

Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2023
8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Crisis Centre; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Robin Cuff, CAMH Drug Treatment Court; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Service (TPS); Valerie Danieli P-HSJCC Anti-Racism and PWLE Committees; Joyceline Sobers, Fred Victor; Natasha Bronfman, Mental Health Advocate; 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); Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Julianne Fernie, SolGen; Drow Zadoo, Fred Victor; Bozen Sikora, Community Network of Specialized Care; Arthur Mc Luhan; Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Drow Zadoorian, Fred Victor; Archana Raguparan, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Chris Persaud, Habitat Services; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Megan Riberdy, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Alviya Vawda, Toronto Bail Program; Tia Adams, Victim/WAP; Bridget Bowman, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Carolyn Rothney, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Kate Siemiatycki, LAO; Everton Gordon, Margaret’s Housing and Community Support Services; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Mark Linton, John Howard Society of Toronto; Melissa Mugiure, SolGen; Chantal, Toronto Bail Program;

Regrets: Nick Harrilall, Sound Times; Anna D’Agostino, Bartimaeus Inc.; Caro O’Neil, Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA); Elizabeth Pereira, LAO; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing/MOH;

Land Acknowledgement

Susan Davis 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 members noted the intentional evaluation of our values at the end of the meeting.

Co-chair position

Susan informed the committee that Farzana Griffin expressed interest in the DT-HSJCC Co-chair position. She has been working at the Toronto Bail Program for the past seven years in many roles, including supervision of youth clients with mental health concerns and with the court liaison for College Park. Her current role is an enhanced Indigenous Coordinator and is a union steward. She also, worked in developmental services as a residential counsellor and community support worker with the Salvation Army. She has been a member of the DT-HSJCC for over one year.

Farzana thanked Susan for the kind introduction.

Natasha Bronfman made a motion to nominate Farzana for the DT-HSJCC Co-chair position.

The committee unanimously voted for Farzana to be the DT-HSJCC Co-chair with Susan.

Review of March 2, 2023 Minutes

The March 2, 2023, minutes were approved by Debbie and seconded by Farzana.

Presentation 1) *Mark Linton, Manager of the Reintegration and Outreach Teams with the John Howard Society of Toronto and Co-chairs the Community Reintegration Table at the TSDC*

-Building on an existing partnership, the John Howard Society has agreed to support the developing and operationalizing the Community Reintegration Planning Tables Provincial Framework.

The Planning Tables provide a venue for staff from correctional institutions (including CROs and other institutional staff) and service providers from various sectors to plan and collaborate, which enables proactive support and structured release planning.

The key objectives of the Planning Tables are:

Improved and sustained collaboration and communication between correctional institutions and community service providers:

Proactive, coordinated, and timely planning and mobilization of appropriate community resources for high-need individuals released from custody:

Improved health, well-being, and living conditions of individuals released from custody, pro-active release planning, using trauma-informed approaches.

Key Functions:

The Planning Tables provide a forum for frontline workers from the health, social services, and public safety sectors and municipal and Indigenous community representatives to leverage community assets and relationships to connect individuals to support resources.

Through proactive release planning, Planning Tables help ensure individuals have support in place to enhance the quality of their living conditions.

The TSDC Planning Table will use a case conference approach to address released planning for high-need individuals.

Mark noted that within 72 hours of entry into jail, clients will be identified as having high needs or not. Participation/referral at the planning tables is voluntary.

System navigators will provide case management.

Mark stated that ODSP and OW are invited to the planning table. Their participation can benefit clients due to their immediate financial needs when released from jail that do not align with the ODSP income support qualification monthly. This timeframe is challenging when individuals are discharged from prison daily.

Themes discussed: Individuals sign a consent form, and agencies sign a confidentiality form. Data collected will illustrate where there are capacity needs. There are other tables; how can we avoid duplication, and how do we move these tables forward to address capacity? Melissa agreed to circulate a list of the CRO. Please reach out to Mark Linton at 416 629 2691 (mlinton@jhst.ca)

Susan thanked Mark for his informative and insightful presentation.

Presentation 2: Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) with Archana Raguparan, Kyra Schrader, Bradly Scarr and Carolyn Rothney

Domenica will circulate the presentation slides

- The justice liaison program helps MNO citizens and any self-identifying indigenous peoples seeking legal assistance.

The program is client-led and can adapt to the specific legal issues of each individual. The program assists in the following ways:

First, we provide Legal Education and Information, which may include access to legal definitions, guidance on finding legislation, any legal resources that may be available and directing them to articles and publications that may be helpful for their inquiry. It may also include providing clients with relevant documents or forms for courts or tribunals.

It also provides:

- Legal resources, which include referrals to internal MNO programs and services
- Assistance locating lawyers or paralegals within the client's catchment
- Locations of legal community services such as Legal Aid and Pro Bono Clinics

Although the Justice Liaison Program may assist with all areas of law, we primarily receive inquiries in family, civil, criminal, human rights, and landlord/tenant disputes.

The catchment area of this specific program is in Sault Ste. Marie, however, as services are, primarily virtual, the program extends its reach across all of Ontario.

It was noted that the MNO Justice Program does not provide legal advice, nor do we give money to cover legal costs or court fees nor act as a surety.

When Receiving a Justice Inquiry

Most requests are received via email. These are first reviewed by the Justice Liaison Coordinator, who then determines whether the issue can be dealt with directly or should be referred to someone within our Justice Program, or sometimes make an internal referral within the MNO.

Individuals can access the MNO Community Diversion Program as an alternative to traditional sentencing. This program offers an alternative to sentencing for Indigenous Peoples through the provision of services that promote conflict resolution and reintegration into communities.

The MNO Community Diversion program allows individuals to express their points of view within our community circle and do so safely when compassion is extended to them and when their point of view is allowed to be expressed, they will be far more likely to develop compassion to those to whom their actions have harmed.

The process evokes human emotion and compassion and, therefore, a more meaningful sense of accountability for the harm caused by individuals.

The Justice Council comprises of Métis Knowledge Keepers, Community members, and professionals.

The program can utilize in-house Métis focused support programs. Such as MNO Mental health and addictions, MNO Victim Services, etc. They are currently expanding across all of Ontario.

The Indigenous Court Worker (ICW) is responsible for in-court and out-of-court support for both youth and adults in the areas of:

1. Family Law
2. Criminal Law
3. Child welfare

The ICW cannot provide legal advice but may act as an advocate who speaks on a person's behalf if they can't or won't speak for themselves while involved with the justice system.

How to access services? **1-800-263-4889 Ext 7** Justice@Métisnation.org
www.Métisnation.org

Review Action Items:

Action items were reviewed and completed.

Lunch N' Learns Update

Domenica reported on the Anti-Racism series. 1099 registered for this series, and 453 attended the sessions. It was a very successful five-part series. 99% rated the content above average to excellent. Due to the success and feedback, the Toronto Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group is addressing repeating the series.

Member Annual Evaluation:

Domenica reminded members to complete the annual evaluation. Your input is essential to help us with continuous improvement. We want to hear from you. It takes 5 minutes to complete the members' evaluation.

Agency/Organization updates:

- Kyra reported that the MNO justice program is expanding and continues to work at the federal level to meet justice and policing priorities. Hiring new positions update: manager, eight restorative justice coordinators, justice program specialist, and data evaluation. Congratulations were provided for the MNO expansion.
- Debbie stated that CTYS is merging with George Hall.
- Joyceline noted that the mental health court support services are moving to the new courthouse at the end of May. Fred Victor, Cota and CMHA Toronto had a greet and meet meeting. Fred Victor is hiring one more staff at the Regional Bail Centre. Updates will be provided at the next meeting.
- Catherine provided the links to the Brain Injury Canada Conference <https://site.pheedloop.com/event/braininjurycanadaconference2023/schedule#list> and the Compassionate Justice Fund <https://compassionatejusticefund.org/>

Service Coordination/ Resolution Issues

Does anyone have any issues to resolve? Are there any issues to bring forth to the Toronto Regional HSJCC?
None Identified.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

- a. Provincial Conference - November 15-16, 2023
- b. Next T-HSJCC meeting taking place on June 8, 2023
- c. Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group Updates – see above

Susan reported that the provincial conference will occur virtually on November 15-16. Domenica circulated the abstract call, and the submission date is May 15th. The conference cost for members will be \$50, non-members \$75, and PWLE will attend for free.

At the last conference, the Gerstein Crisis Centre offered access to the internet and a computer for PWLE, allowing them to participate in the conference.

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:

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

Domenica will circulate the presentation PowerPoint slides.

Domenica will circulate the CRO contact information from the TSDC.

Presenter for next meeting - TBD

The next Meeting: Thursday, September 14, 2023 (virtually) from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.