



Meeting Minutes
May 6, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale Probation and Parole; Susan Davis, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Domenica Dileo HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Robin Cuff, CAMH Drug Treatment Court; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Service(TPS); Ahmanhkyah Malcom-Witter, City of Toronto; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Elizabeth Pereira, Legal Aid Ontario, Old City Hall; Jane Rumleskie, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services(MCCSS); Esther Daniel, Justice of the Peace; Cylene Rainville, LOFTS; Dara Gordon, Women’s College Hospital; Kiera Royle, YWCAToronto; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Lindsay Jennings, PASAN; Natasha Bronfman, CMHA; Michele Landis, E Fry Toronto; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Erica Dias, Fred Victor; Julai Loparca (student), Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region

Regrets: Carol ONeil, FCRP/CoSa Program Associate; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Service (TPS); Barbara Domenech, Cota; Suzanne Lajambe, JHS Toronto; Maya Rehou, Operation Springboard; Kaelen Boyd, Institute for Advancement in Mental Health; Tanya Connors, CAMH; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Courtney Miller, Operation Springboard

Land Acknowledgement

Susan noted the Land Acknowledgement. It was suggested to share the Land Acknowledgement among the members. Please email Susan or Katie if you are interested prior to the next meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves

Presentation: Emily Lam and Faisal Mirza on the Sentencing and Parole Project (SPP) is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality.

The *Sentencing and Parole Project* (SPP) is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality. Our work has built upon the use of the reports in Nova Scotia where they are ordered by the judiciary to assist with the sentencing of marginalized Black people.

- The reports give judges and parole boards the information they need to make informed sentencing and release decisions. They include recommendations for culturally appropriate programs to assist with rehabilitation.
- Provide enhanced presentencing reports. The social worker works with the defendant as well as gathers information for a comprehensive report. They are trained in Anti-Black racism and how to approach recommendations through the lens of understanding people's experiences. They are the only organization that provides EPRSs.
- It was noted that the SPP provides training. Goal is to make the organization sustainable
- The SPP also trains justice system participants about racism in the justice system.
- Receive grant from the Law Society

Themes discussed: How can the HSJCC support your work? Share information about the organization and support sustainable funding at all governmental levels. For inquiries go to their website and complete the request form at: <https://sentencingproject.ca>. The Defense Counsel is the best route to connect. Reports take about three months to complete and only have funding for 2 staff. Suggestion was made whether the Toronto and/or Provincial HSJCC can write a letter of support?

Review of March 4, 2021 Minutes

The minutes of March 4th were approved.

Review Action Items:

Action items were reviewed and completed.

2021/22 Workplan new objectives' outcome measurements? Section VI To improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized groups; recognize, support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities within the efforts of the Downtown Toronto HSJCC OR in accordance with the mandate of the Downtown Toronto HSJCC.

Discussion ensued: Outcome needs to go beyond analysis. These new objectives are relating to the committee's values. It was suggested that we look at intentional reflection of our values. A couple of ways we can do it; checking ourselves or have a group check at the end of the agenda such as a quick self-evaluation if we accomplished the new objectives. Are we as a group following these values? If you have other suggestions please email Domenica.

Lunch and Learns

Discussion ensued: The following topics were suggested; SPP, grassroots organizations such as Transformative Justice with Naty Tremblay from Rittenhouse, New Toronto Courthouse and New Bail Centre re: what are the impacts? Housing providers and challenges of not servicing people with addictions.

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

Deferred to next meeting

Agency/Organization Updates

- Cylene reported on LOFT MHJI has received new funding for a higher support site in the west end and have begun to take referrals. The housing is targeted to reduce recidivism for those with mental health issues and who would benefit from some on site staffing. Criteria is mental health diagnosis, and current involvement with the justice system, who are able to live in a shared space. Each client will have their own room, with common bathroom and kitchen facilities. Ideally, we would like to start with referrals from MHJI safe beds, probation, court support and forensic ACTT teams. All clients will be under a transitional housing agreement to start, with the possibility of permanent housing after the transitional period is up. The intake process will be the same as our regular MHJI housing, so this expansion of the program is not meant to be a crisis or shelter bed. They have 10 beds. Clients do not have to come through the Access Point and we will be handling the applications directly. The intake form will be circulated.
- Lindsay reported that there is a new phone system in jail and they can't make 1-800 calls. The new company is American. Katie stated that she will follow up regarding the new phone system.
- Robin reported that the COVID vaccine clinic have been successful. When they went to the TSDC 35% were vaccinated.

Video Bail: It was noted that video bail for show cause is taking place at 14 Division

Service Resolution/Coordination Issues:

Deferred to the next meeting

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

Katie reported that planning has started for the virtual Provincial HSJCC 2021 conference on November 16-17, 2021 as well the Provincial HSCC submitted a letter to the Solicitor General addressing informed decision making.

Presenter for next meeting: The following suggestions were made; Indigenous Harm Reduction Project, Toronto Prisoner Rights Project

Action Items:

- Add to the agenda intentional evaluation of our values. Did we accomplish them at this meeting?
- Next meeting to discuss HSJCC meeting space at the New Toronto Courthouse.

Next Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.