



**Downtown Toronto Human Services and Justice  
Coordinating Committee (DT-HSJCC)  
Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2020  
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.  
Old City Hall, Room 14**

**Present:** Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale Probation and Parole; Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Centre; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Judy Virgo, Fred Victor; Rhona Zitney, Fred Victor/Justice Coordinator; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute; McMaster University; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Service; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Services 14 Division ORB/CAMH Liaison Officer; Natasha Bronfman, CMHA; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Courtney Miller, Springboard Services; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Robin Cuff, CAMH Drug Treatment Court; Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Leemor Valin, Legal Aid Ontario; Natasha Chadenga, Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services; Scott Skinner, Toronto Network of Specialized Care; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Dara Gordon, Women's College Hospital; Kite, Toronto Rehab Institute; Gemma Creek, Specialist Speech, Language & Communication Therapist (UK); Lyn Turkstra, Mc Master University.

**Regrets:** Kelly Gilbert, Youthdale Treatment Centres; Amber Kellen, JHS Toronto; Matthew Eaton Kent, Defense Counsel; Steve Manuel, Salvation Army; Kaelen Boyd, Schizophrenia Society of Ontario; Adrienne Hughes, UHN; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Janet Rowe, PASAN.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Review of January 9, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of January 9, 2020 were approved.

**Review Action Items:**

All actions items were reviewed and completed.

**Presentation:** Addressing the needs of youth with TBI in the Ontario Criminal Justice System: Creating an Implementation Process for TBI Screening with Gemma

Creek SLT, Devon UK, Lyn Turkstra Ph.D. Reg. CASLPO, McMaster University and Catherine Wiseman-Hakes Ph.D. Reg. CASLPO, McMaster University.

PowerPoint slide decks will be circulated.

- At least 50% of youth who have been charged with an offence have a documented history of TBI.
- Earlier and more effective means to assess and manage the consequences of TBI in people in conflict with the law or at risk, may lead to improved outcomes for individuals and for society.
- In Ontario, 1 in 5 middle- and high school students report having suffered at least one head injury sustaining a TBI
- High school students who reported a lifetime TBI were significantly more likely to report substance use.
- Younger children recover from TBI at a slower rate than adults due to the vulnerability of developing skills and lack of cerebral maturity. Can result in 'later developmental emergence of deficits'
- Kids with TBI are often misinterpreted as poor behaviour, lack of motivation.
- Present with impairments in language, cognitive communication, and social communication
- Can be barriers to understanding legal terms
- Can look like – rudeness, defiance, inattention, bad attitude, carelessness etc....
- Screening and training are critical steps toward a justice system in addressing the needs of youth with TBI in Ontario, consistent with the goals of the Youth Justice Act.
- Example of the Devon County Council Speech and Language Therapy Services as part of the Offending Team was discussed.
- Benefits of considering language and communication - reduced misunderstanding, confusion, stress, distress for people in custody, families, police officers etc....
- Pathway is designed to be individualized
- Gemma Creek, Lyn Turkstra and Catherine Wiseman-Hakes were thanked for an informative and insightful presentation.

**Themes discussed:** It was acknowledged that the assessment is the intervention which can be universal. Making documents and the legal process accessible.

### **Lunch and Learns**

Domenica Dileo reported that there will be a Lunch N' Learn on March 9<sup>th</sup> on Affirming Trans and Non-Binary Gender Identities, at OCH Room 150 from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm.

March 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Lunch N' Learn on Crystal Methamphetamine.

**Approval Workplan for 2020-2021 and meeting dates:**

The workplan was circulated prior to the meeting and approved at the meeting. Budget includes three Lunch N' Learns, TTC tokens for two courthouses, Food Vouchers, and Honorarium: Totaling \$4,420.

**Agency/Organization Updates**

Robin Cuff reported that there is movement to reduce the amount of court time and judge's time for specialty courts, such as the Drug Treatment Court. The auditor report identified that space is required at the courthouses. The decision was made with no consultation. The need to do advocacy on this issue was acknowledged. Robin will keep the committee up-to-date. It was agreed to write a support letter.

**Video Bail** - no updates

**Service Resolution/Coordination Issues:**

Deferred to next meeting.

**Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:**

The T-HSJCC will be meeting on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Actions Items:**

- Domenica will follow up on the logistics of the next Lunch N' Learn
- Domenica will follow up on outreach blurb and outreach to Elizabeth Fry
- Domenica will circulate the presentation PowerPoint slide decks

**Presenter for next meeting:** TBD

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, May 7, 2020 ONLINE from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.