
VCH participates in the Vanguard project to protect vulnerable adults

Submitted by [Amanda Brown](#), Director, re:act adult abuse and neglect response resource



VCH's Amanda Brown and Darren Kopetsky with Minister Chong

On September 25, 2009 Minister of Healthy Living and Sport Ida Chong launched a strategy document on vulnerability and capability issues in British Columbia researched and prepared by the BC Adult Abuse/Neglect Prevention Collaborative.

The [Vanguard document](#) aims to clarify the responsibilities of the various provincial agencies and sets out a framework for different sectors to work together to protect the rights of vulnerable adults who may have diminished or diminishing capability. It also advocates creating an inter-disciplinary best practices tool to guide practitioners working in health care, medicine, law and criminal justice who deal with adults with capability issues.

On October 20, 2009, representatives from more than 25 organizations met to discuss how to implement the seventeen recommendations put forward in the document. The group identified the following four items as priorities:

1. Community mapping

Creation of a thorough cross-disciplinary map of agencies involved with dealing with adults who may have been assessed as incapable.

2. Criminal law issues

Criminal justice system workers must develop their own internal procedures and ensure there is consistency across the province.

3. Financial institutions

Create protocols and policies at the head office and branch offices regarding vulnerable persons and/or persons with capability issues.

4. Cross-disciplinary understanding of language

Develop consistent visions and terminologies of key terms.

In his plenary address, Darren Kopetsky, Regional Director of Client Relations and Risk Manager for VCH, emphasized the importance of Vanguard's vision of adult capability and vulnerability as an inter-disciplinary area of practice encompassing, at minimum, law, health care and social work in order to create best practice standards and protocols. "Now, thanks to the Vanguard Project, we have a document that provides clarity for all professionals."

For more information on the BC Adult Abuse/Neglect Prevention Collaborative or the Vanguard Project, contact Amanda Brown at 604.984.5957 or amanda.brown@vch.ca.

Contact the Author

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