



**Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022
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; Gord Reid, Toronto Police Service(TPS; Carol ONeil, FCRP/CoSa Program; Valerie Danieli, P-HSJCC Anti-Racism and People with Lived Experience Committee; Shaine Thompson-Rudder, SOLGEN; Lindsay Jennings, Thunder Women Healing Lodge; Natasha Bronfman, CMHA; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Amber Kellen, The Neighbourhood Group(TNG); Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Brittany Hunter, CTYS; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Crystal Davis, JHS of T; Courtney Miller, Operation Springboard; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Nick Harrilall, Sound Times Support Services; Cylene Rainville, LOFT Community Services

Regrets: Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Ahmanhkyah Malcom-Witter, City of Toronto; Janet Rowe, PASAN; Michele Landis, E Fry Toronto; Lin Sally, Cota; Elizabeth Pereira, Legal Aid Ontario, Old City Hall

Land Acknowledgement

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

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

Intentional Values

Domenica noted that at the last meeting it was decided to inform members at the beginning of the meeting that we will check-in at the end of the meeting as to whether we have achieved our intentional values. Attendees were encouraged to reflect mindfully on their social location and to be cognizant whether we/they utilized anti-racism and inclusion practices at the meeting?

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves

Review of November 4, 2021 Minutes

Flora Matheson approved the November 4th minutes, seconded by Valerie Danieli. Minutes were approved.

Review Action Items:

Action items were reviewed and completed.

Priority setting summary was circulated and submitted to the Provincial HSJCC.

Three priorities were identified. They were:

1. To address the impact of COVID-19 on services specific to accessing technology and justice.
2. To address and recognize Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism using self-reflection, educational strategies and tools as well as advocating and informing policies.
3. To address the equity impact of social determinants of health on housing with particular focus on diversity of housing models that address barriers for priority populations; seniors with dementia, individuals with arson assessments, neurodisability, youth, mental health and addictions using an Anti-Indigenous and Anti- Black racism health equity lens.

Presentation:

Valerie Danieli presented on the P-HSJCC Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and their survey results.

Presentation PowerPoint slides will be circulated with the minutes.

Five objectives of the Provincial HSJCC Anti-Racism Committee were identified- Identify common challenges and issues relating to anti-racism and decolonization within the human services and

justice systems; develop evidence-based solutions and actions to address anti-racism and decolonization; provide guidance for Regional and Local HSJCCs to improve engagement of racialized populations; promote best practices and key considerations for improving the experiences of racialized populations.

Based on the Regional and Local HSJCC survey results three project areas were identified 1. Knowledge Exchange, which includes developing training modules, 2. Members Engagement Strategies, 3. Provincial Framework/Strategy.

There will be an initial meeting coming up and Valeria will report back.

Themes discussed: Has there been data gathered on the demographics of the population that uses the court diversion programs? Katie noted that several years ago there was a presentation at the P-HSJCC that acknowledged that racialized populations often do not know about the mental health court diversion programs. This raises the questions about the potential impact of imbedded racism in the mental health/justice sector. Valeria stated that she will bring this concern to the P-HSJCC Anti-Racism Advisory Committee.

Susan noted that the Toronto Regional HSJCC has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group that is building on the Anti-Racism Series initiated by the Scarborough HSJCC. The Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group is represented by the Toronto Locals Co-chairs. Each Local will identify work specific to their Toronto context and develop an action plan across the region. Valeria was thanked for an informative presentation.

Lunch N' Learns

Domenica reported on the upcoming Lunch N' Learns.

- There will be a Lunch N' Learn on the New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre on February 10th. Invite and registration information will be circulated. Please mark this in your calendar.
- NY-HSJCC Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Sexual Behaviour Clinic will take place on January 20th. Invite will be circulated shortly.
- T-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on SolGen's Reintegration Unit on February 24th.
- WT-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on the CAMH the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic on March 8th.

Review Workplan for 2021-2022

- What we accomplished and future areas to consider?
- Who is missing at the table
- Budget

Domenica reported that we accomplished our goals of having 5 regular meetings and the Lunch N' Learn. The committee has been continuously improving to recognize and address emerging health equity challenges during and post COVID-19 by working collaboratively by addressing the intersectional, equity and Anti-Racism approach to social determinants of health affecting racialized communities in contact with the justice system. In process.

Domenica noted that due to covid the courthouses have been mainly operating virtually, as a result TTC tokens and food vouchers provided at the courthouse haven't fully been used and will be carried over to the next fiscal year. This means that there will be excess funds that will not be necessary to purchase the TTC tokens or food vouchers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

- The committee unanimously agreed to allocate any excess funds towards the Anti-Racism work. Please note that the HSJCC budget is annual only.
- To date the feedback from the courthouse partners is to maintain the virtual court equipment of \$3300 for both downtown courthouses. The committee agreed to continue with the virtual court equipment.
- The committee agreed to add to the workplan that the committee will explore the impact of the New Toronto Courthouse and Region Bail Centre on the DT-HSJCC target population.

Agency/Organization Updates

Number 8, 9 and 10 agenda items were incorporated in the Agency/Organization updates sections below.

- Katie Almond announced that she will retire after 37 years working in corrections. Many people acknowledged her contribution and advocacy in addressing mental health challenges for people going through the criminal justice system. She will be missed. She was acknowledged as an influential role model and mentor. She made a difference. Thank you, Katie.
- Gord Reid, TPS D14 noted the limited access to shelters due to omicron.
- Amber Kellen reported that her work place is having staffing shortage like many other organizations.
- Flora Matheson stated that some of her research team are being redeployed to accommodate clinical staff illness.
- Cylene Rainville stated that inmates are being transferred from facility to facility due to omicron outbreaks everywhere. She also reported that LOFT received funds to purchase/build housing in York Region.
- Lindsay Jennings stated that people are being released from jail without masks, and/or do not have access to testing in order to have access to the shelter system. How can we hold people accountable?
- It was stated that the loss of life due to overdose continues to increase. Public health is exploring decriminalization as a harm reduction strategy.
- It was suggested we have a public health presentation on their harm reduction strategies.
- Susan Davis reported on the Gerstein Crisis Centre 911 Co Located Project. This is a community-based intervention response that co locates a crisis worker at 911 addressing mental health crisis. It has been running since October and is in partnership with 14, 51 and 52 Police Division. It was agreed that there will be a presentation on this project at the next meeting.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

Katie reported that the virtual P-HSJCC conference took place on November 16-17.

- 680 people registered
- 29 presentations/workshops
- 14 people with lived experience in attendance
- The Indigenous keynote panel titled: Dismantling Anti-Indigenous in the Criminal Justice System was very successful. Two speakers spoke about their family members who overdosed.
- Looking at a hybrid model for the next conference. Planning for the next conference will start in June.
- Katie noted that the Gerstein Crisis Centre provided support to a person with lived experience to attend the conference from their location.

Susan reported on the Toronto Regional HSJCC

- The committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group. It will address an Anti-Racism action plan for all the Locals which may be incorporated into their 2022-2023 workplan. Next meeting is taking place on March 10th.

Discussion regarding intentional values –

The committee agreed that at this meeting our intentional equity perspective was practiced.

Action Items:

- Domenica will ensure that intentional values is mentioned at the beginning of the meeting
- Domenica will report on the Lunch and Learn sessions at the next meeting:
- Add to the agenda intentional evaluation of our values. Did we accomplish them at this meeting?

Presenter for next meeting: Elaine Amsterdam and Susan Davis on the Gerstein Crisis Centre 911 Co Located Project.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3, 2022 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.