

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [CYAA Review](#)  
**Subject:** Child and Youth Advocate Act Submission  
**Date:** Saturday, September 24, 2016 11:06:22 AM

---

Having worked in the education system for 30 years and volunteered with youth organizations throughout that time I have seen a lot of sad situations.

In my opinion one of the biggest problems in the system is the fallacy that parents can "straighten" themselves out in short periods of time. Children are continually being put back into unsafe situations and usually then moved from town to town by their parents to avoid social services.

My answer, as well as input from the schools and extended family, getting input from the neighbours will give a better picture of the situation. I know from experience glimpses of behaviour that are given in the 10 minute conversation at the school accomplish nothing. Talking to teachers helps but they only see the child in a classroom setting, a lot only know what they hear from the community where they may or may not live. Especially in a rural setting as I am, we know the day to day life of the child and see the performances given to the social worker by the parents. The idea of children needing their mother or father is not always safe. Access to them is important but living with them can be a nightmare.

I found too that "teams" of social workers or "gov't agency specialists" spent all their time in meetings discussing their action plan and very little time is spent with the family or child. Specialists are be assigned to children but we would see them at the school maybe once every six weeks, they would see the child for 10 minutes and then spend the rest of the day closeted in the office writing a fill in the blank report that the teacher would get months later. The child would move and the process repeated.

Children at risk need fast digital tracking that can be flagged if not in school so they don't get lost.

One on one care from a social worker would accomplish more than "teams" because the coordination of services takes more time to set up and then review findings than just having these people use their expertise to help the child. I mentor single teen mom's. I found that they are experts at avoiding contact with the gov't system. Part of receiving monetary help should be a chance visit by a social worker at least once a month with the authority to look in the fridge.

I am one that believes the gov't throws too much money trying to fix systems with committees and studies into obvious problems when it is front line workers such as E.A.'s and LPN's that can just do the work that are needed. Too many "experts" cost huge money and spend their time justifying their jobs to committees rather than just working.

Sent from my iPhone