

Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Justice Studies Initiative

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March 31, 2010

**Correctional Service of Canada-University of Saskatchewan
Memorandum of Agreement**

Steering Committee

Dr. J. Stephen Wormith

Acting Director, Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Justice Studies Initiative
Professor, Department of Psychology
College of Arts and Science
University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Colleen Dell

Research Chair, Substance Abuse
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
College of Arts and Science
Associate Professor, School of Public Health
University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Arlene Kent-Wilkinson

Associate Professor
College of Nursing
University of Saskatchewan

Glen Luther, Q.C.

Associate Professor
College of Law
Associate Member, Department of Psychiatry
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Mansfield Mela

Head, Forensic Division
Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry
College of Medicine
Associate Member, College of Law
University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Terry Nicholaichuk

Director of Research, Regional Psychiatric Centre
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Message from the Acting Director

Hello and welcome to the first Annual Report from the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science and Justice Studies. To begin, I hasten to point out that the “annual” in Annual Report” is a bit of an embellishment and the “centre” is a little premature. Allow me to explain. In November, 2009, an agreement was signed between the University of Saskatchewan and the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) for a contribution from the latter to stimulate activity for the promotion of a forensic centre on our campus. Our efforts then began in January, 2010. Consequently, this annual report really represents only our efforts over the first quarter. Secondly, our current status is still informal, one that we call an “initiative” for a forensic centre, although we have submitted a Letter of Intent to the Centres Subcommittee of the Planning and Priorities Committee of University Council. Regardless, I believe that it is important to prepare the attached summary about our progress and status for those who have supported the concept of a forensic centre both on and off campus.

The report that follows describes activities of the initiative since January, 2010, in some detail. However, I would like to highlight a few key achievements.

1. An advisory group and a steering subcommittee, both with representatives from the University and CSC, have been established and are now operational.
2. A physical location has been located and is now occupied.
3. A co-ordinator has been hired for the initiative.
4. Two kinds of awards, a GTF-like scholarship and a research award, have been created for graduate students and are now operational.
5. A research program for a forensic needs analysis in Saskatchewan has been established through the Forensic Interdisciplinary Research in Saskatchewan Team (FIRST).
6. A Research Acceleration Award was obtained from the University of Saskatchewan to fund two events that brought together university, government and nongovernmental personnel for potential research collaboration.
7. One partnership with the Performance Assurance Sector of CSC has been established, while another one with the Saskatchewan Ministry of Public Safety and Policing is being negotiated.

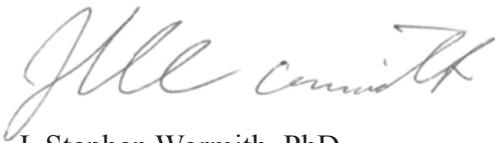
I am delighted with the progress that has been made in a very short period of time and wish to thank a number of key individuals who have facilitated or participated directly

in the initiative. Joanne Dillon, Dean of Arts and Sciences, with the assistance of Harley Dickenson, Associate Dean Social Science, Dirk DeBoer, Acting Associate Dean of Social Science, and Laura Zink, Research and Partnerships Coordinator for Social Sciences, have contributed financial resources, physical space, and many hours to the creation of a centre. Their insights, expertise and suggestions have been critical to the initiative. We are also very fortunate to have secured Ronda Appell from the Saskatoon Health Region to assume the role of Coordinator for the initiative. In a couple of short months, she has gotten up to (top) speed and is now whipping our committees into shape. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our Sub-committee and Steering Subcommittee members who have donated their valuable time to the initiative. The former includes Arlene Kent-Wilkinson (Nursing), Mansfield Mela (Psychiatry), Laura Zink (Arts & Science) and Ronda Appell (forensic initiative). The latter also includes Colleen Dell (Sociology), Glen Luther (Law), and Terry Nicholaichuk (CSC).

With a start such as this one, we are looking forward to 2010/11 with a sense of anticipation and enthusiasm. One of our first priorities will be to bring the centre to a reality. We will report on any such progress over the next year.

Thank your for your continued interest and support.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Stephen Wormith".

J. Stephen Wormith, PhD.,
Acting Director, Forensic Centre Initiative
and
Professor, Department of Psychology

**Report to the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC), Prairie Region,
on the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between
the University of Saskatchewan and CSC**

Subsequent to the signing of the MOA in November, 2009, the following activities have taken place or have been initiated in keeping with Schedule B of the MOA:

1.1 Development of a Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences and Justice Studies

Dr. Stephen Wormith, Department of Psychology, has agreed to serve as Acting Director/Academic Lead of the Forensic Centre Initiative. A contribution representing a 3 credit unit for release from teaching and administrative duties has been made to the Department of Psychology for Dr. Wormith's time.

The College of Arts & Science has made a contribution of office/meeting space to the Forensic Centre Initiative. Now located in Arts 110B, the office has been set up and provides dedicated workspaces for the Coordinator (see section 1.2 (4) below) and the Director of the Initiative, as well as 3 shared computer workstations for use by faculty and/or student members of the Centre, and a common meeting area. The dedication of space in high-traffic area on campus will help increase the visibility and profile of the Initiative and has already begun to facilitate interaction among contributing disciplines, scholars and students.

A joint Advisory/Steering Committee for oversight of the MOA was established with the following membership:

Steve Wormith, Psychology (Chair)
Colleen Dell, Sociology
Arlene Kent-Wilkinson, Nursing
Glen Luther, Law
Mansfield Mela, Psychiatry
Terry Nicholaichuk, RPC
Laura Zink, Social Sciences

The Steering Committee held its first meeting on December 10, 2009. At this time, the year one requirements of the MOA, including but not limited to the need for a formal proposal to establish a Centre at the University of Saskatchewan, were discussed.

A Sub-Committee charged with the task of leading the development of the proposal was established with the following membership: Steve Wormith, Arlene Kent-Wilkinson, Mansfield Mela and Laura Zink. The Sub-Committee met on February 26, 2010 at which time it was agreed that a Letter of Intent should be submitted to the

University Sub-Committee on Centres as evidence of the Forensic Initiative's commitment to bring forward a full proposal. A Letter of Intent was subsequently drafted and submitted in March, 2010.

1.2 Building Research & Training Capacity

(1) Support for Graduate Students

Two forms of graduate student support, funded through the MOA, have been established: (1) Research Assistantships and (2) Research Awards. These awards are available to students whose research interests concern the law, crime, justice, and/or corrections from a social science, health science, legal, management or multi-disciplinary perspective. Both programs are competitive.

Research Assistantships, valued at up to \$18,000 per year are available to current University of Saskatchewan students, or those who have been accepted into a program of study at the University for the following academic year. Receipt of this award involves a work commitment of up to 10 hours per week, half of which is to be devoted to the Forensic Initiative and the remaining to the student's home department.

Research Awards, valued at up to \$6,000 are available to current University of Saskatchewan students to help defray direct costs associated with the conduct of their research. Recipients of this award will be expected to submit a copy of their final research document (dissertation, thesis, or report) to the Forensic Initiative, and to make a presentation of their research either on the University of Saskatchewan campus or at the Regional Psychiatric Centre.

A Sub-Committee to review applications for graduate student funding has been established and is comprised of the same individuals who have agreed to lead the development of the Centre proposal. The first round of funding applications was reviewed at the end of February, 2010. To date, three Research Awards and three Research Assistantships for the 2010-11 academic years have been awarded as follows:

Award Type	Recipient Name	Program/Dept	Research Area
Research Award	Catherine Stewart	Ph.D. candidate, Clinical Psychology	Risk assessment in federal female offenders
Research Award	Karen Parhar	Ph.D. candidate, Applied Social Psychology	Housing and homelessness of federal offenders released in Saskatchewan
Research Award	Anna Flaminio	LL.M. candidate, Law	Early release of federal Aboriginal offenders
Research Assistantship	Carolyn Camman	M.A. candidate, Applied Social Psychology	Development, implementation and evaluation of correctional programming
Research Assistantship	Christina Jones	M.A. candidate, Clinical Psychology	Desistance from crime
Research Assistantship	Myles Ferguson	Ph. D. candidate, Applied Social Psychology	Effectiveness of domestic violence programs as they pertain to Aboriginal offenders

(2) *Needs Assessment of the Forensic Mental Health and Correctional Environment*

A Needs Assessment/Environmental Scan of the Forensic Mental Health Needs/Services in Saskatchewan has been initiated by the Forensic Interdisciplinary Research Team of Saskatchewan (FIRST)¹. The assessment will identify and examine forensic related programs and resources including services to residents, rehabilitation, support on leaving the facilities *etc*, and will provide foundational information for the work of the Forensic Initiative and future research proposals. The assessment will involve an analysis and integration of the available federal and provincial literature and findings from focus group interviews to be conducted with representatives of select

¹ Forensic Interdisciplinary Research in Saskatchewan Team (FIRST) - see also section 1.2 (5) of this report

services/facilities. Both the social and psychological aspects will be considered.

Two Research Assistants have been hired and began work at the end of February, 2010 to assist FIRST in the collection and analysis of data and information related to the Needs Assessment.

(3) *Research Development Grants (N/A; intended for years 2-5)*

(4) *Administrative/Research Support*

A staffing Committee consisting of Steve Wormith, Tammy Marche (Psychology, St. Thomas Moore) and Laura Zink held a competition for a 0.5 FTE Coordinator of the Forensic Centre Initiative. This position will support the development, implementation and management of the Forensic Centre Initiative through the provision of research, writing and administrative support. Interviews were conducted in December, 2009. The position was offered to and accepted by Ronda Appell in late December and she began work on a half-time basis on February 1, 2010.

(5) *Supporting and Encouraging Academic & Public Dialogue*

Each year, the University of Saskatchewan, in conjunction with the Regional Psychiatric Centre, hosts either Violence and Aggression Symposium or a Custody and Care Conference. These alternating conferences bring together researchers and professionals working in the criminal justice, health, and mental health fields, and provide opportunities to explore current theories, research and practice related to violence, aggression and services to offenders.

The 11th Biennial Conference on Custody and Caring was held September 30 to October 2, 2010 in Saskatoon. Plenary speakers included Dave Mercer (Lecturer, Directorate of Nursing, University of Liverpool, England), Kristin G. Cloyes (Assistant Professor, College of Nursing, University of Utah), Ron Levine (award winning photographer, Montreal & New York), and Annette Stanwick (Author, "Forgiveness: The Mystery and Miracle).

Over the years a combination of RPC, University, private and professional association, City of Saskatoon and drug company contributions have been used to support this international event. In addition, the College of Nursing planning committee members have been successful in obtaining conference and workshop funding from SHRF, SSHRC and CIHR.

The Forensic Centre Initiative also secured financial support from the Research Acceleration Program, funded through the federal Indirect Costs of Research Program, to host two smaller events in March, 2010 aimed at encouraging dialogue and fostering research collaboration between academic and community partners in the area of criminal justice.

On March 16, 2010, the Forensic Behavioural Sciences & Justice Studies Initiative hosted an afternoon of discussion with Graham Stewart and Kim Pate. Graham is the former Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Canada and co-author of “A Flawed Compass: A Human Rights Analysis of the Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety”. Kim is Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and part-time professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law. Participants in the discussion included faculty members from the Departments of Psychology and Sociology, College of Arts & Sciences, the College of Law, as well as various government and community partners/stakeholders.

On March 26, 2010, the Forensic Initiative hosted a presentation by and discussion with Dr. Robert Brown, Chief Psychologist and Director, Forensic Services at the Saskatchewan Hospital, North Battleford. Entitled, “Fitness to Stand Trial – Why Most Clinicians Get it Wrong”, the talk was intended to further stimulate discussion among potential forensic research collaborators and was open to all interested faculty, students and RPC management/staff.

The Forensic Interdisciplinary Research in Saskatchewan Team (FIRST) formed as a group in July 2009, with the goal of providing evidence-based research to address the needs of the increasingly complex mentally ill offender population in the province. In an effort to break down silos, FIRST is made up of health care providers, researchers, and educators, from the University of Saskatchewan and the community, representing but not limited to law, nursing, psychiatry, psychology and sociology. By building on professional and collaborative relationships already established across disciplines, a goal of FIRST is to build an interdisciplinary research team to deliver fundable and sustainable research agendas. Through this venture, senior and junior faculty are brought together as equal learners, and graduate student membership is welcomed as a means of further building research capacity. Many of the members of FIRST are also participants in the Forensic Centre Initiative.

1.3 Summary of 2009-10 Expenditures

A summary of Year 1 expenditures related to the MOA is provided in Appendix A.

1.4 Plans for 2010-11

Building on the initial activities described above, the following activities and events are planned for 2010-11:

(1) Centre Designation

A formal proposal to establish the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences & Justice Studies will be submitted in the 2010-11 year with the intent to satisfy all University requirements and achieve Centre status before the end of 2010.

(2) Signing Ceremony

A signing ceremony between the Correctional Service of Canada, Prairie Region (CSC-RPC), and the University of Saskatchewan is proposed for late April/early May as a means of formally recognizing CSC's contribution toward the establishment of the Centre and its support of forensic research and other scholarly activities. A formal signing ceremony will also serve to raise the profile of the Forensic Initiative both on campus and within the broader community.

(3) Violence & Aggression Symposium

The 13th Biennial Symposium on Violence & Aggression is planned for June 20-22, 2010 in Saskatoon. Plenary speakers tentatively include Paul Gendreau, John Livesly, Graham Stewart, and Steve Wong.

(4) Post-VA workshop

A workshop to take place on the University of Saskatchewan campus the afternoon following the closing of the Violence & Aggression Symposium is being planned for June 23, 2010. The workshop will highlight the work of Dr. Min Yang, Mathematical Sciences Group, Institute of Education, London UK on developments in multi-level modeling and meta-analysis and their applications to criminal justice research.

(5) Research Acceleration Program funding

An application for renewed Research Acceleration Program funding from the University of Saskatchewan will be submitted by May 1, 2010. If successful, funds may be used toward the proposed workshop on June 23rd or other events and activities aimed at fostering collaborative research opportunities and encouraging and supporting the development of Tri-Council grant proposals.

(6) Needs Assessment

The Needs Assessment/Environmental Scan initiated in 2009-10 will be completed during the 2010-11 year, and will provide a framework for continued research, including a focused analysis of individual facilities and services identified during the data collection and analysis phase of the assessment.

(7) Forensic Initiative/Centre web page and PAWS group

A webpage and Personalized Access to Web Services (PAWS) group for the Forensic Centre will be developed to further increase visibility, highlight the work of Centre faculty and students, advertise Centre activities and events, and facilitate information sharing among Centre members.

(8) Research Development Grants

A process for awarding available research development funds will be established and a call for proposals issued. These grants may provide a potential source of seed funding for research proposals currently being developed by members of FIRST (e.g. assessment of need for a mental health court diversion program in Saskatchewan, 3-country study of workplace development issues for nurses working in secure environments) but will be open to any faculty whose research falls within the broad areas of criminal justice and forensic behavioural sciences.

(9) Addictions Research Centre

The potential for collaboration with the CSC's Addictions Research Centre (ARC) will be explored during 2010-11 with the possibility of hosting one or more ARC researchers at a specific event to be organized by the Forensic Centre Initiative.

(10) International Research Collaboration and Funding opportunities

Opportunities for developing research collaborations with international colleagues (Australia, UK, USA) will be explored, as will international funding opportunities, including but not limited to the International Opportunities Fund (SSHRC), CIDA, or funding programs made available through the Office of International Research at the University of Saskatchewan.

Appendix A: Summary of Revenues and Expenditures 2009-10

Development of Centre for Forensic Behavioural Sciences & Justice Studies		Period Ending: Mar-2010		
Title	Mar-2010 YTD Actual	O/S 2009-10 Commitments	Total 2009-10	
Revenue				
Government of Canada	120,000.00	0		
Subtotal	120,000.00	0		
Total Revenues	120,000.00	0	120,000.00	
Expenditures				
Academic Lead - 3 credit unit teaching buy-out	2,925.00	3,075.00	6,000.00	
Admin/Management Support - salary & benefits	2,871.00	4,028.00	6,899.00	
Research Awards	3,676.00	9,410.00	13,086.00	
Research Assistantships	0.00	43,883.00	43,883.00	
Needs Assessment - RA salaries & benefits	0.00	25,710.00	25,710.00	
Needs Assessment - materials & supplies	0.00	9,290.00	9,290.00	
Computers & Equipment	10,254.00	0.00	10,254.00	
Office Supplies	0.00	475.00	475.00	
Conference Support	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Subtotal	19,726.00	98,371.00	118,097.00	
Total Revenues Less Expenses			1,903.00	

Appendix B:

**Events Hosted by the
Forensic Behavioural Sciences
and Justice Studies Initiative**



The Forensic Behavioural Sciences & Justice Studies Initiative at the University of Saskatchewan is pleased to invite your participation in an afternoon of discussion with Graham Stewart and Kim Pate.

**Tuesday, March 16, 2010
12:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Room 189 Edwards School of Business
25 Campus Drive
University of Saskatchewan**

Discussion will focus on the question,
“Where is criminal justice in Canada headed in the next decade?”
with a view to identifying common research themes and exploring the potential for collaborative research opportunities among discussion participants.

Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 12:45.

Please RSVP to ronda.appell@usask.ca.

Guest Speaker Info:

Graham Stewart is the former Executive Director of the John Howard Society of Canada and co-author of “A Flawed Compass: A Human Rights Analysis of the Roadmap to Strengthening Public Safety”.

Kim Pate is the Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies and part-time professor at the University of Ottawa Faculty of Law.

The Forensic Behavioural Sciences & Justice Studies Initiative at the University of Saskatchewan is an effort to showcase existing expertise in the areas of forensic sciences and justice, currently distributed across the Colleges of Arts & Science, Nursing, Medicine, Law & Commerce, and to promote the creation of an interdisciplinary centre to further promote research and graduate training in response to demands which continue to emerge at the municipal, provincial, and national levels for scholarly activity pertaining to the criminal justice system.

*The Forensic Behavioural Sciences and
Justice Studies Initiative presents*

Dr. Robert Brown, Ph.D.
Chief Psychologist
Director, Forensic Services
Saskatchewan Hospital
North Battleford

**Fitness to Stand Trial –
Why Most Clinicians Get it Wrong**

**Friday, March 26, 2010
1:00 to 2:30 p.m.
Room 153 Arts**

Everyone Welcome!

Refreshments will be served

