



Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2020
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

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; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Services 14 Division ORB/CAMH Liaison Officer; 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; Scott Skinner, Toronto Network of Specialized Care; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Dara Gordon, Women’s College Hospital; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Amber Kellen, JHS Toronto; Elizabeth Witzke, Legal Aid Ontario; Lindsay Jennings, PASAN, Alviya Vawda, Toronto Bail Program

Regrets: Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Service; Kelly Gilbert, Youthdale Treatment Centres; Matthew Eaton Kent, Defense Counsel; Kaelen Boyd, Schizophrenia Society of Ontario; Adrienne Hughes, UHN; Natasha Chadenga, Margaret’s Housing and Community Support Services; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of March 5, 2020 Minutes

The minutes of March 5, 2020 were approved.

Review Action Items:

All actions items were reviewed and completed.

Lunch and Learns

The March 9th Affirming Trans and Non-Binary Gender Identities Lunch and Learn session went well. There were twenty three people in attendance.

The March 26th Lunch N’ Learn on Crystal Methamphetamine was cancelled due to COVID-19. It will be rescheduled.

On May 28th from noon to 1:00pm there will be a virtual North York/West Toronto Local HSJCC Lunch and Learn session on “Building a Collaboration Justice Centre in Toronto’s Northwest” with Danielle Scott - has been an Assistant Crown Attorney for twelve years. She is the Crown

Lead for the Toronto Northwest Justice Centres project. Kate Siemiatycki is Counsel on the Justice Centres project. Scott McKean leads the City of Toronto's Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. He is also an embedded member of the Toronto Justice Centres Team. All Local HSJCC members are invited to attend.

How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community?

- Justice Mary Hogan reported that the Chief Justice announced that the courts are not available for trial until July 6th. There are technological concerns because the video connection from jail is not good. In the interim the court is using teleconference as well as there is more electronic monitoring. The Mental Health court is ensuring that fitness hearing and treatment are done. The Drug Treatment court is not operating. The current situation is showing the technology gaps at the courthouse. They are trying to find resolution to do virtual courtroom.
- Shane reported that they had 54 video suites involved in telehealth. TSDC is functioning at full capacity. The Brampton facility is closed. Form 48 – getting access remotely has been difficult.
- Katie reported that the Provincial HSJCC is meeting every week to address the members' COVID-19 impact. Probation and Parole has released approximately 2500 clients. The main concern is that they do not have discharge planning, and a process had to be developed. Clients who were released were more stable, and had been assessed as low risk or were at the end of their sentence.
- Judy reported that Fred Victor is looking at for hotel space to serve their clients.
- Flora reported that she is working on a new grant proposal as there are few scientist looking at COVID-19 responses.
- Lindsay reported that PASAN is still accepting phone calls from jail. They are keeping track of conditions in the Federal and Provincial jails. 68 people who transferred to the TSDC tested positive for COVID. She spoke to public health and equity whose data does not include people in jail, but only those from the community. There is concerns regarding the COVID transmission which did not start inside the jail but in the community. Thus, it is not declared an outbreak in TSDC.
- Amber reported that they continue to receive calls from jail. They have been informed that people have refused masks. They continue to provide service for their tenants.
- Elizabeth from LAO – Based on what people reported, she is concerned about how clients can be protected from COVID?
- Robin reported that clients are having a hard time seeing people wearing masks. She suggested that we can make the situation better by informing clients that we are wearing the masks to protect them.
- Alviya reported that the bail program, is interviewing people by phone and email and that supervision is done over the phone.
- Natasha reported that they are seeing clients face to face depending on the vulnerability, they are accepting release from the police station. Short-term residential beds – new intakes are minimal but they are continuing to evaluate the situation. They are working on 100 housing units with JHS and short term beds. They are seeing the COVID out break at rooming houses and are addressing how to manage it as well as ensuring proper PPE. More updates at the next meeting.

- Debbie reported that they are still providing service over the phone. The psychiatrist is doing assessments over the phone as well.
- Susan reported that they are providing virtual services, including a 24/7 crisis line. They are looking at partnership with the City of Toronto and Senior Services.
- Scott Skinner reported that he can be contacted for discharge planning.

Themes discussed: If need be, we can reconvene as needed during the summer. It was agreed that the committee can continue with regular communication via email.

FOCUS Tables are still running, however they are noticing a slight increase in clients disconnection from their support system. There has been an increase of disputes between neighbours because of the COVID restrictions.

Agency/Organization Updates

Deferred to next meeting

Video Bail – no updates

Service Resolution/Coordination Issues:

Deferred to next meeting.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

The next Toronto Regional meeting will take place on June 29th. The Provincial HSJCC is having virtual biweekly updates meetings. The highlights are circulated to the Local HSJCCs. Concerns expressed at the committee are: face-to-face contact, health conditions, clients not getting the care they need due to fear, housing, corrections, increase in lack of primary care, untreated diabetes, domestic violence and child protection issues.

Actions Items:

Domenica will follow up on the logistics of the next Lunch N' Learn

Presenter for next meeting: At the September meeting we will focus on the Toronto Service Resolution Project.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 10, 2020 Virtual from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.