



**Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present: Katie Almond (Co-chair) Riverdale SOLGEN; Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Crisis Centre; 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; Elizabeth Pereira, Legal Aid Ontario, Old City Hall; Jane Rumleskie, Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services(MCCSS); Carol O'Neil, FCRP/CoSa Program; Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Service (TPS); Courtney Miller, Operation Springboard; Lindsay Jennings, Reintegration; Valerie Danieli P-HSJCC Anti-Racism and People with Lived Experience Committee; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Chris Persaud, Habitat; Nick Harrilall, Sound Times; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Shaine Thompson-Rudder, SOLGEN; Janet Rowe, PASAN; Deborah Rodolphe, Justice TYPE Program

Regrets: Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Barbara Domenech, Cota; Maya Rehou, Operation Springboard; Kaelen Boyd, Institute for Advancement in Mental Health; Tanya Connors, CAMH; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Cylene Rainville, LOFTS; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Michael Lyster, Homes First Society; Michele Landis, E Fry Toronto; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC

Land Acknowledgement

Susan noted the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on.

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

Lindsay Jennings advised that she is no longer at PASAN and will provide a new email address.

Review of May 6, 2021 Minutes

The minutes of May 6 were approved.

Review Action Items:

Action items were reviewed and completed.

No guess speaker today. Valeria Danieli will speak about the PHSJCC anti-racism committee at our next meeting.

Lunch N' Learns

Eight topics were identified for future Lunch N' Learns by members on the annual members survey. The three priorities identified at the meeting are:

1. New Toronto Courthouse and New Bail Centre what are the impacts? (Toronto Regional Presentation and invite Local and Regional members)
2. Update on SolGen's plans for revamp discharge planning. Katie indicated that she could ask a representative from the new SolGen Community Reintegration Unit to speak
3. Sentencing and Parole Project
4. Criminal Justice focus, housing needs/strategies/advocacy-focus on high support

Discussion re New Toronto Courthouse

- Justice Hogan noted the need for discharge planning – the impact of releasing clients who reside/are connected to other communities in the city
- It was noted that bail will be at 2201 Finch Court – there is a disconnect
- It is more efficient? Amalgamation/consolidation could result in the loss of services in some communities
- Robin Cuff noted that concerns have been raised, particularly about the specialized courts, bail, transportation issues
- Lindsay advised that she is involved in the Transition from Custody Community of Interest with the PHSJCC
- It was agreed that as a committee, the HSJCC could identify concerns and generate a list; we can have a greater discussion at our next meeting

HSJCC meeting space at new courthouse

- Robin noted that there will be a system for booking rooms; we could get our requests in early; could do in-person/virtual hybrid; she indicated that she would email the organizer and ask and get back to us

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

- Amber noted that in the housing and homeless sector, staff are completely exhausted and overwhelmed; there are “rolling brown outs” with staff taking leaves, coming back, going off again
- It has been extremely difficult to hire new staff – there is an exodus due to COVID
- The stats of client is terrible-they are so sick and desperate
- Susan noted that it has been challenging to hire staff
- Staff are tired and need support
- The situation in Moss Park, Church and Wellesley areas is dire
- Tricia indicated that staffing and burnout are issues for them as well
- A need to provide continuum of care, particularly with clients who have brain injuries
- The state of many homeless folks is that they are not feeling safe, there is an increase in drug use, and they are retraumatized by the current climate. Many have experienced a great deal of loss due to opioid deaths.
- Lindsay noted that at TSDC, some staff are not wearing masks
- There is a younger population—ages 19 to 25—who are struggling
- People have gotten used to having nothing
- There are no resources for Indigenous clients—no NILO, traditional medicines
- There are more requests for ABI/TBI supports from communities across the province
- Volunteer programmes are not allowed; there is a need for supportive programming
- Ahmahyah noted that at the Toronto Youth Network there are limitations to providing resources to clients; they are connecting with Youthlink

- They are providing employment supports and trying to meet the needs of youth in the community
- Deborah noted the need to have face-to-face meeting with youth—it is powerful and purposeful—vital to helping them
- Gord (14 Div) stated that they are having a soft opening; dealing with staff vaccination
- There is an increase in the number of FOCUS table cases; dealing with encampments, displacement of people; respite centres referrals; Streets to Homes is overwhelmed
- People being released on FORM 10s at the station; officer on the street can use these, as people do not have to come into custody
- Elizabeth Pereira noted the need for clothing, shoes, coats for folks being released—Gord stated that the divisions do not have the capacity to store donations and currently agencies such as SA not present in the courthouses
- Judy Virgo related that Fred Victor has a room full of clothing and shoes—how to get these to police divisions?
- Katie noted that Sound Times has a clothing and shoe supply as well
- Sharie at TSDC stated that the SA used to provide these supports, as did the JHS trailer; she will connect with Judy
- Amber noted that it was great to have Sharie on the committee and advised of “windfall” a company that can provide coats, etc. at low cost in large quantities

Agency/Organization Updates

- Carol O’Neil from COSA noted that many of her clients are restricted from using the Internet, and this has created difficulties in several areas – looking for work, accessing virtual care, etc. Katie advised that she would connect her with a Probation and Parole Officer who has some expertise in this area.
- Amber: ongoing need for bail residences, specialized support No....hotels are to remain open as far as we know, for now. Is there someone at TSDC that would be willing to have the jail registered as a partner with Brands for Canada? it is around the corner and they have so much stuff!? 260 Augusta has been open for the duration of the pandemic and continues to offer meals, laundry and shower facilities daily, 6 days a week in the mornings, have nurse 3 days, Dr on one day and OPS....it is a BUSY place
- Gord Reid, TPS D14 Our new Hires have to provide COVID Vaxx x2 to HR as part of their process. Our NCO's & CRU officers are still with City of Toronto Community Safety Team and are using west service, Albion Neighborhood Services in lieu of S2H for referral shelters at moment. NCO conduct wellness checks on regular basis with the encampments. FOCUS DW (14) referrals are up from last year as a result from our officers. Our NCO officers have been doing referral for clothing etc there when in the field. Officers patrol on bikes and do not have the capacity to carry clothing
- Judy, is on the mental health committee re: NTC and we have been working through how we anticipate our work with the people and other MH court programs. I will be happy to share our developments at upcoming meeting.
- Flora stated that her staff are in the process of collecting the data gathered from interviews with 20 service providers and 21 clients; there is really rich data; they will produce case summaries and a preliminary analysis

- Catherine Wiseman-Hakes informed that she is working with Melissa Vigar, ED of the Brain Injury Society of Toronto, providing training on brain injury to the shelter system. They did a two-hour session in August and have resources that could be provided from this training; there is the possibility of supports and programming for ABI/TBI clients in the shelter system
- Catherine also noted that Compassionate Justice Fund is taking applications, which are reviewed twice a year. Anyone over the age of 16 who has a suspected or diagnosed ABI can apply, and so far funds have been provided for equipment (e.g iPad), services and supports; amounts vary
- Judy Virgo related that they are running a 9-week wellness group for clients; they can provide support to access the group and will provide certificates for completion—this can help with MH diversion
- Themes discussed: Lindsay, is there a way to get Clothing Donation approved by community members at the South? Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, the Ontario Brain Injury helpline is always answered 8:30-4:30 and they do a lot of counselling and support and help with referrals. 1800 263 5404.

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 re the upcoming conference. She also related that she had been speaking with Samim and Tazio about putting together a “speaker’s gallery” of folks who can provide expertise on Anti-Black and Indigenous racism

Discussion regarding intentional values - yes

Presenter for next meeting: Valerie Danieli will be our speaker next meeting

Add to the agenda intentional evaluation of our values. Did we accomplish them at this meeting?

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 4, 2022 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.