



**Downtown Toronto Human Services and Justice
Coordinating Committee (DT-HSJCC)
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2015
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; Rhona Zitney, CRCT; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Centre; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Flora Matheson, St. Michael's Hospital; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Service; Esther Daniel, Judiciary; Margaret Creal, Crown Attorney's Office; Sarah Easterbrook, Probation and Parole (Yonge St. Office); Phaedra Downer, Probation and Parole (Jane St. Office); Michael Lyster, Strachan House; Sarah Haslip, T.A.Patterson & Associates Inc.; Katie McIsaac, University of Toronto; Robin Cuff, CAMH; Priscilla Ofosu Barko, CTYS; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Amber Kellen, John Howard Society of Toronto; Michael Lyster, Strachan House; Stephaine Gloyn, CAMH; Robyn Miller, CHIRS; Natalie Massender, Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services; Stephanie Massey, PASAN

Regrets: Sandra Bricker, Toronto Network of Specialized Care; Talena Jackson, Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services;; Cindy Rose, Toronto Public Health; Anna D'Agostino, Bartimaeus Inc.; Cindy Shoot, Cota; Evelyn Mitchell, Salvation Army, Maxwell Meighen; Alison Hunt, The Access Point; Dianna Cochrane, CAMH's Complex Mental Illness Program; Linda Brett, The Access Point; Marianne Quirouette, University of Toronto; Sheryl Lindsay, Sistering; Ava Griffith, Women's Residence; Paula McLellan, Toronto Bail Program; Lin Sally, LOFT; Qwen Yorston, St. Joseph's Health Centre

Welcome and Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves
- Natalie Massender attended on behalf of Talena Jackson-Martineau

Review of November 6, 2014 Minutes

- The minutes of November 6, 2014 were approved.

Presentation –Amber Kellen, Reintegration Centre

- Slide deck will be distributed with the minutes.
- Amber Kellen presented on the Reintegration Centre (RC).
- RC is a pilot project and is working with an evaluation committee

- The John Howard Society of Toronto (JHS) is the lead organization
- Programs offered by the JHS are: Alternatives to prison/crime prevention; In-reach to prisons; and Post-release strategies
- RC offers Post-release strategies and services
- RC is located at 215 Horner Avenue, across the street from the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC).
- RC had a soft opening November 2014
- RC staff will conduct short needs assessment and provide warm referrals (internal/external)
- RC has a space available for family members to wait for inmates to be released with access to toys and play area for children
- Main objectives: Better access to services and programs and reducing high risk behavior with the emphasis on harm reduction
- Three peer support staff who have experience with substance abuse and involvement with the justice system have been hired
- RC has developed referral relationships with the TSDC
- Inmates are encouraged to go directly To RC from the TSDC. The goal is for everyone to know about the RC before they get released from the TSDC
- There are six partner organizations: LAMP, Cota, Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services; African Canadian Legal Services; Fresh Collective; and FEAT
- Open to more partnerships
- Hours of operation: 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. – Monday to Friday
- RC currently needs: clothing, toiletries, boots and shoes
- It was suggested that the RC might consider being a place where those who are released can pick up their belongings
- Crystal Sinclair from the Toronto Bail Program offered to share information regarding addiction and Aboriginal clients
- Amber Kellen was thanked for the informative presentation

Centralization

- Two issues were identified. First, it's difficult to access staff. The other issue is housing. There are 8000 on a waiting list for supportive housing and 300 are served per year. The concern is that when housing is available individuals might not be in conflict with the law therefore they no longer qualify for housing as the criteria is to be currently involved with the criminal justice system at time of being housed.
- The lack of housing impacts the length of stay for crisis beds
- There was discussion about the housing shortage and Seaton House's move to a hub model. They are considering closing some parts of their short-term housing to develop more permanent housing as part of the George St. Revitalization Project.
- There was discussion around the limitations of the OCAN system for people who don't have a case manager.

- It was suggested that the committee do a SWOT Analysis of all the services using one typical day. Katie Almond will bring the idea to the Provincial HSJCC. Robin Cuff will co-ordinate.
- Going forward, THE SWOT will be an ongoing agenda item

Lunch and Learns

- It was decided Lunch and Learns will take place at the court house to reach those working there
- One of the topics was Psycho-Geriatric clients with the suggestion of using a panel format with Patricia Fleischmann, Copa and CCAC as panel members.
- Michael Lyster reported that Strachan House had a meeting with legal experts and police to discuss the stigmatization of people with mental illness. It was suggested that the Police present to the committee about the approaches being used to reduce the criminalization followed by a Lunch and Learn.
- Katie Almond will follow up about a Lunch and Learn on policing
- Michael Bryant is proposing changes to repeal the Safe Street Act, which could be a topic for a future Lunch and Learn
- Flora Matheson asked whether the committee would be interested in a Lunch and Learn about a paper she published on Trauma and Women in Prison. Robin Cuff agreed to present with her.
- All the ideas will be considered for the 2016 Work Plan.
- The next Lunch and Learn will take place in February

Agency/Organization Updates

- Katie Almond reported that Margaret's Housing a Community Support Services is open for Cold Weather Alerts
- Katie Almond reported that OPSEU was in contract negotiations and 96% for Corrections, 88% and 90% for the other two bargaining units have voted to strike

Service Resolution/Coordination Issues – No issues identified

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC – Deferred to next meeting

Actions

- Domenica Dileo will revise the 2015/2016 Work Plan to be distributed prior to the next meeting
- Domenica Dileo to Contact Reconnect for next meeting presentation on their new initiative regarding Community Health Links.

Next Meeting: March 5, 2015

8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

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

Presentation: TBD

