



**Downtown Toronto Human Services and Justice
Coordinating Committee (DT-HSJCC)
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2014
8:30 - 10:00 a.m.
Old City Hall, Room 14**

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Centre; Rhona Zitney, CRCT; Crystal Sinclair, Toronto Bail Program; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Michael Lyster, Strachan House; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Services; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Flora Matheson, St. Michael's Hospital; Sheryl Lindsay Sistering; Dana Fisher, Duty Counsel; Robin Adamson, Bartimaeus Inc.; Katie Mc Issac, U of T; Phaedra Downer, Probation and Parole (Jane St.); Lin Sallay, LOFT; Joanna Theriault, Toronto Police Services; Margaret Creal, Crown Attorney's Office; Joanne Zielinski, Parkdale Probation and Parole; Sarah Easterbrook, Yonge St. Probation and Parole, Phaedra Downer, Jane St. Probation and Parole; Laura Huggins, Toronto South Detention Centre; Natalie Massender (on behalf of Talena Jackson), Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services; Natalie Reitmuir (on behalf of Roby Miller), CHIRS; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Evelyn Mitchell, Salvation Army, Maxwell Meighen

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; Allar Viinamae, MCSCS; Robin Cuff, CAMH; Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale Probation and Parole; Amber Kellen, John Howard Society of Toronto; Linda Brett, LOFT Community Services; Umwali Sollange, CAMH-Justice Collaborative, Cindy Rose, Toronto Public Health; Heather McDonald, LOFT Community Services; Jennifer O'Brien, Cota; Tanya Connors, CAMH

Welcome and Introductions

- Everybody introduced themselves.
- It was acknowledged that the DT-HSJCC wrote a support letter for Dr. Flora Matheson, Centre for Research in Inner-City Health for her application as Chair in Applied Public Health titled "*Interventions to Improve Health Among Canadian Prisoners.*"

Review of March 6, 2014 Minutes

- The minutes of March 6, 2014 were approved

Lunch and Learns

- Domenica Dileo reported that there will be a dry run in Boardroom 14 in May to ensure the technology will support a webinar at the courthouse. There were several dry runs at the North York courthouse and the learning outcomes will be applied to the dry run at Old City Hall.

Agency Updates

- Mary Ross-Hendriks reported that there is a pilot project for video bail at College Park and 2201 Finch West court houses. The goal of the project is to assess the efficacy of using video for court appearances. The Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) is equipped with video technology. The committee will be updated as the project progresses. Legal Aid Ontario is working on a screening tool, and the Justice Collaborative is working with them to make broad use of it.
- Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) – Laura Huggins reported that the TSDC inmate population is increasing. Also, since January, the TSDC has been running one-hour Ministry Education/Life Skills programs. The programs have been well received by the inmates.
- The TSDC has an internal classification system that determines what placement within the institution is appropriate for inmates -- indirect or direct. Direct supervision units offer more privileges.
- Laura Huggins will speak to Brad Tamcsu, Deputy Superintendent Treatment & Programs TSDC about having a contact person at the TSDC if agencies require information or clarification about the needs of an inmate such as health care. It was suggested that having a contact person would help.
- Laura Huggins will be one of the representatives from the TSDC on the DT-HSJCC committee.

Service Resolution Issues

- Susan Davis reported that Deputy Chief Mike Federico, at the March 28, 2014 HSJCC webinar, acknowledged that the Toronto Police Service is aware how medical information is shared and they are addressing privacy issues. An applicant may seek to have non-conviction information excluded from the results of a reference check so that this information is suppressed for the purposes of a Vulnerable Sector Screening Police Reference Check.
- The Police Service Website has information about the application process for suppressed non-conviction records for vulnerable sector checks.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

- The DT-HSJCC 2014/2015 workplan and budget request for TTC tokens and Food Vouchers was approved.
- A new tracking form for the TTC tokens and Food Vouchers will be implemented. It was suggested that Domenica Dileo connect with Patricia Pagnani and Rhona Zitney to address the logistics of the tracking form.

- The March 27, 2014 ABI and FASD webinar are available on the HSJCC website. More 'specialized populations' topics will be re-visited in greater detail in future webinars. There were some technical difficulties.
- On March 28, 2014, a webinar with Deputy Chief Mike Federico addressed mental health and policing. The webinar is on the HSJCC website.
- The PHSJCC is beginning to work on the 2015 conference and are looking for volunteers for the planning committee. If interested, please contact Alice Bellevance: alice@bisno.org or Joan Dervin: joan.dervin@theroyal.ca
- Legal Aid Ontario is still working on drafting a contract with CMHA Ontario for a mental health screener project on which the HSJCC is listed as a partner. Some members will be asked to participate on an Advisory Group for this project.

Presentation – Susan Davis, Gerstein Centre, The Safe Bed Program

- The presentation slide deck will be distributed with the minutes.
- The Gerstein Centre is the Safe Bed provider for downtown. Also provides 24-hours crisis service for adults 16 and over who are dealing with serious mental health and substance use issues and are in crisis.
- The Centre receives 15000 calls per year -- many of the issues are successfully resolved on the phone.
- The mobile team can go anywhere to meet clients. For example, at a coffee shop, home etc. The Centre uses a psychosocial model. The program is voluntary. There are currently 10 beds at the Charles St. location for three to five day stays.
- The substance use crisis team provides 24-hour service, short –term follow up and crisis management.
- Gerstein on Bloor has nine mental health and justice Beds. Length of stay is 30 days.
- Primary Support Unit is in partnership with the Gerstein Centre
- Priority referral source – criminal justice system.
- It's a community setting and not part of enforcing court conditions.
- The Safe Bed Registry is operated by CMHA. Need to call the Safe Bed registry who then determine if the person is eligible and will forward referral to site with available bed.
- The program's goal is to support individuals with mental health and justice involvement safely in the community. The Centre is working with justice and mental health sector to determine how to assess risk for individuals with sexual offences.
- When making a referral it is recommended that all issues and concerns be shared
- Because it is a crisis program there is no waitlist for beds. Need to call daily for bed availability.
- One Safe Bed is always kept for police referral.

The length of stay is up to 30 days in some circumstances, if client has a concrete plan the length of stay can be extended. Each case is assessed individually.

- Gerstein Centre has one wheelchair accessible room.
- ConnexOntario is overseeing the police line and they have information where Safe Beds are available.
- It was suggested that we need to advocate for more MH and J housing. Waitlist for transitional housing is getting longer. Currently, there are 889 people on the waitlist. The open waitlist is not working.

Actions

- Domenica Dileo to invite a presenter from the EnAbling Change Project for the next meeting.
- Domenica Dileo to coordinate a dry run at Old City Hall

Next Meeting:

September 4, 2014. Presentation EnAbling Change Project
8:30-10:00 a.m.
Old City Hall, 60 Queen St. West, Room 14