

**Essex County Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee
(HSJCC)
Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2014 - 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
CMHA – LEMR**

In Attendance: Adam Vasey, Alaina Cockburn, Anna-Marie Dodge, Dawn Letourneau, Diane O'Brien, Dr. Raj Basker, Elizabeth Brown, Ilana Mizel, Jarrett Loscher, Jeanie LaForge, Jose Vasquez, Justice Lloyd Dean, Lana Strain, Marion Overholt, Mary Lou Dolan, Tara Reid, Whitney Kitchen, Erin Flannery, Marilyn Weller

Regrets: COAST Team (in training), Joel Furlotte

Recorder: Alison Steer

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm

1) Welcome and Introductions:

- Alaina Cockburn- Youth and Mental Health Coordinator at Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare (replacing Naty Ramirez-Reyes)
- Ilana Mizel- Crown's Office- replaces Lisa Defoe.
- Whitney Kitchen- CMHA- Justice Supports/Release from Custody

Marilyn inquired as to whether John McQuire - Windsor Police Services is still participating on the committee because emails sent to his given address have been returned for several months.

ACTION: Marilyn to follow up.

2) Presentation: Dr. Julie Macfarlane: National Self- Represented Litigants Project:

Dr. Macfarlane has completed research which collected data regarding individuals attending Family Court Matters without legal counsel; approximately 1/2 the people attending family court come without counsel. The research is transferrable to criminal court. Most case studies indicate that people engage lawyers and run out of money to pay for them to continue; often they do not qualify for legal aid. This is identified as an isolating experience and affects many aspects of a client; health, reported humiliation and damaged parent/child relationships. This is becoming a national project and further information is at www.representing-yourself.com.

3) Review Minutes of September 8, 2014 and outstanding Agenda Items

- Action Item #1: Psychiatrist at SWDC/ SWDC activities – Action Item Closed

Diane O'Brien reported that the new psychiatrist at SWDC is Dr. Swaminathan. He joins Dr. Komer. The Mental Health Unit continues to prepare to open. Staff are being hired and orientated. There are programs operating at SWDC- Mental Health Connections/,The Windsor- Essex Health Unit provides parenting classes/ STD/Tattooing information/ Brentwood/ WEST discusses employment/ House of Sophrosyne offers parenting classes with females/ Education to provided Grade 12/ literacy/College programs being developed.

- Action Item #2: Transportation at SWDC – Action Item Closed

Rides are now provided to the downtown core. Females are provided taxis to the downtown and at times, to their homes. Also, still providing rides to Costco on Walker Rd. to get to a bus. Families without independent transportation, who wish to visit inmates, have been taking the bus to Costco and then a taxi to SWDC.

- Action Item #3: Professional Visitation to SWDC – Action Item Remains Open

Occasionally there are reported delays in professionals being able to access the ranges to see clients. Diane O'Brien reported that when this is identified the incident is reported to management. Also, it will be investigated to see if RFC staff can use the interview rooms in the hallways. It was suggested that we invite Carol Duchene and Karen Baxter from SWDC to the next 672 Committee meetings for discussion regarding services at the SWDC.

ACTION: Diane to report at next meeting. Marilyn to extend invitations for 672 Committee.

4) Previous Outstanding Action Items:

- Action Item #1: Form 2 – Action Item Deferred to March 2, 2015

This issue was discussed at Sept 8, 2014 meeting. COAST needs to address and is not present today.

5) Committee Updates:

HSJCC Education Sub-Committee:

- The Committee has set a date for a panel presentation targeted to lawyers. Feb 12, 2015- 1:00-2:30pm-Court Rm #1- Mental Health Court panel presentation-Justice Dean/Crown's Office/Duty Counsel/CMHA Court Support & Release from Custody/ Police/COAST will be involved in the panel. Sue Benko will be the contact for this event. A light lunch will be served.
- The committee is also looking for some High Risk Assessment training- asked committee for contacts/ideas for this training. Regional HSJCC has funding which we could access for this. We just need to identify trainers. Suggested that the WECDSB be contacted for this as they have had some training in this area. WECDSB has used Kevin Cameron for Threat Risk training and he is scheduled to return in the Spring 2015 for a Level 2 training.

Legal Assistance Windsor (LAW):

- LAW has been granted Trillium funding for 3 years to address human trafficking. Funding will allow staff to develop protocols and community training.
- Funding secured from Legal Assistance Ontario. This has allowed for extended services to do Review Counsel in Family Law, as well as a Social Work component.

Judges:

Same judges remain in Mental Health Court. Justice Dean, Justice Campbell, and Justice Marion. Dates are being set for 2015 Mental Health Court. Dates are set six months/time. Janet Little coordinates the Court calendar.

Pathway to Potential:

Chamber of Commerce partnership- living wage employment program. Adam suggested inviting the Homeless Coalition to become members of the HSJCC.

ACTION: Adam will send contact info for the Homeless Coalition to Marilyn for an invitation to attend HSJCC.

Mental Health Connections:

Christmas activities/annual Christmas party on Dec 4/14.

Crown's Office:

Welcomed Ilana Mizel-new member of Crowns' Office and now Mental Health Court. Elizabeth Brown suggested that we invite Street Health to become members of the HSJCC.

ACTION: Marilyn will follow-up with invitation to Street Health.

Legal Aid/Duty Counsel:

There has been a change in financial eligibility. There has been no change since 1998. There is an increase in funding as well as changes to eligibility. Dan Topp- lawyer is now supporting 672 Court/ Criminal Law via LAO. This support will take place Fridays and goes beyond Duty Counsel Services. Matters can be scheduled with Dan for that support to be done. Those appointments take place on non 672 court days. Scheduling may be done with Sandra Marchand- LAO.

CMHA:

CMHA has begun to integrate some programs with Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare to better coordinate supports and services.

6) Regional Report:

Nothing to report during this reporting period.

NEW BUSINESS

There is a Regional HSJCC meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Marion will attend by teleconference. A "Save-the-Date" notice went out recently from the Provincial HSJCC regarding the next Conference which will be held on November 20, 2015.

7) Next Meeting Date:

March 2, 2015

2015 schedule forthcoming.