The First Part

- and -

Edmonton John Howard Society
#401, 10010 105 St.,
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 1C4
(the "Client")

Of The Second Part

WHEREAS the Client is seeking the services of the Contractor for government relations support;

AND WHEREAS the Client has agreed with the Contractor to have the Contractor execute a government relations plan and perform the Work as defined in this agreement (the "Agreement") and subject to the terms in this Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereto agree as follows:

Section 1 Definitions and Interpretation

- 1.1 In this Agreement, including the schedules attached hereto, the following defined terms shall have the meanings indicated:
- (a) "Commencement Date" means the Effective Date as first set out above;
 - (b) "Contract Price" means that Contract Price as described in this Agreement and as detailed in the Schedules and amendments thereto;
 - (c) "Rights" means all rights, title and interest in intellectual property of any sort, including but not limited to, copyright in all materials, algorithms, programming code (both source and object), manuals and training materials, all procedures, processes and know-how, all patents, all trade secrets, trade-marks, calling data, data analysis and confidential information;
 - (d) "Term" means that duration as described in the Agreement and as detailed in the Schedules and amendments thereto; and
 - (e) "Work" means that Work as described in this Agreement and as detailed in the Schedules and amendments thereto.

Section 2 General Terms

- 2.1 Each party hereto acknowledges that it or its solicitors have reviewed and participated in the settling of the terms of this Agreement, and therefore any rule of construction to the effect that any ambiguity is to be resolved against the drafting party shall not be applicable in the interpretation of this Agreement.
- 2.2 All references to dollar amounts in this Agreement shall be in the lawful currency of Canada.
- 2.3 Time in all respects shall be of the essence of this Agreement and the time for doing or completing any matters provided for in this Agreement may be extended or abridged only by agreement in writing signed by the Client and the Contractor, or by their respective solicitors or as otherwise provided for in this Agreement.

- 2.4 As the context of this Agreement so requires, words that import the singular shall include the plural, and vice versa, and words that import a particular gender shall include all other genders.
- 2.5 The division of this Agreement into sections and the insertion of headings are for convenience of reference only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of this Agreement.
- 2.6 Unless otherwise expressly stated, all references to section numbers and schedules herein shall be deemed to mean the section numbers and schedules contained within this Agreement.
- 2.7 All references to a "person" or "persons" in this Agreement shall include individuals, partnerships, firms, corporations, trusts, public authorities and unincorporated associations as the context so requires.
- 2.8 If the date for the performance of any obligation under this Agreement falls on a Saturday, Sunday or statutory holiday in the Province of Alberta, then such date shall be deemed extended to the next following Business Day.
- 2.9 For the purposes of this Agreement, the term "knowledge" or "know" shall mean actual knowledge, without inquiry.
- 2.10 The following schedules are incorporated into and form a part of this Agreement:

Schedule A - Retainer Details.

Section 3 Description of Work

- 3.1 Unless otherwise stated in this Agreement, the Contractor shall supply all materials, labour and supervision to perform the Work as described in Schedule "A" on the terms and conditions herein provided during the Term of this Agreement.

Section 4 Other Contractors

- 4.1 The Contractor and the Client agree that the Contractor is the exclusive provider of the Work, and any similar activities or services, to the Client unless otherwise stipulated in the Schedules to this Agreement.
- 4.2 The Contractor can utilize contractors in the performance of any Work in consultation with the Client.

Section 5 Interest

- 5.1 The Client agrees to pay to the Contractor interest on all amounts due under this Agreement which are not paid when due at a rate of eight (8%) percent per annum calculated and compounded monthly. Such interest shall be calculated from the date such monies are due until the date such monies are paid in full to the Contractor.

Section 6 Assumption of Risk of Client during Work

- 6.1 The Client understands and agrees that government relations work may give rise to objections from and/or be misunderstood by community or other stakeholders. The Contractor shall not be liable or responsible in any way with respect to any loss, injury, or damage suffered by the Client, any member or associate of the Client's family or business, or any invitee, affiliate, or licensee of the Client whatsoever suffered by them related to the Work.
- 6.2 The Client agrees to indemnify the Contractor and to hold the Contractor harmless from any and all liability, loss, damages, claims or causes of action, including reasonable legal fees and expenses that may be incurred by the Contractor, arising out of claims by a third party related to the performance, or undertaking pursuant to this Agreement, including any instructions, materials, graphics, information, or content provided by the Client.
- 6.3 Nothing above removes the rights of the Client in the event the Contractor is grossly negligent.

Section 7 Representations, Warranties and Covenants

- 7.1 The Contractor agrees to undertake all Work diligently in a good and workmanlike manner, in accordance with good quality standards and practices, but the Contractor makes no representations, warranties or covenants regarding government or departmental outcomes, nor a guarantee of a facilitation of stakeholder meetings with elected or government officials.

- 7.2 The Client and Contractor shall ensure and maintain compliance with all municipal, provincial or federal act, regulations or code in effect on the date of this Agreement including undertaking the necessary registrations and maintenance (and provision of same to the Contractor). The Contractor may provide advice on any laws, regulations and policy with respect to the Lobbying Act of Alberta.
- 7.3 The Client represents and covenants that it has ownership, copyright, trademark right or assignable licence in all materials and data provided to the Contractor.
- 7.4 The Contractor provides no warranty, express or implied, for any labour, work, or materials performed, supplied, or hired by the Client.

Section 8 Confidential Information

8.1 Confidential Information

- (a) Unless otherwise provided under this Agreement, each of the Client and the Contractor shall:
- (i) treat all information of the other as confidential;
 - (ii) exercise at least the same degree of care and discretion with respect to information of the other as it exercises in protecting its own information;
 - (iii) take all necessary steps to ensure that the confidentiality of the information of the other is maintained;
 - (iv) not disclose, publish, display or otherwise make available to other persons any of the information of the other, or copies thereof; and
 - (v) not duplicate, copy or reproduce any of the information of the other without the prior written consent of the other.

8.2 Disclosure Compliance

- (a) Each party represents and warrants to the other party that its collection, use and retention of the personal information of an individual (including minors) and the disclosure of any such personal information to the other party (subject to compliance of the other party with the other provisions of this Section), is in compliance with all applicable laws.

8.3 Exclusions

- (a) The obligations set out in this Section does not apply to any information which:
- (i) is in the public domain or enters the public domain through no breach of confidence by the Client or by the Contractor;
 - (ii) is available to a party from some source other than the other party without a breach of confidence with the other party;
 - (iii) was in a party's lawful possession prior to the disclosure and was not obtained by the party either directly or indirectly from the other party;
 - (iv) is lawfully disclosed to a party by a third party without restriction on disclosure;
 - (v) is disclosed ten (10) years after the date of this Agreement, excluding any personal information of an individual (including minors);
 - (vi) is required by a court of competent jurisdiction to be disclosed; or
 - (vii) is disclosed on a confidential basis to a party's legal and financial advisors and bankers.

8.4 Solicitor Client Privilege

- (a) The Client acknowledges and agrees that the information provided during the Term of this Agreement is governed by the confidentiality provisions as contained in this Agreement and is not subject to Solicitor Client privilege. In the event the Client wishes to engage this privilege for matters related to

this Agreement, and specifically, for legal advice, the Client shall inform the Contractor of same and requires the execution of a specific and separate legal retainer agreement.

Section 9 No Assignments

- 9.1 No assignment or amendment of this Agreement shall be valid by either the Contractor or the Client without the written consent of the other, which consent may be unreasonably or arbitrarily withheld.

Section 10 Notices

- 10.1 Any notices required to be given under this Agreement shall be given to either the Contractor or the Client in writing and mailed to or delivered to the other at the following address: shown on the first page of this Agreement.
- 10.2 Any notice delivered by mail shall be deemed to have been received seventy-two (72) hours after it has been posted in a prepaid addressed envelope.

Section 11 Non-Merger

- 11.1 All covenants and obligations of the parties to this Agreement shall survive the closing of this transaction and remain in full force and effect and shall not be merged in the closing of this transaction or the delivery of the Agreement Price.

Section 12 Entire Agreement

- 12.1 This Agreement and all Schedules shall constitute the entire agreement between the Contractor and the Client. No representations, warranties and previous statements made by any person or agent other than those in writing contained in either this Agreement and signed by the Contractor and Client shall be binding upon the Contractor so as to vary the terms of either this Agreement.

Section 13 Binding Effect

- 13.1 This Agreement shall enure to the benefit of and be binding upon the Contractor and the Client, their respective heirs, administrators, executors and permitted successors and assigns.

Section 14 Counterparts and Facsimile Delivery

- 14.1 This Agreement may be executed in counterpart, and each counterpart when taken as a whole with the other executed counterparts shall constitute an original agreement. Delivery of an executed copy or counterpart of this Agreement by facsimile transmission or electronically in portable document format (PDF) shall constitute valid and effective delivery.

<<Signature Page Follows>>

<<Signature Page To Government Relations Agreement>>

CONTRACTOR'S ACCEPTANCE

The Contractor hereby enters this Agreement and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions contained herein.

DATED at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, this 4th day of January, 2023.

Alberta Counsel Ltd.

Per: _____


Jonathon Wescott - President

CLIENT'S ACCEPTANCE

The Client hereby enters this Agreement and agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions contained herein.

DATED at the City of Edmonton in the Province of Alberta, this 4th day of January, 2023.

Client: Edmonton John Howard Society

Per: _____



I am an officer or director of the Client with legal authority to bind the Client.

SCHEDULE "A" - RETAINER DETAILS

Section 1 Work Term, Timeline, and Timing

- 1.1 The Contract Price is:
- (a) \$1,500 plus G.S.T. per month; and
 - (b) Any additional fees for travel, which must be approved by the Client in advance, at CRA approved mileage rates.
- 1.2 The Term of this Agreement is twelve (12) months, after which the Agreement shall be automatically renewed for the same period and on the same terms as the Agreement is then composed, unless either party, at least ninety (90) days before expiration, gives written notice to the other of its desire to terminate the Agreement.
- 1.3 All amounts in this agreement will be subject to applicable taxes.

Section 2 Description of the Work:

- 2.1 Work under this Agreement may include:
- i. Creation of a detailed and comprehensive government relations plan with clear benchmarks and deliverables;
 - ii. Assistance with policies and procedures development;
 - iii. Once a year governance training with your organization's board;
 - iv. Once a year training with board staff on topics related to government relations and advocacy;
 - v. Identifying and supporting relationship-building between the Client and relevant decision makers including elected representatives and their support staff, the public service, and other political influencers;
 - vi. Planning a 'Day at the Legislature' for your board/executive;
 - vii. Booking, preparing for, facilitating and following up on meetings and other communications with relevant decision makers;
 - viii. Providing outreach opportunities for the Client to engage with the Opposition parties;
 - ix. Monitoring, researching and advising on legislative debates, emerging issues, policy/regulation changes and relevant funding envelopes;
 - x. Providing general administrative support to ensure follow through on agreed upon initiatives;
 - xi.
 - xii. Invitation to all Alberta Counsel networking events, including MLA 'mixers' at our office;
 - xiii. Free access to Alberta Counsel workshops and webinars;
 - xiv. Creating updated, relevant and succinct briefing documents to support government relationsefforts;
 - xv. Trouble shooting and providing ongoing political, media, public opinion and sector intelligence and analysis including public service changes and cabinet shuffles;
 - xvi. A bi-weekly newsletter, *The News* from Alberta Counsel, containing stories from legislation and policy, committee debates, the civil service, as well as profiles of political influencers, party updates and events; and



About EJHS

The Edmonton John Howard Society (EJHS) works to prevent crime and help people affected by crime so we can build safe, healthy communities. Established in 1949, the EJHS is recognized in the community for our expertise in working with people at risk of involvement in, or involved with, the justice system.

The Issue – Fair, Accessible, & Efficient Court & Justice Services

As reiterated in the Mandate Letter for Justice, ensuring Albertans have a fair and accessible justice system continues to be a longstanding priority of the Alberta Government. The EJHS has been a committed partner with the GoA in this priority area, as exemplified by the existing partnership with Alberta Justice and the Domestic Violence Justice Response (DVJR) initiative.

Recognizing the pressures the justice system is currently facing as it relates to case backlogs, delays in first appearances, and lengthy time periods between date of offence to date of plea, as part of EJHS' role with DVJR, we have established an Early Case Resolution (ECR) process – a collaboration with EPS, Crown, Defense, Children's Services, Probation, and EJHS. While the ECR process at this time is only for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), the courts are requesting that EJHS expand the ECR process to other Domestic Violence (DV) files (e.g. elderly, financial).

The Solution

The ECR process has demonstrated significant positive impact for the improvement of fair, accessible, and efficient court and justice services. In its current iteration, EJHS' role with DVJR reduces the length of time between charge and court completion by:

- Sharing with the courts victim's wishes for condition amendments (e.g., allowing contact between partners to coordinate finances, children, relationship)
- Reducing first appearance from 4-6 weeks to 2-4 weeks through collaboration with EPS and courts (this reduction has been acknowledged by all partners)
- Reducing time from date of offence to date of plea (could take up to 6 months, goal is 8-12 weeks; early data from ECR is showing we are trending in the right direction)
- Acting as one point of contact for EPS and supporting all individuals regardless of socio-economic status, gender, etc., meaning privacy is maintained and individuals can return to their livelihood quicker and/or receive additional meaningful and intentional supports

Additionally, achieving ECR – avoiding trials – decreases the pressures on the court system, ensuring the most serious files can be addressed in a timely manner; avoids lengthy incarcerations pre-trial, decreasing the pressure on the Remand institutions; and limits further trauma on families.



The Ask

There is significant opportunity for the GoA and EJHS to expand their longstanding partnership by formalizing the leadership role of EJHS in coordinating and convening partners to deliver and expand an effective ECR process. To execute these initiatives most effectively, EJHS requests the following:

- \$100,000 annually to continue ECR for IPV only
- \$500,000 annually to expand ECR across all DV files

Summary

Early Case Resolution reduces the time of charge to the time of court completion (sentencing) leading to efficiencies that can be measured monetarily and through enhanced quality of life by:

- Reduction in the amount of time between charge and first appearance
- Reduction in the number of adjournments
- Safer and healthier families (supportive family reintegration)
- Less time in shelters for individuals and families
- Less Children's Service involvement
- Less individuals in Remand (\$213/day for Provincially charged individual; \$408/day for CSC charged individual)
- Less reliance on Crown Prosecutors (EJHS is more efficient and better able to adapt and support Crown Prosecutors)

EJHS has the expertise and the capacity to work in partnership with the GoA to expand the ECR model across all DV files and to other provincial jurisdictions. We look forward to exploring this opportunity further.



About EJHS

The Edmonton John Howard Society (EJHS) works to prevent crime and to help people affected by crime so we can build safe, healthy communities. Established in 1949, the EJHS is recognized in the community for our expertise in working with people at risk of involvement in, or involved with, the justice system.

The Issue – Coordinated Reintegration from Justice to Community

It is a well-documented fact that individuals leaving the justice system, including individuals leaving the Edmonton Remand Centre (ERC), face numerous barriers to successful reintegration to the community. Barriers include, but are not limited to, access to housing, substance use disorders, identification and financial independence. It is also a well-documented fact that graduated, supervised, and supported returns to the community are the most successful.

To help address these barriers, EJHS currently receives \$93,000/year from the Government of Alberta to provide programming within the ERC. EJHS has been providing services within ERC since 2013. This funding enables EJHS to employ one facilitator to provide workshops on pre-release planning, communication, stress management, financial literacy, employment preparation while simultaneously being responsible for responding to thousands of requests for information (RFIs) received from individuals in Remand. Primarily, RFIs centre around housing, substance, use, identification and financial independence. From January to October of 2022, EJHS provided workshops to 366 individuals and responded to over 2300 RFIs.

Recognizing that the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services has been tasked with positioning Alberta as a role model for safe and secure communities across the country and North America, EJHS is well-positioned to expand their long-standing partnership with the government to assist in supporting this mandate. EJHS has the expertise and existing partnerships with Corrections Service Canada (CSC), Alberta Justice, EPS, and many community partners, including Homeward Trust and REACH, enabling EJHS to convene and facilitate safe, efficient, and sustainable reintegration.

The Solution

EJHS is an expert in the wrap model – an evidence-based model that is focused on sustainable wellness and recovery for individuals – and has had demonstrated results with community partners in the reduction of prolific offending and gang involvement and increased justice avoidance. With additional funding, EJHS can expand their team of one to support the government to bring much needed supports and programming into the provincial justice system.

The Ask

To increase capacity of ERC programming, EJHS is requesting the following:

- An increase of funding to \$500,000/year to expand the team from one to five
- A review of current regulations that prohibit individuals in Remand from beginning documentation for services critical to successful reintegration, such as income supports and housing

Summary

An increase in funding will enable EJHS to significantly increase its capacity to respond to the growing pressures that currently face our justice system and community. An expanded team of five facilitators will achieve the following:

- Increase the number of release plans created
- Increase support for documentation completion while in Remand for vital reintegration supports including ID, housing, etc.
- Increase capacity to build and maintain rapport with the offender while in Remand
- Increase capacity to support and stabilize the offender upon release
- Ability to conduct follow-up wrap around support meetings with natural and professional supports so that all parties involved in the reintegration process have the resources and knowledge necessary to effectively support the offender
- Increase capacity to complete warm handoffs to other services as required

EJHS has the expertise and capacity to work in partnership with the GoA to expand ERC programming and provide much needed additional supports and programming in the provincial justice system. We look forward to exploring this opportunity further.