

STREET CRIME FORUM - JUNE 23, 2004

SESSION 2 - GROUP B

QUICKER SERVICE IN COURTS

PARTICIPANTS

The Honourable Chief Judge Carol Baird Ellan

Adam Picotte
Elisabeth Burgess
Marna Leland

Allan Shoom
Layne Pearse

Tara Keogh
Bob Lindsay

CURRENT SITUATION

Police education on diversion

Accountability

- Not sufficient court resources in system
 - Main Street – yes
 - Room – not enough
 - Addition of Burnaby cases
 - Caseloads dropping
 - Population
 - Informal diversion (too often)
 - Youth reduction
- Profile of offender changed
- Domestic assaults – down
- DWI charges
- Court – long delays
- Cases not get through
- Delays – 7 months from date of scheduling to trial
- 7% of cases go to trial
- 60% plead guilty

HYPOTHESIS

- Expanding court services
 - ex – night court
 - pilot project (was tried)
 - overtime costs/coverage
 - committing crime and quick (courts) process – more quickly dealt with in system
- If we could create other alternatives for convicted, better chance for rehabilitation
- If staff would be willing to work other shifts
- Lack of understanding the process
- PIRS vs PRIME/JUSTIN interfaces
- In custody delays
- In custody – lack of availability to resources
- Money spent now (short term expense) = long term gain
 - Backlog reduced
 - Program access
 - Immediate response
 - Good goal