



Victoria Family Court and Youth Justice Committee

May, 2017

Balancing Our Minds (BOM) 2017

The day was a great success with at least 400 students attending the Q Centre in Colwood. Participants received a back pack style bag, a pen and lots of swag from the resources which were set up on the floor of the arena.

Kids were able to watch performances and speeches, including from youth with lived experience of multiple diagnoses. The youth advocated for those having trouble to reach out to family, friends or anyone at all, just not to keep it bottled up inside if they were struggling.

I was pleased to be joined by Ranj, Cate, and Beth. We helped seat the youth as they arrived and the event was well organized by VIHA, School Districts, and the many agencies who chose to step up to make it all happen.

We started at 8am with set up and wrapped up about 2:30 in the afternoon.

During the walk through one week before the event I found out that they had been unable to find funding for the photo booth – a staple at the previous BOM programming on the mainland. I decided to try to find donations to make this happen for the kids and was successful in getting donations of \$600 of the approximately \$700 cost for the photo booth.

The treasurer was kind enough to write the cheque to cover the costs and I am forwarding donations to him as they come in. I would ask that the committee make a motion to cover the last \$100 that I was not able to get donations for.

Possible Motion: That the VFCYJC cover the approximately \$700 cost of the Photo Booth at the May 4, 2017 Balancing Our Minds Youth Mental Health Event, and receive donations to offset this cost.

Respectfully,

Cynthia Day, Chair