

## MINUTES

### Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, August 12, 2021

10:00 am-12:00 pm

#### Zoom Meeting – Details in Meeting Request

#### 1) Welcome

- Went around the table to introduce ourselves
- Brandy Sands has replaced Kelly Falconer – Niagara Rep at HSJCC Local meetings for now but will be more involved in future

#### 2) Review of Minutes

- Minutes from February 2021 - Approved by Trevor Tymchuk, no seconder

#### 3) Additional Agenda Items

- Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Do we need to reschedule this meeting?
  - Jaime – could do the Thursday before or another day that week
  - Trevor – week after is usually better
  - Will change to Friday, November 12<sup>th</sup>  
**ACTION: Sherry to reschedule Nov 11<sup>th</sup> to Nov 12<sup>th</sup>**
- Discuss the purpose of the regional committee, its' membership and agenda items (Trevor)
  - Attendance at meetings – meetings often cancelled due to low attendance
  - If members don't feel the need to attend, what do they feel is the purpose of this committee?
  - Important that we have purpose or function that members find worth their time
  - Need to find our focus
  - Cindy
    - Relies on this committee for info and approvals
    - Misses having meetings when they're cancelled
    - Looks for feedback
    - Nice place to reconnect about what's happening in the area
    - Off today but at the meeting because it's important to her
  - Liane
    - It's become an issue since Terry left
    - With COVID, attendance was even lower

- In the past have done needs assessments and came up with a purpose – was useful but we haven't utilized the committee the way we could be
- A big issue that was addressed was lack of doctors willing to be involved with CTOs, etc.
- *Maybe try needs assessment at local committees, identifying support needed at regional level, then get it to the provincial level*
- Trevor
  - A great function of the regional committee – connects local committees with provincial committees
  - Needs and gap analyses done but nothing came of them
  - Same thing in Niagara – a lot of work done but didn't go anywhere
  - *Would be good to pick one or two things each year*
  - A very successful action was getting the letter done for the provincial regarding court appearances by Zoom
- Liane
  - Was asked if there have been less fitness referrals since the pandemic started
  - *Might be good for the local committees to discuss what should be addressed at the regional meeting*
- Jacquie
  - When she started, Terry was retiring
  - Meetings in Hamilton – pretty large table and always quite packed
  - Was able to attend most meetings at that time (less now due to unmanageable court schedules)
  - Not sure we need a crown from every region
  - Sometimes feels awkward as part of this committee but hopes to represent the link between the courts and the clients served by the HSJCC at the meeting
  - Crowns want to serve clients better but with the pandemic, the amount of court time has set them back
- Trevor
  - Regional committee should be concentrating on things at a higher level than direct service
  - Happy Jacquie attends our meetings because we should be looking at the policies, etc.
  - In Hamilton the Local is a situation table
  - In Niagara they look at case studies in retrospect
  - We should be looking at how we can change things overall
  - Having a member from the crown, gives us their perspective at the system level

- Liane
  - *Maybe we relook at who we want sitting around the table – based on their current roles instead of their location – did this before*
- Jacquie – *a physician from a detention centre* attended in the past – would be helpful to have someone in this role on this committee
- Liane – we should look at the list
  - **ACTION Sherry will put a list together of the positions held by those that are on the list**
- Satar – no handover when he became the chair
  - Tyson representing court perspective is missed
  - Happy to continue – anxious to get a replacement for Tyson
  - Looking for another chair for help from the court perspective
  - Hasn't been attending provincial meetings
  - Has asked to another regional meeting to get ideas
  - Ideas need to come from this group or the locals
  - **ACTION Satar will work on getting local ideas**
- Liane – once Tyson is replaced, it will help
  - Everyone has to put an effort into the committee
  - Should be discussing with local tables, what to bring to regional committee
- Cindy – local is quarterly
  - At the local level, they do what we do at the regional level
  - Not sure what this committee is for but it's a great resource & great for networking
  - Having Jaime attend her local committee was very helpful
  - Not sure what her local committees might be looking for regarding bringing issues for problem solving – doesn't know what that would look like
  - Looks at the regional committee for what she can bring back to her local committees
- Trevor – No needs to bring to Regional committee? – bring successes
  - A local system success might work elsewhere
- Veronica – perspective from sitting on various local committees, clearly our areas are different, complicating information flowing in both directions, as well as membership
- Jaime – manager of criminal law services in legal aid in Hamilton
- Satar – Terry left some research that was done by a student
  - Does anyone recall it
  - Related to CTOs? – efficacy of CTOs?
  - We're able to use students for that kind of work
  - *Do you have a thesis type question that we could work on?*

- Trevor – Peterborough HSJCC funds a couple of students each year to work on projects
  - Satar – could be a valuable resource
- The regional committee will be covering provincial conference fees for all who register by Nov 2 2021
  - Group registration instructions have been sent out
  - People with lived experience can attend for free
    - Person needs access to a laptop or desktop computer – can't use phones or tablets, etc.
  - Non-members are welcome to register for the conference
- Discuss experience of services supporting clients in other court jurisdictions (Cindy)
  - People with support from other jurisdictions likely due to existing relationships
  - Supports from other jurisdictions usually reach out to colleagues in the jurisdiction of the client
  - Niagara court supports will represent their clients if they have to appear in court in other regions
    - Need to build in processes to support the cross jurisdictions
    - What would it look like to build this in the back end?
  - Ok to continue to do this, regardless of where the court appearance is
    - Court doesn't care where the support comes from
    - Will take all the support they can get
    - COVID's forced some great changes – ability to be supported virtually has helped a lot
- Discuss Police & MH project (Cindy)
  - Looking for some info on the details
  - Press release – different than an MCRRT or Coast team – but same feel
  - Brandy – Niagara had one-time funding to put an MHW in dispatch
    - MHART team & MCRRT team (co-response)
    - 911 call triage process – what team is more appropriate
    - One-time funding used for Quest Community Health Centre nurse
    - Didn't get off the ground but idea continues
    - CIT training for their dispatch team now
    - EMS hosting mental health worker and dispatch
  - Trevor – presentation at the conference in November – being done in Elgin-Middlesex
  - Satar – If dispatcher feels a call is MH related, they will pass it on to Coast and our MHW takes over
    - Niagara does the same and have added a low priority 6 – call for service with uniform – low acuity dispatch – all referrals go to Coast

- Jaime – How are 911 calls triaged with regards to mental health
  - Depends on the circumstances
  - If criminal charges, the MHW steps out
  - Number 1 priority – safety of person who's subject of the call and the people around them
- Satar – question for Brandy – how do you balance calls coming in from crisis line vs going to a dispatched call
  - Ongoing issue – prioritized the crisis lines – don't have the funding to have both
  - Sometimes crisis line receives calls from police to send out a team – move people around as needed
  - Ongoing challenge
- Cindy – question – do we have a timeframe for when court cases will be in person again
  - Jacquie believes it will be hybrid
  - Starting in September, the presumption will be in-person
  - Other courts will continue to be by Zoom to reduce the number of people in the court room
    - Some courts find it more efficient to use Zoom
  - Starting jury trials again in September for the first time since the pandemic started
- Jen from an institutional perspective
  - Individuals will continue to have bail hearings and remands by Zoom
  - Before COVID started they were already doing a hybrid process
    - Not sure if it will change back now
    - Can't see ever going back to having bail hearings in person
    - Reduces transporting prisoners and reduces putting a lot of people in a small space
    - Only time appearances are in person – when case is very serious or client has serious mental health issues – judge requires them to attend in person
    - Bail hearings will continue to be virtual in the near future
- Cindy – Virtual bail hearings have eliminated the need for the “Red Envelope” program
  - They try to attend in person if their client is appearing in person

#### **4) Update from Provincial HSJCC**

- Not a lot of updates
- New junior policy analyst
- Community of practice – transition from custody – 90 or so people from across the province – let him know if you're interested

- **ACTION Satar will look at workplans from last year and then ask people to contribute via email**

## 5) Budget

- Spoke to Joel – he will attend the next meeting
- Provincial HSJCC Conference
  - Most coordinating will be done via email
  - We have money in the budget
    - Virtual and much less expensive this year
    - Can send more people than most years
  - **ACTION Trevor will send written version of registration form to Sherry**
  - **ACTION Sherry will send an email inviting anyone interested in attending, to fill in the registration form and return it to her**
  - **ACTION Sherry will accumulate and pay for all registrations at once**
    - \$50 for Members of HSJCC
    - \$75 for non-members
    - Free for people with lived experience
- We have excess money due to the pandemic
  - Excess money from the end of the last fiscal year went to Barrett Centre to provide several hotel room beds every night
  - Brandy – re-engaged conversation between CMHA, Jacqueline & courts talking about community treatment court
    - Making it Niagara appropriate – will revisit in November – exciting times
  - Trevor – Talking with Niagara Region Homelessness Program to put together a working group to look at people who are discharged from the justice system & homelessness
  - Satar – it would help if Brandy could share these documents – she will be able to do that in November **ACTION for Sherry – don't let her forget**

## 6) Committee Member Updates

- **Brant Local HSJCC**
  - Steering committee has been developed and planning is underway for a Drug Treatment Court in Brantford. No start date set at this time.
  - Co-chair, Kim Woodward off for a maternity leave and a temporary replacement has been recruited from the membership – Dana Maddock (Legal Aid Ontario).
  - The 5 tablets purchased late last fiscal year have been distributed to community agencies and are being used pretty regularly for court appearances and client appointments.
    - Considering purchasing a couple more from this year's budget.

- With the exception of the Drug Tx Court subgroup, the committee is on summer break and we reconvene with a meeting scheduled for September 21, 2021.

- **Haldimand Norfolk Local HSJCC**
  - Began Process Mapping (emergency and supported housing in HN) in June, facilitated by our areas System Manager, Mental Health & Addictions.
  - We have held two meetings since June 2021 and work will continue throughout the summer.
  - Once the ground work is completed a subcommittee will work through the “solution” brainstorming and community agency engagement portion.
  - This is a large undertaking for the Haldimand Norfolk area with many considerations coming to light as discussions are held. The larger committee is on summer break and reconvenes October 4, 2021.

## **7) Local Updates**

- a. Niagara
- b. Haldimand Norfolk
- c. Hamilton
- d. Brantford
- e. Halton

### **Next Meeting:**

Friday, November 12, 2021

From 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Via Zoom – Details in Meeting Request

All meetings will be via Zoom until further notice