

# The JHS Reintegration Centre & The Toronto South Detention Centre



JohnHoward  
SOCIETY OF TORONTO



Amber Kellen, Director of Community Initiatives,  
Policy & Research, John Howard Society

Andrea Monteiro, Deputy Superintendent Treatment &  
Programs, Toronto South Detention Centre

# The Toronto South Detention Centre



- The TSDC became operational in January 2014.
- The TSDC replaced the Toronto Jail, Mimico Correctional Centre and Toronto West Detention Centre.
- When fully operational the TSDC will have the capacity to house:
  - 1650 adult male remand inmates
  - 320 intermittent offenders (weekend only)



# TSDC Security

- The design of the TSDC provides internal safety and public safety through state-of-the-art security and is one of the most environmentally friendly facilities in the province.
- The TSDC is a maximum security facility which refers to the physical security design of the facility.
- The facility's state of the art security system is supported by using the latest security applications - closed circuit television, touch screen technology, metal detection and scanner systems.



# Inmate Population & Statistics

- The majority of the inmates at TSDC are remanded – awaiting court dispositions, a small portion are serving provincial sentences.
  - The average length of stay for a remanded inmate is 34 days.
- The average daily count at TSDC is approximately 890 inmates.
- Majority of the inmates are from the Greater Toronto Area.
- The TSDC's inmate population presents with diversity that reflects the diverse GTA community.
- Although the facility is running at an average capacity of 890 inmates, we currently have approximately 160 releases a week:
  - 100 at Court
  - 30 via TSDC
  - 30 via TIC (Weekend Only)

# **Challenges in Delivering Services to a Remanded Population**

- The majority of the inmates at TSDC are remanded – awaiting court dispositions.
  - The average length of stay for a remanded inmate is 34 days.
  - However, the day-to-day reality at TSDC is that many remanded inmates spend very little time at the facility due to frequent court appearances, medical appointments etc.
  - The high volume of inmates with complex needs coupled with the high turnover of remanded inmates makes it difficult for TSDC staff and volunteers to thoroughly engage with each inmate that is admitted to the facility.
  - Some of the inmates remanded to TSDC are not interested in participating in rehabilitative services for fear that engagement will affect their court proceedings.
- It is for these reasons that discharge planning and rehabilitation efforts become extremely challenging.

# **Overcoming the Challenges of Delivering Services to a Remanded Population**

- Despite the many challenges of delivering treatment, programs and or services to a remanded population, the TSDC has, and is continuing to build strong supports for its inmates through:
  - The physical design of the TSDC Living Units which promote programming/services being delivered directly on the units
  - Initial screening during admission to identify any immediate needs that an inmate may have
  - The development of an integrated clinical team
  - Linkages with Community Partners/Stakeholders
  - Engagement with various courts and police services
  - The development of spiritual, lifestyle and educational programs targeted to meet the needs of a remanded population
  - The development of clinical treatment programs targeted to meet the needs of a remanded population

# Direct Supervision

- Direct Supervision is a progressive, proactive correctional management system that places Correctional Officers in a more normalized housing unit, in direct contact with inmates.
- This method of supervision is premised on managing inmate behaviour through personal interaction/communication.
- Direct Supervision was first developed by the American Federal Bureau of Prisons in the 1970's.
- The Vancouver Pre-Trial Centre opened in 1983 as the first Canadian Direct Supervision jail.
- Today, Direct Supervision facilities can be found on all five continents.

# TSDC Direct Supervision Living Unit





# Direct Supervision & Internal Classification

- The success of the Direct Supervision model and one of the most critical tools for staff to effectively supervise inmates at TSDC is the internal classification and placement of inmates.
- The classification of inmates at the TSDC begins at A&D and enables the proper internal placement of inmates in order to:
  - Separate violent inmates from those who display more pro-social behaviour;
  - Identify inmates who have special needs;
  - Identify inmates with specific programming needs; and,
  - Ensure that inmates are placed in the least intrusive level of security based on their individualized needs.
- At any given time, it is expected that approximately 5-7% of the TSDC inmate population will not be suitable for placement on a Direct Supervision Unit.

# TSDC Unit Configuration: November 11, 2015

	TOWER A				TOWER B				TOWER C			
4	A4A 40 - Direct (Orientation Intake)	A4B 40 - Direct (Orientation)	A4C 40 - Direct (Orientation)	A4D 40 - Direct (Overflow)	B4A 40 - Direct	B4B 40 - Direct	B4C 40 - Direct	B4D 40 - Direct	C4A 40 - Direct (D/S)	C4B 40 - Direct (D/S)	C4C 40 - Direct (D/S)	C4D 40 - Direct (D/S)
3	A3A 40-Direct (SNU)	A3B 40-Direct (SNU)	A3C 40-Direct (SNU)	A3D 40-Direct (Overflow)	B3A 40 - Direct	B3B 40 - Direct	B3C 40 - Direct	B3D 40 - Direct	C3A 40 - Direct (D/S)	C3B 40 - Direct (D/S)	C3C 40 - Direct (D/S)	C3D 40 - Direct (D/S)
2	A2A 40-Indirect	A2B 40-Indirect	MHAU 26 - Direct		B2A 40- Indirect	B2B 40-Indirect	B2C 40-Indirect	B2D 40-Indirect	C2A 40 - Direct (Intake)	C2B 40 - Direct (Intake)	C2C 40 - Direct (D/S)	C2D 40 - Direct (Workers)
1	SHUA-D (Indirect - 24)		SHU E-H (Indirect - 24)		Seg A 28				Seg B 28		Seg C 28	

Infirmary 35	Medical A 30	Medical B 30
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OPEN

CLOSED

Indirect



# Who We Are and What We Do

Making our community safer by supporting the rehabilitation and re-integration of those who have been in conflict with the law.

The John Howard Society of Toronto is a non-profit organization committed to providing and developing programs that reduce the social, economic and personal cost of crime



# JHS-T: 3 Types of Services and Programs



- Alternatives to prison/  
Crime Prevention
- In-reach to prisons
- Post-release strategies and  
services



# Post-Release Strategies and Services

- Housing- FTF, PIHS, TDTC
- Addictions/Relapse Prevention
- Intake and Case Management
- Pre-Employment
- Record Suspension (Pardons)
- Anger Management
- **Etoibicoke Reintegration Centre**

# Issues Facing Releasees

- Mental health
- Addictions
- Poverty
- Social isolation
- Barriers to employment
- Stigma
- Transportation
- HOMELESSNESS (33-44%)



# Challenges

- Limited transit
- Within 1 km of residential community
- Short walk from College campus
- One multi-service provider (LAMP)
- **Lack of affordable/transitional housing**
- **No men's shelters**
- **No men's treatment centre**
- High-needs population of releasees
  - Mental health, poverty, substance use

# The Reintegration Centre







# The RC Dream was Conceived

## Goals:

- Acquire temporary space to provide integral services and interventions.
- Support and assist former inmates as immediately upon their release as possible in order to help them move back to their home communities and guide them toward reintegration support services and programs across the City of Toronto.
- Reduce the likelihood of re-offending, thereby increasing community safety and associated costs.
- Reduce the incidents of accidental deaths caused by drug overdose following release.

# The RC

- Provide a HUB-like venue for men leaving the Toronto South Detention Centre to access support and referral services (enhanced service continuity from contact made prior to release).
- Immediate triage, assessment, and “warm” referrals from a team of committed professionals to:
  - Homeless shelters,
  - Housing help,
  - Addiction detox and treatment,
  - Legal assistance,
  - Mental health assessment and referrals
  - Other support services and programs, city-wide



# The Reintegration Centre Partners and Key Stakeholders

- Cota
- African Canadian Legal Clinic/LAO
- Margaret's
- F.E.A.T.
- TSDC
- Toronto Justice Collaborative
- 22 Division
- PARC
- Members of our Advisory Committee/Evaluation Committee
- Funders: City of Toronto, OTF

# TSDC & JHC RC Collaboration

- Since the RC commenced operations in November 2014, the TSDC and RC have been working collaboratively to assist inmates with discharge planning needs.
- Inmates are referred to the RC through TSDC Social Workers and the TSDC Volunteer Services Coordinators.
- Posters related to the RC are placed on all inmate occupied living units and inmates are encouraged to attend the centre if they are in need of clothing, housing legal support issues, and/or case management post discharge.
- TSDC and JHS will begin offering “get started” information sessions for inmates on their units to promote the services offered at the RC.
- TSDC is a member of the JHS RC Advisory Council





# Peer Support Program

- The value of including people with lived experience in service delivery and growing demand
- Lack of literature
- Traditionally used in a recovery model context (mental health, 12 step, in-prison)
- Importance of offering nuanced approach
- Accompaniment and support
- Harm reduction educational and overdose prevention
- Challenges; culture, funding, job ambiguity, contractual nature.

# The Need for Evaluation

- The Evaluation Committee
  - Unique collaboration- variety of participants
- Some evaluation work that has taken place
  - York U. Students- peer program
  - Development of intake tool for data collection- dashboard
- Endeavours
  - Proposals submitted via St. Mikes
  - In process of finalizing project with MCSCS
    - Explanation of research question, proposed methodology, goals, hypothesis





**Thank-you!**

**Questions and Answers**

# Questions?

## **Amber Kellen**

Director of Community Initiatives, Policy & Research

John Howard Society

(p) 416-925-4386 ext. 227

(e) [akellen@johnhowardtor.on.ca](mailto:akellen@johnhowardtor.on.ca)

## **Andrea Monteiro**

Deputy Superintendent, Treatment & Programs

Toronto South Detention Centre

(p) 416-354-4030 ext. 1040

(e) [andrea.monteiro@ontario.ca](mailto:andrea.monteiro@ontario.ca)