

## MINUTES

### Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, February 11, 2021

10:00 am-12:00 pm

#### Zoom Meeting – Details in Meeting Request

#### 1) Welcome

- Tyson welcomed everyone
- Introduced himself, Satar and Nicole

#### 2) Review of Minutes

- Approved by Nicole Bryan

#### 3) Additional Agenda Items

- Workplan – this committee has struggled with why we're here
  - o Local table in Hamilton is a situation table
  - o Would like to see if we can create something unique and practical for us, such as needs assessment
  - o Have unique factors in our region, such as indigenous people, opiate use, homelessness
  - o Would like to create a bit more intentional direction, so members feel this is meeting is a good use of your time
  - o Would be a shame to not utilize this “brain trust” we have and to bring more people in who have vision for what we can accomplish in the next year
- Tyson is developing a workplan, for which he'll be asking the committee for their feedback and input, once it's sketched out
- Cindy appreciates being able to attend these meetings because it's a sounding board for her local committees – nice to have somewhere to go to ask questions – she misses them when we have to cancel these meetings

#### 4) Update from Provincial HSJCC

- Community of practice being set up regarding release from custody
  - o Had first meeting Feb 1<sup>st</sup>
  - o If involved in release from custody issues, you can join and share best practices, networking, problem solving, etc.
  - o Trevor can give you contact information if you're interested
- Time for workplans – membership lists are required now by March 1<sup>st</sup>
- Prebudget submission due any day now

- Working on submission to provincial government regarding COVID vaccines in correctional institutions
  - o Should inmates be vaccinated on a priority basis
  - o Some people feel they shouldn't be a priority
  - o Will be submitting it to the provincial government regarding human rights & public health
- Provincial HSJCC, CMHA Ontario and the John Howard Society of Ontario are working on a project regarding drug treatment courts and the use of cannabis
  - o Could it be used for harm reduction
  - o Will be talking to people across the province – court workers, as well as clients of drug treatment courts
  - o Had someone in Hamilton but had difficulty connecting with someone in the Niagara drug treatment courts
  - o If interested or you know someone who would like to help with this – wouldn't be very time consuming
    - Just want to connect with people willing to do the surveys
    - They will receive an honorarium for doing this
    - Please let Trevor know if you have anyone
    - Jacquie will talk to Trevor after the meeting
- Cindy - **Membership list** – submitted as part of our workplans – send to our chairs to be submitted with workplans – they want **name, agency, title** if possible, and **email address**
- Cindy – is there a deadline for getting workplans in – is Tuesday ok? She's way ahead of everyone else

## 5) Budget

- Financial Update – Joel Perez, CMHA Finance
  - o Shared screen of Excel spreadsheet of the year-to-date overview of our financial situation in 2021
  - o As of January 2021, includes fund allocation by region
  - o We have a yearend surplus that needs to be managed before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 or we have to return it to the ministry
    - We have a larger yearend surplus than usual
    - Looking for ways to spend this money before yearend
    - Projected figures assuming local committees will use their funds by March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021
    - With all of the projections, we still have over \$9,000
    - Met with Tyson and Satar regarding a crisis bed funding proposal – looking at funding homelessness in our community –

looking at about \$19,000 for this project – under additional allocation

- A lot of assumptions that all agencies will spend their money
- Questions:
  - Cindy – have plans to spend their entire budget for both agencies – has additional \$2,493 for each of the 2 regions – can also tap into the \$9k surplus – talk to chairs to plan how to use this before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2021
  - Tyson - regions can use the surplus for whatever their committees feel is best as long as it helps the people in your specific regions - can be done collaboratively or by individual committee
  - Satar – Barrett Centre is onboard with getting funding for crisis beds
  - Satar was at suicide prevention meeting in Hamilton – Living Works – requested some funding for training – very inexpensive – Satar will look into other training that people could do
  - Tyson – will still be in pandemic in the new year – once we get our budget for next year, we can figure out how we can spend that money on training and new initiatives – keep that in the back of your mind for 2021/2022
  - Please bring any ideas or needs to the chairs and they can help figure out how to make it happen

## **6) Committee Member Updates**

- Leah Jeffery introduced herself - replacing Tom Archer – has been on the Niagara HSJCC
- Jaime – continuing to work remotely for duty counsel services, going well but still a challenge for those who don't have the technology needed
  - o Encouraging people to call ahead of time
  - o Encouraging service providers to reach out
  - o A lot of collaboration
  - o Still have methods in place with legal aid to allow them to get more coverage and be more involved
  - o Lawyers are able to provide application on behalf of their clients
  - o Continuing to address issues
- Jacquie – Kelly working with the courts to allow people to attend court remotely from their office & people will call in with their worker with them
  - o Legal aid is doing the same thing

- No bench warrants for not showing up – after a while, they will get bench summons
- Wellness court on pause since pandemic started but now would like to amalgamate the drug treatment aspect with a wellness court
  - Judges in their area interested in doing this
  - Mental health diversion system during pandemic working in emergency mode right now
  - Once set up, will start with a small number of people
  - Need a consistent judge and a consistent crown
    - Waiting to hear how it will be resourced – hoping that CMHA can help with this
  - Learned that nothing happens quickly in the courts
- Jaime – would it be similar to the Milton model
  - Jacquie - don't have the quantity of fitness and NCR hearings they have in Toronto
    - Plan to look at the Milton model and tweak it for Niagara
    - Case worker in community will develop treatment plan for individual and keep bringing them back before courts to ensure that the risk is being reduced
    - Could mean a significant reduced sentence or a stay

## 7) Local Updates

- Niagara
  - Leah - Alarmed by the number of outbreaks in their correctional facilities
- Haldimand Norfolk
  - Will be able to spend some of their education dollars – thanks to Trevor for sending out workshops available – going to do the Trauma Informed Care – 30 participants
  - Crisis bed situation HN – unable to set up hotel rooms for the homeless but creating a subcommittee to address homelessness in their region
- Brant
  - Cindy – obtaining devices
    - Tablets or smartphones
    - Will place them around the community so that clients can use them to attend court
    - Planning to put some time on the devices, so that they aren't restricted to WIFI
    - Figuring out what they can do going forward, to allow access for court

- Surprised at how resourceful client population were
  - Jaime loves the idea of getting devices out
    - Considering creating kiosks where they could have clients connect
    - Would be great if provided with cell phones
    - With the device capabilities, they can do it where they are
    - Can give them the options of where they could go
    - In Hamilton they put it in a library, which closed when lockdown started
- Hamilton
  - Struggled with clients unable to meet apprehension criteria for assessment
    - Getting psychiatrists out in the field to do assessments to reduce need to be apprehended
    - For those not able to take care of themselves
    - Form 1 scenario – would be very helpful for some of our very complicated clients, especially for those living on the street
  - Nicole – navigating challenges of virtual court
  - CMHA – got a number of cell phones in the summer with data capabilities
    - Distributing them to clients who didn't have ability to contact them
    - Snapped up quickly – data until the end of March
    - Got more funding so that the devices are useful
    - Necessary expenditure to keep people connected
      - Will get lost, broken, stolen, sold
      - Not expecting to get them back

**Next Meeting:**

Thursday, May 13, 2021

From 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Via Zoom – Details in Meeting Request

All meetings will be via Zoom until further notice