

**REGIONAL HUMAN SERVICES AND JUSTICE  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE  
November 18, 2019 12pm-2pm  
West 5<sup>th</sup> Hamilton – Room A217 (Seminar Rm1)**

**ATTENDEES:** Cathy Serra, Cindy Kemp-Wonzo, Jacqueline Strecansky, Jaime Corneil, Kelly Falconer, Keri Zammit, Liane Taylor, Shawn Blaj, Trevor Tymchuk, Tyson Benn, Clara Menegaldo (recorder)

**REGRETS:** Carrie Collier, Franklin Lyons, Gwen Piller, Satar Wahidi, Tom Archer, Veronica Pepper

**ABSENT:** Christy Marshall, Crystal Burning, Dana Vladescu, Kelly Cimek, Laura Walsh, Linda Hunter, Sheri Yake

**1. WELCOME**

- Tyson introduced himself as the Co-chair. Tyson is the Director of Mental Health Court Support Services at CMHA.
- Welcomed everyone and everyone introduced themselves.

**2. ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

- None

**3. REVIEW OF MINUTES**

- **Approval Minutes**  
Liane Taylor approved the minutes and Keri Zammit seconded it.

**4. UPDATES:**

- **Update from Provincial HSJCC**
  - There was a higher attendance at the Conference than usual. The attendance was higher than the previous conference 2 years ago.
  - There was a 2 ½ hr. meeting after the conference to discuss the conference.
    - How to increase the involvement of people with lived experience.

- At the Provincial table, we do not have someone with lived experience present. At the meeting, people with lived experience were invited to the table.
    - Sponsored 5 people with lived experience.
  - Due to the lack of government support, the next conference may be delayed by one year. (Instead of 2yrs, could be 3yrs.)
  - Drug Treatment forum may be delayed till next fiscal year due to funding.
  - There was a great response about the conference and presentations. The presentations and keynote panels are on the HSJCC website.
  - Looking for ideas for webinars based on the presentations. If there is a presentation which you would like a webinar on, please let us know.
  - Trevor is the representative at the provincial table. Trevor inquired, now that we have 2 co-chairs, will this continue? Will one of the co-chairs prefer to attend the provincial meeting in Trevor's place?
    - Travel expenses are covered.
  - Tyson will discuss with Satar. The same co-chair should attend the meetings.
- **Co – Chair**
    - Tyson found the Conference to be very well done and well organized. Presentations were well done. Inviting a person(s) with lived experience to the table will be on the agenda for the next Local HSJCC meeting.
    - Tyson announced that Satar Wahidi, Manager of COAST, will be co-chairing with him.

## 5. NEW MEMBERS

- Cathy Serra, Probation Officer, Community Service Coordinator at the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services will be attending the meetings in the place of Kent Chapman.
- Contact Clara Menegaldo with any new member suggestions.

## 6. MEETING DATE/TIME

- The current date and time will remain the same.

- The next Regional HSJCC meeting, on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020, will be at 100 West 5<sup>th</sup> in order to use the parking vouchers which are non-refundable.
- Future meetings after February 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at the Police Station (400 Rymal Rd. E.) which has free parking. Shawn Blaj offered to book the meeting room.

## **7. BUDGET**

- At the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter (September 30, 2019), there was a surplus of \$7,000.00. The cost of the conference was taken into account.
- Once the local committees have submitted their expenses, we will have a better idea at the end of February.
- Can local committees return money not spent?
  - The Regional & Local funding comes from the LLIN.
  - The Provincial funding comes from the Ministry of Health.
- Regional receives a lump sum which they allocate to the local committee.
- Local HSJCC can anticipate receiving \$5,000.00 for next year.

## **8. 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL RISK & RECOVERY CONFERENCE**

- CMHA takes the money out of this year's budget even though the conference takes place in April of the following fiscal year.
- It would be less cost for travel and hotel if the conference was held here.
- Local HSJCC are to inquire how many of their members are interested in attending the conference and send the list to Clara.

## **9. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

- Hamilton
  - Realignment of officers.
  - Steve Holmes has transitioned to Action.
    - Peter Wiesner, Acting Sargent, is taking over Steve's role.
    - Steve is still working with PES and CIT.
    - There will be a CIT training session on November 25 -28.
  - Hamilton Urban Core's Overdose Prevention Site is also a consumption site which is located at 71 Rebecca St. It will be moving to a new location, 430 Cannon St, in approximately 2 yrs.

- At the present location there are problems with robbery and drug trafficking.
- St. Joe's – Forensic Department
  - Individuals are no longer designated as under secure or general. All units have maximum security.
  - HWDC/St. Joe's Correctional Beds – ability to have a bed on Forensics but in a separate unit.
    - St. Joes will help individuals from HWDC receive the proper mental health care they need and then they will be returned back to corrections. Individuals are treated under the Mental Health Act as opposed to Court ordered assessments.
    - The goal is to stabilize the individual. Being stable will also, help when they are being seen in court.
    - They have 6 beds in total. They will open 1 bed in January on a trial basis. Staffing has been hired.
    - This could expand to other correctional agencies.

## **10. LOCAL UPDATES**

### **a) Niagara**

- Many of the health funded agencies on the Niagara HSJCC have been approved to be part of an Ontario Health Team.
- The LHIN is working on the “Mental Health & Addiction Transformation Collaborative” to help Niagara streamline Mental Health and Addiction Services services in preparation for Ontario Health Teams.
- CMHA Niagara has hired an individual to work with high risk, complex individuals who have been released from custody using the Coordinated Care Planning Model. This is a part time Release from Custody Position split with a Part Time Mental Health Coach Position at our local drop in center, Start Me Up Niagara.
- Niagara Courts are struggling with the Leal Aid cuts which are affecting the court process, court support workers and service to clients.
  - 2 Defense Councils retired and 1 left. None were replaced.
  - Process is slower with longer lineups.
  - Increase in individuals coming to court support workers for help.

- Trevor Tymchuck has connected Niagara HSJCC with Legal Aid of Ontario.
- Niagara is also having difficulty accessing individuals for bail hearings as overnights are no longer being transported to court. They are being held in the Niagara Falls Police Station cells and are appearing in court by video. Therefore court support staffs are not able to access those individuals to put together plans for release.

**b) Haldimand/Norfolk**

- They were not ready in time to have their Family Education Night in September/October. It has been deferred to March.

**c) Brantford**

- Drug Strategy, Justice and Enforcement Pillar's have asked the Local HSJCC to take a lead on the Drug Treatment Court.
  - A couple of lawyers have expressed an interest in taking it over, but there are no updates or meetings set at this time.
- Cindy invited Kelly to their Local HSJCC to speak above the Drug Treatment Court in Niagara. Kelly may defer that to the appropriate person at her agency.
- Pilot project – November 4 – December 15. Overnight arrests at the Brantford Police Services are having bail hearing from the station by video.
- Changes to Legal Aid:
  - For some individuals who do not qualify for legal aid and cannot afford private counsel but are involved with MH Diversion, the CMHA worker is being asked by the Crown to address the court.

**d) Hamilton**

- Tyson announced that Satar Wahidi, Manager of COAST will be co-chairing the Regional HSJCC meetings with him.
- Cathy reported that the Ministry of Children and Social Services – Youth Probation announced today that there will be staffing realignments of Youth Probation Officers throughout the Province. Due to low youth Probation Case Load numbers several Youth Probation Officers will be relocated to the Ministry of Solicitor General-Adult Probation Office.

**e) Halton**

- Not present.
- Liane presented an email from Terry McGurk mentioning his invitation to a representative of the Halton region to the table.
  - Email dated March 11, 2016:
    - "I have invited.....Chondrena Vieira-Martin who is the ED of Halton Family Services. Chondrena sits on the Halton HSJCC and because Burlington is part of our LHIN we need to have a representative from Halton, she has agreed to give a report on what is happening in Halton with their HSJCC on a regular basis and also Liaison between the two committees."

**f) OTHER DISCUSSIONS**

- Discussion regarding the CMHA worker being asked by the Crown to address the court.
- Discussion regarding the pros/cons of Mental Health Treatment Court.
- How do we serve these individuals better? One option is to schedule the hearing with the same judge/crown.
  - It would be beneficial for the individual to have a judge who believes that mental health is real.

**Next Meeting**

**February 10, 2020**

**Place: St. Joes, 100 West 5<sup>th</sup> Hamilton – Room A217 (Seminar Rm1)**