

**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 11, 2024**  
**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; Shane Rolland, Toronto Police Service (TPS); Valerie Danieli P-HSJCC Anti-Racism and PWLE Committees; Kristina Dobosz, Community Network of Specialized Care, Toronto Region; Lesley Morris, Fred Victor; Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Flora Matheson, Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Arthur Mc Luhan; Centre for Urban Health Solutions; Rebecca Norlock, Habitat Services; Elina Korchagina, LAO; Bozena Sikora, Community Network of Specialized Care, Toronto Region; Lindsay Jennings, Rittenhouse; Courtney Miller, Springboard Services; Stephanie Ruston, YMCAGTA; Sarah James, JHST; Tina Bells, Salvation Army; Carol O'Neil, Circles of Support & Accountability (CoSA); Elaine Amsterdam, Gerstein Crisis Centre; Peter Morris Toronto Police Service (14 Division); Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Lynda Myung, Cota; William Nakhid, (MSW student at Fred Victor); Afifa Abbaszadeh, Toronto Bail Program; Natasha Bronfman, Mental Health Advocate; Jeanine Daniel, Probation and Parole (Yonge St Office); Kristina BSW, Fred Victor student

**Regrets:** Nick Harrilall, Sound Times; Everton Gordon, Margaret's Housing and Community Support Services; Barbara Domenech, Cota; Joyceline Sobers, Fred Victor; Saige McMahon, 2-Spirit People of the 1st Nations; Charlene Crews, Toronto Housing/MOH; Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute: McMaster University; Tia Adams, Victim/WAP; Tracy Clarke, Victim/WAP; Robin Cuff, CAMH Drug Treatment Court; Sarah Hassan, SolGen

**Land Acknowledgement:**

Valerie provided the Land Acknowledgement, recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on. She noted that we can support and advocate for Indigenous people in Canada in many ways. For example, actively returning land, rejecting government legislation that violates the rights of First Nations, Inuit and Metis people, denouncing colonial histories within institutions, ending violence against Indigenous women, donating money to Indigenous youth groups and genuinely supporting the wellbeing and success of Indigenous people everywhere, including the significant work that we do here.

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, stating their name and the job title they held. The committee members noted the intentional evaluation of our values at the end of the meeting.

Rebecca Norlock reported that Habitat Services, in partnership with Seaton House, reached 1000 mental health beds in the city.

Susan welcomed the following new members:

Peter Morris is a staff Sergeant with the Toronto Police at 14 Division working on mental health-related projects.

Lynda Myung is the mental health court support manager with Cota.

**Review of September 14, 2023 Minutes:**

The September 14, 2023, minutes were approved by Debbie and seconded by Valerie.

Please note that the November 2, 2023 Mega Meeting with all four Locals replaced the regular DT-HSJCC November meeting.

**Review Action Items:**

Domenica reported on the Accessibility Coordinator presentation invite. The presentation will take place at the March meeting. Natasha B. asked for the contact information of the Accessibility Coordinator to be shared with the HSJCC members in case issues arise before the March meeting. Domenica will circulate the Accessibility Coordinator Office staff contact information to the membership.

Discussion ensued on the Local HSJCCs Mega Meeting on November 2, 2023 summary report.

**Themes discussed:** Concerns were expressed about the virtual glitches experienced with the power outage and the whiteboard not being visible to the remote members. Members who attended virtually expressed their frustration about these challenges. **Moving forward, a plan B needs to be in place to address the virtual glitches of power outages and to ensure virtual attendees can see the whiteboard.**

On the other hand, the mega meeting indicated the overwhelming interest of members to come together and engage to build relationships. Members acknowledged the importance of face-to-face contact, which allows them to network, build relationships and address common problems by coming together and working collaboratively.

The advantage of hybrid meetings is that they allow more members to attend them.

Susan suggested doing a split screen, having the whiteboard on a screen so that the people in the room can see the screen and people virtually see the same screen.

**Co-chair position update:**

Susan informed the committee that Farzana stepped down from the co-chair position due to work-life balance issues. Farzana was thanked for her contribution to the committee.

If you are interested or recommend someone for the position, please contact Susan or Domenica.

**Presentation:**

YMCA YSAP – Supporting youth who use substances with Stephanie Ruston

- Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint slides.
- Youth & Interventions Programs for youth 16-24 years old

- They have various programs: drop In, substance use programs, streets to homes, employment supports, units for 2SLGBTQ+, HIV/AIDS peer navigation project, YMCA Sprott House, Y-House, 40-bed emergency shelter for male-identified, You Got This (Follow-up Services),
  - They have no wait list for the Youth Substance Use program
  - Harm reduction practices were discussed on how to support a youth who uses substances.
  - Telephone contact at 416-473-7407, connect online at ymcagta.org/YSAP or with QR code.
  - Many members acknowledged the important service they provide to support the youth.
  - Programs are in-person or virtual. You don't need to have a Toronto address for virtual support.
  - Can provide court support letters for their clients
- Stephanie was thanked for the informative and engaging presentation.

### **Lunch N' Learns Update**

Domenica reported on the upcoming Lunch N' Learns. Anti-Racism Series Session 3 on January 25, 2024, on Misconceptions of Indigenous Rights and Life Ways with Cynthia Bell. The invitation was circulated.

### **Review Workplan for 2023-2024**

- What have we accomplished, and what future areas should we consider?
- Who is missing from the table?
- Virtual/Hybrid meetings and Lunch and Learn format for 2024-25?
- Hybrid Mega Meeting Follow-up – 3 Working Groups:
  - a) Release, Transportation and Belongings
  - b) Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity
  - c) Communication

The workplan 2023-24 was circulated before the meeting. The objectives were reviewed, and everyone agreed to maintain them.

Discussion ensued on key activities & initiatives II, which states: to assist in improving the quality of services for individuals with mental health and substance use issues who are involved with the criminal justice system, including the specific matches made between clients and services both initially and through clients' individual recoveries over time.

### **Question asked: how are we using these relationships to improve the network?**

Committee members agreed to develop a centralized membership list for relationship building across members to foster collaboration across the Downtown Toronto Local HSJCC.

#### **NEW Key deliverable:**

- Strengthen relevant partnerships to improve coordination and transitions between services and sectors by exploring a platform and management system for a centralized Downtown Toronto Local HSJCC membership list and share resources.
- Conduct a hybrid annual committee meeting.
- Establish Toronto Local HSJCC working groups to address the identified needs and gaps regarding the changes in the criminal justice system – the recent opening of the Toronto Regional Bail Centre and Ontario Court of Justice – Toronto. The three main areas for the working groups to address separately are 1) Release, Transportation and Belongings; 2) Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity; and 3) Communication.

- The members agreed to continue with virtual meetings.

**Agency/Organization Updates:**

Leslie informed the committee that the Raising Awareness Program will start on Wednesday, January 24, at the courthouse from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.

-Service Coordination/ Resolution Issues

None Identified

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

-The next T-HSJCC meeting will take place **on January 18, 2024**

- Provincial HSJCC November meeting highlights were circulated

**Discussion regarding intentional values** – Susan acknowledged that we should remind ourselves to improve things by staying intentional with our inclusive values/space.

**Action Items:**

- Contact Domenica or Susan if you can provide the Land Acknowledgement at the March meeting.
- Contact Domenica or Susan if you are interested in the Co-chair position
- Domenica will invite the OCJT Accessibility Coordinator to present and circulate their staff contact information.
- Domenica will circulate the presentation PowerPoint slides.

**Presenter for the March 7, 2024, meeting from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. TBD.**