



Human Services & Justice
Coordinating Committee

Downtown Toronto Local HSJCC

Meeting Minutes
March 3, 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); Valeria Danieli, P-HSJCC Anti-Racism and People with Lived Experience Committee; Shaine Thompson-Rudder, SOLGEN; Lindsay Jennings, Thunder Women Healing Lodge; Natasha Bronfman, CMHA; Amber Kellen, The Neighbourhood Group(TNG); Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Brittnany Hunter, CTYS; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Crystal Davis, JHS of T; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Elizabeth Pereira, Legal Aid Ontario, Old City Hall; Rev. Barry Sharp, Salvation Army; Bradley Scarr, Metis Nation of Ontario; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Service(14 Div.); Natasha Barlett, Fred Victor Centre; Robin Cuff, CAMH; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing

Regrets: Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Ahmanhkyah Malcom-Witter, City of Toronto; Janet Rowe, PASAN; Michele Landis, E Fry Toronto; Carol ONeil, FCRP/CoSa Program; Nick Harrilall, Sound Times Support Services; Cylene Rainville, LOFT Community Services

Land Acknowledgement

Katie noted the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on. Also, acknowledged the situation in the Ukraine. Lindsay acknowledged the racism faced by black people in the Ukraine. Susan acknowledged the struggles faced by Afghans. Amber acknowledged an increase of anti-Semitism.

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 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. Bradley Scarr from the Metis Nation of Ontario was welcomed.

Review of January 13, 2022 Minutes

Flora Matheson approved the January 13, 2022 minutes. Seconded by Valerie Danieli. Minutes were approved.

Review Action Items:

Action items were reviewed and completed.

Presentation: Elaine Amsterdam on the Gerstein Crisis Centre – Toronto Community Crisis Service Pilot Project (TCCSP)

- Presentation PowerPoint slides will be circulated.
- In February 2021 the Toronto City Council piloted a new TCCSP to respond to individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crisis.
- There are four anchoring partners. The downtown east pilot led by Gerstein Crisis Centre (Division 51 boundaries), the northeast pilot, led by TAIBU Community Health Centre, the northwest led by the Canadian Mental Health Association and the downtown mid-west led by the 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations.

The pilots are intended to provide a non-police alternative to non-emergency and non-violence related calls for mental health crisis, wellness checks and low-level disputes.

The project has access to the following services:

- Lived expertise/consultation/advisory; youth services; psychiatry; Primary Care including focus on marginalized population, case management and supportive housing, short term psychotherapy, harm reduction services, diverse voices and approaches in clinical supervision. This creates an opportunity to create more than one pathways.
- Diagram on the flow of crisis calls pathways was demonstrated on the slides i.e from 911 or 211 or existing Gerstein Crisis Centre.
- Community Crisis Response Process was identified. Map flows part of the PowerPoint slides. Main components: Person call in crisis originates at 911 - Gerstein Crisis Centre 911- Co-located crisis worker provides intervention over the phone and dispatch mobile crisis team – response and supports – post crisis management and follow-up support.
- H2H (Moss Park) in partnership with 51 Division and Co-Located with 911 projects were discussed. Co-Located with 911 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.

Themes discussed: It was noted that the Gerstein Crisis 24/7 crisis is still operating, the programs discussed are an expansion of its services by building partnership and alliances to strengthen the model.

Elaine was thanked for the informative and engaging presentation.

Discussion ensued about Duty to Report. For example, if someone is in a psychotic state saying many things. It was noted that yes there is a duty to report (acknowledging the various perspectives) when there is a real danger to self or others. Everyone has a duty to report acknowledging whether the person is competent making the statement.

Lunch N' Learns

Domenica reported on the upcoming Lunch N' Learns.

- There will be a Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic on March 8th.
- The New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre session held on February 10th was successful. Two hundred and sixty-eight people registered and 158 were in attendance.
- The SolGen's Reintegration Unit session was held on February 24th. One hundred and fifty-three registered and seventy-two were in attendance.
- The NY-HSJCC Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Sexual Behaviour Clinic took place on January 20th. PowerPoint slides were circulated.

Approval/Review Workplan for 2022-2023

- Workplan 2022-2023 was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Proposed budget: \$1100 TTC tokens, \$1000 food vouchers, \$4800 Lunch and Learns/Anti-Racism Series, Honorarium \$240, Virtual Court Equipment \$1750. The Toronto Regional HSJCC is meeting on March 10th and the workplan and budget will be approved then and submitted to the Provincial HSJCC.
- Flora passed the motion to approve the workplan and budget for 2022-2023, second by Valerie. It was unanimously passed.

Agency/Organization Updates

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

- It was noted that Katie Almond announced that she will retire at the end of May 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.
- Lindsay reported that there is a crisis in the jails. Maple Hurst had 11 deaths in the past 4 months due to covid and overdosing. There are many 14 days quarantines and increase calls to the police. The mental health of folks inside the jails is fragile and there is no direction or support. As well communication is limited. 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.

- Flora reported that the research team are still working on the qualitative data on the impact of covid on our target population. They received additional funding from the hospital foundation to develop solutions for people with TBI entering the community.
- Robin stated that CAMH is a hospital infection control centre. However, visitors and staff are anticipating challenges due to the political perspective with regards to masking measures. This may create more anger among people. Education for/with people who are more vulnerable is paramount to build a sense of community for everyone.
- It was suggested we have a public health presentation on harm reduction strategies.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

Susan reported on the Toronto Regional HSJCC

- The Toronto Regional committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc committee. Its membership includes all local HSJCC Co-chairs. The main goal is to develop an Anti-Racism educational session for the HSJCC target population. This is reflected in the Local HSJCC workplan.
- Next meeting is taking place on March 10th.
- Katie reported on the Provincial HSJCC. They will be meeting next week. Planning for the next conference began. There is support to continue with a virtual conference because many people were able to attend from up north. Six hundred and eighty people attended the conference. A hybrid model is too expensive.

Discussion regarding intentional values

The committee agreed that at this meeting our intentional equity perspective was practiced. It was important to note the struggles people are facing which reflects on our intentions.

Action Items:

- Domenica will ensure that intentional values is mentioned at the beginning of the meeting
- Add to the agenda intentional evaluation of our values. Did we accomplish them at this meeting?
- Domenica will circulate the presentation PowerPoint slide deck.

Presenter for next meeting: Bradley Scarr from the Metis Nation of Ontario.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2022 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.