



**Downtown Toronto Human Services and Justice
Coordinating Committee (DT-HSJCC)
Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2014
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Old City Hall, Room 14**

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Centre; Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale Probation and Parole; Rhona Zitney, CRCT; Crystal Sinclair, Toronto Bail Program; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Michael Lyster, Strachan House; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Services; Umwali Sollange, CAMH-Justice Collaborative; Roby Miller, CHIRS; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Flora Matheson, St. Michael's Hospital; Amber Kellen, John Howard Society of Toronto; Alison Pais, Gerstein Centre; Linda Brett, LOFT Community Services; Thuan Ngo, Houselink Community Homes; Sheryl Lindsay Sistering; Dana Fisher, Duty Counsel; Jill Shakespeare, CAMH; Anna D'Agostino, Bartimaeus Inc.; Katie McIssac, U of T; Phaedra Downer, Probation and Parole (Jane St.); Debbie Lucas, Toronto Bail Program.

Regrets: David Raponi-Monk, John Howard Society of Toronto; Joanne Walsh, St. Michael's Hospital; Irina Sytcheva, Schizophrenia Society of Ontario; Sandra Bricker, Toronto Network of Specialized Care; Brad Tamcsu, MCSCS; Dianna Cochrane, CAMH; Allar Viinamae, MCSCS; Mary Ross-Hendriks, Judiciary; Robin Cuff, CAMH; Lin Sallay, LOFT; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Joanne Capozzi, Crown Attorney's Office; Carlos Aedo, Houselink Community Homes.

Welcome and Introductions

- Everybody introduced themselves.

Review of January 9, 2013 Minutes

- The minutes of January 9, 2014 were approved

Work Plan 2014-2015 (Draft)

- **General**
- The draft Work Plan for 2014-2015 was distributed.
- Last year, the committee's direction was to address stigma, service resolution and coordination. It was agreed at the September 2014 meeting to focus on stigma by looking at the EnAbling Change Project.

- Flexibility with the Work Plan is important, given changes in the system such as Health Links.
- Members would like an overview about new initiatives dealing with MH and Addictions. Cota, St. Michaels Hospital and Reconnect are the lead providers with new Mental Health and Addiction services.
- There will be a Safe Beds presentation at the May 2014 meeting.
- The LAO Mental Health Strategy will be a presentation or a Lunch and Learn.

Lunch and Learns

- There will be a dry run at Boardroom 14 in April to ensure the technology will support a webinar at the courthouse.
- There will be a Lunch and Learn with Justice Richard Schneider on mandatory minimums.
- There will be 2 -3 Lunch and Learns per year.
- Katie Almond reported that there is a Lunch and Learn sub-committee. New members are welcome.

Membership

- If you think there is a gap, please let Domenica Dileo know.

Agency Updates

- Toronto South Detention Centre – Katie Almond reported that 200 inmates are at the jail and they are continuing to add more. Concerns were expressed about video screening. - visits happen through video screening; bail happens by video at College Park. The situation needs to be monitored because it was promised that the first appearance would be in person.

Presentation – Linda Brett Access 1 & Coordinated Access to Supportive Housing (C.A.S.H.)

- **Introduction**
- The two service hubs have been integrated. They are located at the same office and are working on a joint on-line application form and process, making it easier for people to apply to multiple services. The on-line application is planned to be rolled out in the coming months.
- Slide decks will be distributed in the near future when the CASH/Access 1 HUB completes its rebranding, has a new name and contact information so accurate information is distributed. Regular information sessions for stakeholders (applicants, community members and referring workers etc.) are planned for the near future and will be held at the 661 Yonge Street office.
- This facilitates the collection of more consistent statistics on who is receiving service and identifying service gaps.
- They are reducing duplication of services.
Accountability to the Network to better identify priority populations.

Access 1

- This is a network of 31 service providers in the Toronto area who provide mental health Intensive Case Management (ICM) and Assertive Community

Treatment Team (ACTT) services.

- They serve individuals in many languages through their partners
- When the application is completed and sent to Access 1, a Service Navigator
- contacts the client to confirm the application and set up an assessment appointment. If the applicant is eligible, they are placed on a waitlist. Depending on client need assessments may be completed by phone or in person.
- While on the waitlist, short-term supports may be available on a limited basis. Peer Support Facilitators contact clients on the waitlist approximately every 3 months for updates.
- Wait list management may also include helping applicants connect to services while they are waiting for service.
- If an applicant is not eligible for services via Access 1 every attempt is made to connect them to other services which are more appropriate.

C.A.S.H.

- This is a central access point to 30 supportive housing providers across Toronto, providing both permanent and transitional housing options.
- Application forms can be printed off the CASH website and can also be mailed out or faxed as requested.
- Currently there are over 6300 people on the waitlist and there are three full time front line CASH staff. Many of the applicants on the wait list have multiple service requests for programs such as SHPPSU & MHJI as well as for housing with CASH.
- If you need to reach somebody call the office.
- The waitlist is based on chronological order and housing matches are based on level of need and other program specific criteria. The database scores applicants on an individual basis by vacancy.
- Applicants have only three choices they can turn down.
- If an individual is in custody, they can still remain on the waitlist do not lose their position on the waitlist.
- Individuals are encouraged to re-apply ASAP if they are housed through the network.

Wait Times

- Boarding Homes- 2-3 months for shared room and approximately 3 years for a single room
- Shared accommodation- low support 1-2 years, daily support 2-3 years, 24 hour support over 3 years, transitional aged youth (16-24) 6-12 months
- Self-Contained Apartments – MHJI 6-12 months, MH Homeless 1-3 years, MH Housed 3-7 years
- Supportive Housing for People with Problematic Substance Use (SHPPSU) – 8:1 ratio with rent supplements attached to units. All wait times are estimates and change regularly.

Mental Health and Justice Initiative (MHJI)

- There are 4 lead Agencies: CMHA, Houselink, LOFT, COTA
- The concern is that when housing is available individuals might not be in conflict with the law therefore they no longer qualify for MHJI housing as the criteria is

to be currently involved with the criminal justice system at time of being housed. Individuals wanting to apply for MHJI housing must have a referrer from the priority referrer list.

- Referring workers support applicants with completing the application. It is important applications are accurately completed and updates (housing status, contact info, support or referring worker, primary contacts etc.) are communicated to the Network Office as needed. Consent forms for new workers must be added to the application file. Self-referrals are accepted and all services are voluntary.

Closing

Contact Courtenay at 416-979-5496 Ext 271 for application updates.

For service concerns, contact Alison Hunt, alisonh@access1.ca or Linda Brett LBrett@loftcs.org. The Integrated Access Program is looking at systemic issues. It was suggested having the Housing Network to address the capacity issue. Linda Brett was thanked for her informative presentation.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

- There will be a webinar on March 28, 2014 - *A Conversation with Deputy Chief Mike Federico*. The deadline for priority registration for Toronto HSJCC locals, is March 10. Registration information has been sent to all locals. If you can't participate, the Webinar will be recorded and uploaded to the PHSJCC website.
- Umwali Sollange reported on the Justice Collaborative. A gap has been selected with a proposed intervention. The Intervention model was distributed. The main issue is how to work closely to get access to services in a timely way. LAO and the Reintegration Centre will be key partners. The CAMH team will support implementation, evaluation and coordination. The next meeting will be on March 19, 2014 to deal with the how and what will be developed.
- Umwali Sollange was acknowledged for her contribution in addressing and bringing together different stakeholders to address complex gaps.
- The Prisoners Belonging webinar of January 29th is available on the HSJCC website.

Actions

- Let Domenica Dileo know if you think there is a gap in membership.
- Domenica Dileo will distribute the presentation slide decks when they are available.
- For service concerns contact Alison Hunt, alisonh@access1.ca or Linda Brett, LBrett@loftcs.org.

Next Meeting:

May 1, 2014

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Old City Hall, 60 Queen St. West, Room 14

Presentation: Gerstein Centre re Safe Beds

