



**Downtown Toronto Human Services and Justice
Coordinating Committee (DT-HSJCC)
Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2017
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Old City Hall, Room 14**

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Centre; Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale Probation and Parole; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Esther Daniel, Judiciary; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Amber Kellen, John Howard Society of Toronto; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Centre; Ali Gholipour, The Access Point; Lindsay Jennings, PASAN; Rhona Zitney, Fred Victor/JC; Jeanine Daniel, VWAP; Debbie Lucas, Toronto Bail Program; Lana Armstrong, TSDC; Graham Brown, JHS Ontario; Everton Gordon, Margaret’s Housing and Community Support Services; Zohreh Etminani (Student), Fred Victor; Tasha Rennie, HSJCC Secretariat; Seble Makonnen, CMHA Ontario; Joanna Wewigwans, Aboriginal Legal Services; Andrea Monteiro, IROC; Howard Sapers, IROC; Nikki Browne, Nikki Knows/Project LUCID

Regrets: Laura Klaehn, Probation and Parole; Robin Cuff, CAMH; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Service; Heather McDonald, LOFT; Marianne Quirouette, University of Toronto; Evelyn Mitchell, Salvation Army, Maxwell Meighen; Jennifer Altosaar, Toronto Network of Specialized Care; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Carlos Aedo, Houselink; Dana Fisher, Duty Counsel; Marienne Muller, MCSCS; Robyn Degan, Vanier Centre for Women (VCFW); Cylene Rainville, LOFT; Erin Hann, Youthdale; Jessyca Greenwood, Legal Counsel; Jane Rumleskie, VWAP

Welcome and Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves
- The agenda was amended to start with the presentation

Presentation

Katie Almond introduced Howard Sapers. He provided the context for his two reports.

- He was appointed as the Ontario Independent advisor on Corrections Reform in January 2017. His first report, *Segregation in Ontario*, was released May 2017 followed by his second report October 2017, *Corrections in Ontario: Directions for Reform*. This report provides a targeted examination of select

correctional practices in Ontario. The report includes 62 recommendations. Mr. Sapers would like advice from the committee on how to move forward.

- Links to the reports were circulated.
- The Government of Ontario asked him to look at segregation. How do you make it transparent and accountable? Segregation is a symptom.
- **Key Finding:** Segregation is frequently used as the default tool to manage individuals with mental health needs; the current infrastructure contributes to the overuse of segregation; Ministry is behind in information collection, management and sharing, lack of project coordination, communication and consultation with key partners; there is no clear policy for dealing with client complaints; the corrections Act of Ontario should contain a statement of purpose for visits; remand clients must be treated in accordance with their legal status- innocent
- **Key Recommendations:** New legal and public framework; amend policy to update the definition of segregation in line with international standards. Prohibit segregation for medical observation, pregnant women, chronically self-harming, suicidal; limit segregation to no more than 60 days, update policy, implement standardized and ongoing MH screening for segregated clients; evaluate the provision of health care in correctional facilities; Ministry policies and statistics be publicly available; enhancing respect for Human Rights with Corrections
- **Themes discussed:** Correction is a Human Rights enterprise, be evidence based, principle driven and be accountable. Need to look through the lenses of Human Rights; safety concerns for staff were addressed, when you make the institutional healthy for the clients, the staff will be healthy. The government responded quickly to the reports. New legislation is in the making and new bills. Suggestion about the provincial grievance process – Ombudsman, Human Rights and Auditor General provide alternatives. How about an Office Inspector General from MAG? This can strengthen the internal grievance process. Concern that the Ombudsman does not deal with the administration of health.
- Resource to look at video bail – Raymond E. Wyant report – available on the MAG website.
- Mr. Sapers and Andrea Monteiro were thanked for their informative presentation and dialogue.

Review of May 4, 2017 Minutes

- The minutes of September 7, 2017 were approved.

Action Items Follow-up

- Items were reviewed and completed

Lunch and Learns

Esther Daniel reported on the November 30th Lunch N' Learns on Access to Justice: Video Bail & Needs of In Custody MH Clients. It will take place at College Park

courtroom 507. It will be interactive with Q/A period. It is helpful to ask members what questions they have prior to the session to ensure information is provided. If you have any questions – please send them to Domenica. Also, the Lunch N’ Learn sub-committee is working on an evening session on Bill C45 – Cannabis Act. Youth and Mental Health will frame the content for an evening Lunch N’ Learn. Looking at a panel discussion with a medical professional, youth court judge and/or Assistance Crown Attorney that will address the impact of the proposed legislation on the courts.

Plan to have the session accredited. The committee agreed with an evening session of two hours. This will be planned for February/March 2018.

Agency/Organization Updates

- Nikki Browne reported on a survey she is conducting on an environmental scan and needs assessment seeking to identify and address gaps in programs, services, and supports for people being held in, and recently released from, adult (18+) provincial custody in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). She will send the survey to Domenica for circulation.
- Everton Gordon reported that two sites are opening at Margaret’s Housing and Community Support Services. Will send flyer for circulation.
- Rhona Zitney reported on an upcoming life skills session for men. Will send flyer to Domenica for circulation.

Service Resolution/Coordination Issues

Deferred to next meeting

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

The next T-HSJCC meeting will take place on February 12, 2018

Conference information is available on the website. There is subsidy available for members. Subsidy email was circulated to all members.

Actions

- Domenica will circulate information when received from Fred Victor, Margaret’s Housing and Community Support Services and Nikki Knows/Project LUCID
- Domenica will contact FEIS to find out whether they are available to present at the next meeting.

Presenter for next meeting: FEIS to provide an update

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 4, 2018 at Old City Hall, 60 Queen St. West, Room 14 from 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.