

**Essex County Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee
(HSJCC)
Meeting Minutes
June 3, 2013 - 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
CMHA - LEMR**

In Attendance: Anna-Marie Dodge, Connie Tatomir, Diane O'Brien, Georgette Makhoul, Jeanie Laforge, Joel Furlotte, Justice Lloyd Dean, Ken Harper, Marion Overholt, Marylou Dolan, Skip Graham, Sue Benko, Tara Reid,

Regrets: Constable Carol Bender, Constable Scott Nichol, Dr. Raj Basker, Elizabeth Brown, Ivanka Simeunovic, Kaitlyn McCabe, Kathy McIntosh, Lana Strain, Naty Ramirez-Reyes, Sherry Ryan, Stephanie Bula, Theresa Ouellette-Klein,

1) Welcome and Introductions:

Welcome to Georgette Makhoul new Criminal Duty Counsel

2) Review Minutes of March 4, 2013 and any outstanding action items:

Action: New Windsor Jail Tour

Diane O'Brien will try to arrange a tour of the new facility as part of our next meeting.

Action Item closed and Minutes approved as written.

Concerns Discussed regarding the new Southwest Detention Centre:

- Concerns were raised regarding individuals being isolated from their communities. Whose function is it to provide feedback of how these policies are developed? How can families that are out of town come to visit their family members? How is visitation handled?
- We should try to obtain Best Practices regarding how they make connections with Chatham and Sarnia.
- Concern regarding aboriginal communities – What kind of impact will video visits have? Logistically how will this work (medication, travel to court)? Can we look at some of these policies? We should try to speak with someone at the Southwest Detention Centre.
- Perhaps we could get Dawn Davis involved in a conversation on what is and what is not working.

3) Updates:

Community Legal Aid:

- Marion has been appointed to an Advisory Board for Legal Aid of Ontario. LAO has committed funds and is very interested in the issue of mental health.

Mental Health Connections:

- We are doing another 7-week program to help clients understand their illness, boundaries and triggers.
- A Family to Family 12-week program will begin in September along with many ongoing activities.

Probation and Parole:

- No issues

Judges

- Justice Dean noted that 2 of 3 Judges will be leaving the Mental Health Court. One is retiring and the other will be moving to Ottawa. Justice Campbell has agreed to help in Mental Health Court.

Police:

- OPP has advised of their name change from Community Outreach and Support Team (C.O.A.S.T.) to their new name of Mental Health Response Unit. Both teams are now up and running.

CMHA-WECEB

- We are very excited to announce the launch of the Release from Custody Support Program. Interviews are scheduled this week and hopefully two will be available to be stationed at the jail. This program will facilitate the discharge planning and smooth re-entry into the community. We are working very closely with our court support team with our primary focus being individuals who have been incarcerated. In addition the goal is to have CMHA workers providing support to individuals who are in custody with the focus on the discharge end of things. This position will be serving also Chatham/Sarnia; a much wider geographic area.
- Question: Will they work with the youth?
- Response: They will be working with the Southwest Detention Center.

Marilyn noted that we will be learning as we go with this is new initiative. We appreciate feedback from our community partners on this new venture.

3) Regional Meeting:

Marilyn attended the Regional meeting last week. The Conference in Toronto was discussed however there are no additional details to share. Will advise as soon as they are available.

4) New Business:

HSJC Co-Chair:

This item has been tabled and Naty Ramirez-Reyes, Byron Hornick, and Marion Overholt have expressed an interest. This will be confirmed at our next meeting in September because Naty and Byron are not present today.

2013-14 Budget Proposal: (Draft report was distributed)

- The Regional Level has decided that they want funds to be allocated to training and education.

- Budget requests for training will be reviewed. Marilyn asked for all requests within the next month.
- \$4500.00 was spent on printing new Booklets entitled "Navigating the Criminal Justice System"
- A recommendation was made for Sensitivity Training.
- A suggestion was made that Lori Haskell come to Southwestern Ontario to present.
- Treatment Resistance Program.
- Motivational Interviewing – Dan Dubovski from Samsung who works primarily with individuals with fetal alcohol syndrome.

Action: Proposal recommendations should be forwarded to Marilyn within the next two weeks. Once received Marilyn will compile a list and circulate to the committee. Funding will be included in the budget for the Conference for Committee Members and Consumers.

2013-14 Work Plan:

It is important that the entire committee works collaboratively on the preparation of the work plan.

#2: Recommendation from Justice Dean is to remove or change the wording of "Drug Treatment Court" to "Therapeutic Court"

#3: Are the training and education outcomes measured and how do we measure them? Other outcomes can be measured through statistics on 672 court members served, and viewing court data, CMHA data, and other community partners' data.

#4: Change CEO to Specialized Services

Are there any more tangible objectives? Should we communicate more often? Is there a more formalized way of communication? Do we need more brainstorming, more meetings per year? Is this format working? Can we improve communication? Are we communicating enough?

Justice Dean: Wanted to make it clear that his contact information is available.

#5: No changes

#6: No changes

5) Miscellaneous Item:

A question was raised to the committee regarding sourcing out a lawyer for a respondent from the Human Rights Tribunal.

One of the committee members recommended contacting the Law Society or the Essex Library (pro bono work).

6) Next Meeting:

Our next HSJCC meeting is September 9, 2013

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.