



Meeting Minutes
March 2, 2023
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program, (chaired the meeting on behalf of Susan); Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; 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); Valerie Danieli P-HSJCC Anti-Racism and PWLE Committees; Joyceline Sobers, Fred Victor; Samantha Johnson, CTYS; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing/MOH; Natasha Bronfman, Mental Health Advocate; Mary Burton, CHIRS; Barbara Domenech, Cota; Kristina Dobosz, Community Network of Specialized Care, Toronto Region; Tina Bells, Salvation Army; Lesley Morris, Fred Victor; Farzana Griffith, Toronto Bail Program; Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Jorge Zelaga, Mental Health Court; Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Regrets: Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Crisis Centre; Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Nick Harrilall, Sound Times; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute; McMaster University; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Tia Adams, V/WAP at College Park; Courtney Miller, Operation Springboard; Dara Gordon, Women’s College Hospital; Jill Shakespeare, CAMH; Jennifer Altosaar, Community Network of Specialized Care; Dan Brealt, City of Toronto; Anna D’Agostino, Bartimaeus Inc.; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Caro O’Neil, Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA); Irina Sytcheva, WoodGreen; Katie Mclsaac, University of Toronto; Janet Rowe, PASAN

Land Acknowledgement

Patricia Pagnani provided the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on.

It was encouraged that we share the Land Acknowledgement among the members. Please email Susan or Domenica if you are interested before the next meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

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

Presentation: Deferred to the next meeting

Review of January 12, 2023 Minutes

The minutes of January 12, 2023, were deferred to the next meeting

Review Action Items:

Action items were reviewed and completed.

Lunch N' Learns Update

Robin Cuff reported on the Anti-Racism Lunch N' Learn series that took place on January 26, 2023. The session was a panel discussion titled Voices/ Lived Experience. Presenters shared their experiences from an Anti-Racism perspective. Robin with Nikki Casseres from the Gerstein Centre were the moderators. The feedback provided by the attendees was excellent, and many acknowledged the courage and strength of the presenters for sharing their narratives. There were many thank you acknowledgments in the chat box. The evaluation content was rated 100% above average to excellent.

The Anti-Racism series session 4 of 5 took place on February 23, 2023, addressing the professional perspective with Shawna Kelly and Dr. Welsley Crichlow.

Approval Workplan for 2023-2024

The workplan 2023-24 was circulated before the meeting.

Domenica reported on the workplan 2023-24 and budget:

- TTC tokens \$1000
- Food Vouchers \$1000
- Lunch N' Learns/Anti-Racism Series \$2300 (Hybrid Model)
- Honorarium \$400
- Police Division TTC tokens for Bail Releases - \$335 (NEW)

Patricia noted that pre-covid individuals were being released from custody, but are now released from the police stations. She had a meeting with the justice sector partners regarding the individuals who are released from the police stations who have no access to TTC tokens. They acknowledged that vulnerable individuals will benefit from receiving TTC tokens to go from point A to B when released from the police stations. The Toronto HSJCC was approached for help with TTC tokens for vulnerable individuals released on bail from the police stations. A new budget line has been created to address this emerging need for vulnerable individuals.

Committee members unanimously approved the workplan and budget for the 2023-24 fiscal year. Final approval will take place at the Toronto Regional HSJCC meeting.

Agency/Organization Updates

- Patricia noted that the courthouses are preparing for the 'big move' to the New Toronto Courthouse (NTC).
- The move will be completed by the end of May.
- There will be approx. one thousand and five hundred employees at the courthouse.
- There is a huge boardroom which can be divided based on the needed space.
- Catering will be offered on-site.
- The courthouse is accessible for people with disabilities.
- Audio-visual technology should be great.

- Natasha stated that the Mental Health Court Support Services are also preparing to move to the NTC. Cota, CMHA, and Fred Victor are working together to develop a standardized referral form. They will be sharing space at the courthouse. However, they will continue to work in police division areas. They will be working closely with the Crown's Office and Duty Counsel.
- Elizabeth P. stated that the Duty Counsels will be rotating at the Bail Centre. They are learning about the specialty courts, to better serve their clients. The LAO training for staff on the specialty courts is two weeks in length, not sure if this is enough.

Service Coordination/Resolution Issues

Discussion ensued regarding the NTC not having dedicated judges or crown attorneys for the specialty courtrooms. There will be a team of crowns and judges instead. It was noted that courts are based on trust and you can't build trust without consistency.

Current system crisis points were identified:

- individuals who are in custody and can't get a safe bed or shelter are held in custody. Affordable housing/shelter situation has gotten worse in the last 4-5 years. As well, the drug supply contamination. Do we have the ability to reduce recidivism appropriately?
- Often there are no hospital beds for clients in need of medical care.
- How does the NTC impact the Downtown HSJCC? It was noted that the area the DT-HSJCC has served might be the same, but it is unknown now. It is a challenge to identify the area, but the service providers may have to problem-solve the new circumstances.
- What can we do for people not showing up in court?

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

- Patricia reported on the Toronto HSJCC Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Committee. The NY-HSHCC led a panel session on the professional perspective to talk about their experience from an Anti-Racism perspective in February 2023.
- The next T-HSJCC meeting is taking place on March 9, 2023.
- Valerie reported on the Provincial HSJCC Anti-Racism Committee. Dr. Rai Reece is providing support to the Provincial Anti-Racism Advisory Committee regarding the next steps and developing a framework to conduct the focus groups.
- Provincial conference will take place virtually on November 15-16. The presentation abstract call will be sent out shortly. Conference cost for members will be \$50, non-members \$75 and PWLE will attend for free.

Discussion regarding intentional values – It was acknowledged to remind ourselves to try to make things better by staying intentional with our inclusive values/space.

Action Items:

Members were encouraged to contact Susan or Domenica if they have suggestions or interest in the Co-chair position.

Contact Domenica or Susan if you can provide the Land Acknowledgement at the May meeting.

Presenter for next meeting: Reintegration planning tables update at TEDC and TSDC.

The next Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.