



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

**Present:** Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale Probation and Parole; 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; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Robin Cuff, CAMH Drug Treatment Court; Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Elizabeth Witzke, Legal Aid Ontario; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Amber Kellen, JHS Toronto; Elizabeth Witzke, Legal Aid Ontario; Janet Rowe, PASAN, Cylene Rainville, LOFT Community Services; Natasha Bronfman, CMHA; Barbara Domenech, Cota; Major Steve Manuel, Salvation Army; Lin Sallay, Cota; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Jane Rumleskie, Ministry of Children and Community and Social Services

**Regrets:** Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Centre; 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; Dara Gordon, Women's College Hospital

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Review of May 7, 2020 Minutes**

The minutes of May 7, 2020 were approved with the following amendment: to change the organization name associated with Scott Skinner from Toronto Network of Specialized Care to Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region.

**Review Action Items:**

All actions items were reviewed and completed.

**Annual Members Survey** was reviewed. Discussion regarding meeting time and room change took place. Justice Mary Hogan suggested we can use room 155 when we meet in person. It was agreed to continue meeting from 8:30 am- 10:00 am.

**Lunch and Learns**

The next Lunch N' Learn will take place virtually on October 8. The topic is "Effectively Working with People using Crystal Methamphetamine" with Sanda Kazazic. All Local HSJCC members are invited to attend.

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

- Scott Skinner reported that Surrey Place, DSO opened four weeks ago for in-person assessments. The four offices will be opened for one-on-one following social distance rules, using masks and PPE. Using virtual healthcare system. There has been technology challenges for clients. He provided information regarding accessing court dates. The link is: <https://www.ontariocourts.ca/ocj/covid-19/criminal-list-adjourment/>
- Natasha Bartlett reported that Fred Victor are seeing more clients, and referrals are at normal case load, and they are meeting clients in the community.
- Katie Almond reported that Probation and Parole are connecting with low risk clients via phone; case load has decreased somewhat due to the courts being closed. It's challenging because many clients don't have access to a phone or computer. High risk clients must report in person. They are providing lap tops and phones for PPOs to communicate with clients and agencies.
- Debbie Lynch reported that CTYS staff are seeing 20% of their clients in the community-in October that will be increased to 50-75%. Many of the youth do not have the technology for phone or virtual connection. Clients are more suicidal and using more drugs to cope.
- Amber Kellen reported that all of JHS sites remain open, as they have throughout the pandemic, other than the RST. They have been able to get some of their staff into the jails via professional visits. Very busy and frustrated by the delay re: re-opening the site. Their call numbers have increased, and they are trying to manage the negative impact on their clients resulting from the pandemic along with the Opioid and housing crisis.
- Shane Rolland reported that the FOCUS Tables are continuing to meet and are dealing with complex clients with capacity and consent issues, as well having limited social service support. Video bail is taking place at Division 14 and have a court officer at the Division. Many are getting bail on their own recognizance, apprehension is slightly down. They are moving towards an advanced new software system. The station is closed to the public but are meeting people out front. Acknowledged that the landscape has changed.
- Justice Mary Hogan inquired whether the new software at the police station can track what is happening to people who are released under the new circumstances. It was acknowledge by Shane Rolland that tracking inquiries will have to be brought to the legal team. Who is studying the recidivism rate? Katie stated that she would follow up with Corrections to see if anyone is pursuing this.
- Barbara Domenech reported that Cota are having increased contact with their clients- they are being seen at their home. Alcohol use has increased among their clients.
- Robin Cuff reported CAMH addiction programs closed down and went virtual. Drug Treatment court was closed but are continuing to see individuals by phone and home visits. Their client numbers have gone up. Addiction medicine programs have operated

in altered ways. Court treatment court was given an extra person to do groups outdoor, and attendance increased.

- Janet Rowe reported that PASAN is doing food deliveries to clients, this is increasing connection. Virtual programs are not working for their clients. They are taking calls from folks inside the jail. They are seeing clients in the community and experiencing increased drug use and overdose. Completing funding application for release funding as they are receiving many calls. They are exploring to do outreach with the health bus.
- Judy Virgo reported that the Mental Health court diversion program is processing release planning and working with Division 14. It is challenging meeting people face-to-face and/or do follow up because some people do not have housing.
- Cylene Rainville reported that LOFT is seeing clients in the community for support visits. Substance use has led to increased neighbour disputes -- it is difficult for people to be isolated.

Themes discussed: It was suggested to review the EMDC inquest recommendations regarding overdose in jail. Janet R. will send the EMDC report to Domenica for circulation.

### **Legal Aid Barriers and Challenges**

It was reported that Duty Counsels are still on hold. They are focusing on clients who are in custody. The 48 hours expectation phone call has been challenging and it is being addressed.

### **Agency/Organization Updates**

Deferred to next meeting

**Video Bail** – no updates

### **Service Resolution/Coordination Issues:**

Domenica Dileo reported that 10 members expressed interest in joining the Service Resolution Group. They met in July and Katie has agreed to draft the Terms of Reference which will help with outreach specifically to increase diversity and inclusivity of racialized members on the committee.

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

Katie reported that the Provincial HSJCC 2021 conference will take place virtually. The Provincial HSJCC will not be meeting in person for the next year.

### **Actions Items:**

- Domenica will follow up on the logistics of the next Lunch N' Learn
- Janet to send EMDC report to Domenica for circulation.

**Presenter for next meeting:** Encampment Group

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 Virtual from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.