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## Item No. 7.1.5

### INFORMATION BRIEFING NOTE

**TO:** Board of Police Commissioners  
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**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Brad Anguish, Director, Community & Recreation Services

**DATE OF MEETING:** July 14, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Youth Advocate Program - Update for the Board of Police Commissioners

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#### **ORIGIN**

On April 23, 2013 the Board of Police Commissioners assumed financial oversight responsibility of the Youth Advocate Program.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 79 (1) (d) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* which allows HRM to expend funds on police services (including crime prevention).

#### **RECOMMENDATION/DECISION REQUIRED**

None – is being provided for information only.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On June 23, 2014 the Board of Police Commissioners requested an update on the 2013-2014 Youth Advocate Program (YAP) achievements.

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## **DISCUSSION**

### Youth Advocate Program

- August 14-16, 2013 - participants from the Centre for Entrepreneurship Education & Development's Second Chance Program planned and delivered a three day social enterprise camp for YAP youth. The Second Chance Program works with young men and women, ages 15 to 30 years, who have been in conflict with the law. The camp was a success for both programs. In one afternoon, through their social enterprise business, the youth raised over \$700.
- The annual ski trip to Martock took place on February 4<sup>th</sup>. As in every year since 2008, Deputy Chief Moore has covered the cost of the bus. This is a very popular activity for both youth and staff.
- Through the YAP and Girls United, several young girls were identified as being at high risk of recruitment into the sex trade. Worked with the Youth Court Crown Prosecutor, Terry Nickerson, Doug Leck of Probation Services, Donna Kaulbeck of the Department of Community Services and Detective Andrew Matthews of Regional Police's Vice Unit, to develop a two-step process to intervene with the girls, and their families.
- Since January 2014, 18 youth have been accepted into the program with an overall total of 31. One youth is on the waitlist.

### Souls Strong Program

- June 2013 - Public Safety Canada awarded HRM 5 years of funding for Souls Strong.
- November 5, 2013 - an Employment Information session was delivered in North Preston.
- Souls Strong staff (3.5) began work on January 26, 2014; participated in 5.5 weeks of training.
- January 2014 - Evaluation contract awarded to the Resilience Research Centre at Dalhousie University.
- March 20, 2014 - Open House held in North Preston to launch the program.
- May 2014 - informal agreement reached with Ceasefire Program, on how Souls Strong and Ceasefire will operate in North Preston. To be reviewed in August.
- 7 youth have been referred to the program.

### Girls United Initiative

- April 2014 - NS Department of Justice, through the Lighthouse Grant Program, awarded HRM \$12,000 to develop and deliver the Girls United Program.
- Girls United was launched in October 2013.
- 26 girls, ages 12 to 15 years, were referred to the program; an assessment was administered on 24 girls, to measure their level of risk and resiliency. 18 girls were accepted, and 17 girls participated on a regular basis.
- Some activities included: Circus performing, skiing, employment & self-esteem workshops, Amazing Race, outdoor adventure pursuits, social activities, music therapy, etc.
- In April, all participants were re-assessed, across the board there was a marked reduction in the girl's attitudes towards guns and violence and an increase in impulsivity control.
- The Lighthouse grant was renewed for 2014/15.

### Staff accomplishments:

- Through HRM's Corporate Training Division, David McCrae, Youth Advocate Worker, delivered three Non-Violent Crisis Intervention Certification courses.
- Frontier College National Webinar Symposium - Tyrone Richards, Youth Advocate Worker, was part of a panel on Literacy and Youth Involved in the Criminal Justice System.
- Sharon Martin, Youth Advocate Program Manager, presented at the Youth Gang Prevention Fund Symposium.
- Samantha Rheaume, Youth Advocate Worker, and Adam Huffman, Project Assistant, presented on the Girls United Program at the NS Criminal Justice Association learning event.

- Donna Nelligan, Youth Advocate Worker, and a YAP participant co-presented at a conference “Oh the Places You’ll Go- Intersection Between Work and Play”.
- Troy Allen and Tyrone Richards, Youth Advocate Workers, presented to the MSVU 4<sup>th</sup> year Child & Youth Study class. This is an annual occurrence.

**BUDGET**

- The budget for the Souls Strong program is \$191,400 for 2014/15. This amount is completely recovered from the federal government.
- The budget for the YAP program is \$532,000 for 2014/15. Staff is currently projecting to arrive within the 2014/15 allocation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

None

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Approved by:

  
John Henry, Acting Manager, Community Recreation & Culture, 490-4734

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