

Kitchener Cambridge HSJCC Coordination Committee Minutes
May 12, 2014 (1 to 3 p.m.)
Waterloo Region Courthouse, Victim Witness Board Room, 3rd Floor
85 Frederick St., Kitchener ON N2H 6P1

Chairperson: Joslyn Gaston, Linda Elliott

Recorder: Jean Defaux

Present: Angela Vanderheyden, Cheryl Skirving-Mills, Chris Goss, Fran Elliott, Ian Sykes, Jennifer Mains, Marion Best, Mark Booker, Paul Lobsinger, Sarah Stagg, Sharon Deally-Grzybowski, Sherri Heimpel-Peers, Shirley Gutenberg, Sue Werden,

1. Welcome and Introductions

Joslyn welcomed everyone and a round of introduction was done.

2. Acceptance of Agenda of: May 12, 2014-accepted as presented

Acceptance of Minutes - Minutes of February 10, 2014 were provided in hardcopy form but due to late dissemination were not reviewed at this meeting.

3. Mental Health Court Project, sponsored by Regional HSJCC-Sharon

A group of students from Conestoga College were asked to do a descriptive process analysis of Kitchener mental health court and Guelph court. There were some discrepancies in the final report so it has been pulled. Linda acknowledged that the literature review was thorough. Plan is to revisit this project next fall with incoming group of students. Expectations will be made clearer to the students, for example it is expected that this time they will interview those who actually work in mental health court.

4. Review of Status of Geriatric Committee-Linda

This committee meets on a quarterly basis and volunteers are being sought from this table. Joslyn said startup date will likely be in September. Cheryl Skirving-Mills from Bartimaeus Inc. volunteered for the committee.

Alternate to jail identified as a need for this population. Limited supported housing available. Waterloo Region is now looking at gaps in housing, including seniors supported housing. It was suggested the Linda/Joslyn write up their concerns and submit an expression of interest before the November deadline to Marie Morrison at the Region; Marion suggested that the owners of Domiciliary Hostels be contacted as well; they might be willing to take in seniors with charges. Possibly, Kingsview Residence in Cambridge (519-653-5599) will take those with charges.

5. Report on Learn and Lunch, Geriatrics and the Justice System-Joslyn

The March 31 Learn and Lunch was held in this court house. The event was very well supported and popular as evidenced by the many requests received for additional events on the same topic. Further Learn and Lunch sessions are being planned for early fall/late winter however there are costs involved with putting on these presentations.

6. Prisoner Belongings Protocol Update-Joslyn

This group met in April and the protocol is moving along. There is some difficulty in getting duty councils to remember to let prisoners know they can leave their possessions at the court house. This opportunity is open to male, female, and youths being incarcerated. Alternately, if they do not do not leave their possessions they still have the option to request someone come to pick up their belongings. Ratio of pickups from Maplehurst is 10 pickups every 3 weeks. There is some paperwork that needs to be signed for the protocol to be utilized, however as this paper work is in the cell block it could be started ahead of time. Police need to be part of this signing process as they are responsible for the property until it is transferred. To further promote this service, reminders will be sent out to

the councils, gentle word of mouth reminders will be used and posters to use at shelters will be created. Sharon will take the possibility of reimbursement for those doing the pickup to the Regional HSJCC.

7. Updates on Mental Health Court, DTC-Linda

DTC court is progressively getting busier; charges are getting more significant and may include criminal harassments or arson. There are only 4 hours a day scheduled for this court and court.

MH court hears on average 15-17 cases on a Tuesday. Start time can be as late as 11:45 a.m., then often running until after 5 p.m. , proving to be a long day for clients already stressed and anxious. Earlier start time of 9:30 a.m. could alleviate some stress for clients, family members and witnesses who now sit all day waiting for case to come up. Currently there are only 3 judges; unknown if this will change. Pamela Borghesan has left her former position as Assistant Crown Attorney in Guelph to become a Justice in Kitchener. There was recently a dual graduation from Drug Treatment Court. Currently there are 4 on the waiting list. A group of students have set up a web site and created a report; link will be sent out.

8. Workplan 2014-Joslyn

A hardcopy of the workplan was handed out and reviewed;

Item 4-Study Feasibility of Youth MH Court or Youth DT Court Update

- Linda reported that a small group went to London to observe their youth court. Look is very different in that it is in the form of a conference as part of the regular court day and done on an ad hoc basis. Representatives from probation, school board and anyone else involved with the youth including family were present. Should we follow that model it would be slid into youth court docket instead of regular court. We will continue to look at this. It was noted that a lot is demanded of those youth in drug treatment court, therefore it may not work for youth with issues of consent.
- #9 below gives further information on workplan Items #3 and #5

9. Suggestions for Future Guest Speakers-Sharon et al

This topic fits with item #5 on work plan in that HSJCC mandate is to share information. Guest speakers can fill this need as well as fitting with item #3 on the workplan-to support each other. Please think about the type of presentations and how often they should occur then send your suggestions to Joslyn or Linda.

10. Updates on Provincial HSJCC-Sharon

- InterRAI now adopted by OPP and Wellington Police Services –see attached update
- The Provincial HSJCC has developed a one page fact sheet on housing needs to for candidates in next election – see attached update
- CMHA Ontario comments on the report from the province’s Information and Privacy report- see attached update

11. Updates from Community Partners and Next Meeting Date

- CMHA- Coordinated access (Here 24-7) is now up and running. Sharon suggests a presentation from the service on how assessment is done. Comprehensive DBT program has also been set up. Hope is to be open for referrals in fall. There is a waiting list of about 80. Each group is comprised of 10 to 12 individuals; eventually will have groups across Waterloo Wellington
- CMH-Clara Hughes event was very successful with over 900 participants and lots of positive feedback. Poster will be brought in.
- WRPS - courts and custody now under one division
- Hub model-This LHIN promoted model, which originated out in Saskatchewan, will have Corizion taking lead. There is a similar model (called Connectivity) already operating in Cambridge.
- Cheryl McDonald is retiring from Probation and Parole in Cambridge/Guelph

- Probation and Parole- Keven Macintyre has retired, Ian Sikes is replacing him as Acting Area Manager. Ian will investigate further on Probation and Parole's new policy directives on being less lenient and bring findings back to this table.

12. Next meeting

- September 22nd at 1 p.m, Crown's Office, Kitchener Courthouse