



## **Meeting Minutes**

**May 5, 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; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Robin Cuff, CAMH Drug Treatment Court; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Ahmanhkyah Malcom-Witter, City of Toronto; Elizabeth Pereira, Legal Aid Ontario, Old City Hall; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Service (TPS); Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Courtney Miller, Operation Springboard; Lindsay Jennings, Thunder Women Healing Lodge; Valerie Danieli P-HSJCC Anti-Racism Committee and PWLE Committee; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services: Nick Harrillall, Sound Times; Tia Adams, V/WAP at College Park; Amaka, (student) Fred Victor; Tracy Clark, V/WAP at College Park; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Cylene Rainville, LOFT Community Services; Amber Kellen, The Neighbourhood Group; Andy Wing Wai Tam, (student), CTYS; Beth Dorrans, Fred Victor; Flora Okello, (student) Fred Victor; Brittany Hunter, CTYS; Cristina Nebenionquit, Aboriginal Legal Services; Adrienne Hakes, Urban Health Network; Kimika Julien, (student) Fred Victor; Thompson-Rudder Shane, SOLGEN; Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Jocelyn Moreau, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

**Regrets:** Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Barbara Domenech, Cota; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Michele Landis, E Fry Toronto; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS

#### **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 we share the Land Acknowledgement among the members. Please email Susan or Domenica if you are interested prior to the next meeting.

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves. The committee's intentional evaluation at the end of the meeting was noted.

#### **Review of March 3, 2022 Minutes**

The minutes of March 3rd were approved.

#### **Review Action Items:**

Action items were reviewed and completed. It was noted that the Toronto Regional approved the DT-HSJCC 2022-2023 workplan and proposed budget.

**Presentation:** Bradley Scarr, Kyra Schrader and Jocelyn Moreau from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Presentation slides will be circulated.

- There was a moment of silence to acknowledge National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- "Métis" means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- MNO Secretariat - established a provincewide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario. Directed through eight branches, the MNO employs 300 + people located in 32 offices across Ontario. Link below:
- Offer Mental Health, Addiction and Community Wellness Programs.

[www.metisnation.org](http://www.metisnation.org)

MNO has Restorative Justice Indigenous Liaison Program – Individual can access the MNO Community Diversion Program as an alternative to traditional sentencing. It promotes conflict resolution and reintegration into communities.

The Justice Council is made up of Métis Elders, community members and professionals. The program can utilize in-house Métis - focused support programs. Catchment area: Peel Region, York Region and Durham Region.

Justice Liaison Program: can access legal information, assistance with understanding various court and tribunal processes, general information about the law, information about various court and tribunal forms. Does not provide legal advice.

Contact info: 1-800-263-4889 Ext 7 or email at [Justice@metisnation.org](mailto:Justice@metisnation.org)

Barriers to services were identified. They are:

1. Lack of involvement from courthouse staff
2. Communication barriers
3. Lack of referrals to MNO Programs
4. Lack of education on who Métis Peoples are
5. Lack of Métis specific programs
6. Lack of culturally relevant supports and services
7. Lack of connections/relationships within the human and social services sector
8. Need for additional cultural services (ex: Métis Gladue Writer, Métis-led mediation)
9. Mistrust of colonial systems, including the criminal justice system and court process (including mistrust of lawyers, courthouse staff, law enforcement, etc.)
10. Educational barriers (there is a lack of education and awareness regarding Métis rights in the CJS)

### **Themes discussed**

Diversion program requires a catchment, but other programs are available throughout the province. Jocelyn noted that some considerations include; intergenerational trauma, residential school, involvement (self & family), substance abuse, within the family or self-concerns about domestic violence. Why MNO is not serving the Toronto Region? Due to funding restrictions MNO is unable to serve Toronto Region. However, clients can choose who provides services to them i.e. Aboriginal Legal Services or MNO. Currently, they are working with Newmarket courthouse to develop protocols. Please note that there are twenty-eight thousand Métis living in Ontario.

Bradly, Kyra and Joycelyn were thanked for the informative and insightful presentation.

### **Lunch N' Learns**

- Katie reported on the upcoming session on the Sentencing and Parole Project (SPP) taking place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. SPP is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality. Their 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. Presenter will be Faisal Mirza.
- 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. The SPP also trains justice system participants about racism in the justice system.

### **Agency/Organization Updates**

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

- Natasha stated that Courtroom 102 consortium is meeting. Will be opening in person 1-2 days per week. Are doing out of custody issues using a hybrid model, but aiming to do as much in person as possible.
- Susan provided an update on the City of Toronto Community Crisis Services Pilot Projects (TCCS). The Gerstein Crisis Centre (GCC) is the lead for the Downtown East which overlaps with the police division 51. This is an opportunity to have a mental health response in the community without police involvement. Can be accessed via 911 or 211. The Gerstein Crisis 24/7 continues to operation and is accessed at 416-929- 5200. The referral line number for agencies is 416-929-9897. TAIBU Community Health Centre is the lead in Northeast, Two Spirited People of the First Nations is the lead for Downtown Mid-West and CMHA Toronto is the lead in Northwest. The GCC also has a co-located Project at 911. It is a community-based intervention response that co locates a crisis worker at 911 addressing mental health crisis. It is in partnership with 14, 51 and 52 police division. A person in crisis calling 911 may be transferred to a 911 co-located Gerstein Crisis Worker. Elaine noted that the GCC operates 24/7, the new TCCS project is 6 days 24/7. There is also the Here to Help (H2H) program located in Moss Park. It is oriented to address local situations by providing compassionate and empathetic response. GCC is rooted in community based, non-coercive, trauma informed approaches that are grounded in the involvement and leadership of people with lived experience.
- Flora provided an update her study focusing on the condition of release from the perspective of people with lived experience. The study will start in the next couple of months.

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

None identified

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

Susan reported that 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 series for the HSJCC target population. The main focus is education, increase awareness, identify issues and collaboration.

Next T-HSJCC meeting is taking place on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Domenica reported on the Provincial HSJCC. Planning for the next conference has begun.

**Discussion regarding intentional values** – It was acknowledged to remind ourselves to try to make things better by staying intentional with our values. As well that there is anti-racism work being done.

Lindsay noted that Katie Almond (today is her last meeting before retirement) is a great mentor because she always made people feel calm. Robin noted that we are all working in a broken system and is grateful that Katie exemplified not being the part that makes it broken.

**Action Items:**

- Domenica will report on the Lunch N’ Learn sessions at the next meeting
- Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint presentation slide deck.
- Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the annual members evaluation.

**Presenter for next meeting:** TBD

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, September 15, 2022 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.