

Simcoe-Muskoka Human Services and Justice Coordination Committee

Terms of Reference

1. Background

The Ontario government's policy framework for people with clinical needs who come in conflict with the law, A *Provincial Strategy to Coordinate Human Services and Criminal Justice Systems in Ontario*, was approved in June 1997.

Further, the report of the Forensic Mental Health Services Expert Advisory Panel entitled, *Assessment, Treatment and Community Reintegration of the Mentally Disordered Offender (2002)*, recommendation that:

“the four partner Ministries (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services, Ministry of Public Safety and Security, and Ministry of the Attorney General), with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care being the lead Ministry, equally endorse and fund the establishment of local and regional forensic coordinating committees, a key mechanism as per the inter-ministerial report, A Provincial Strategy to Coordinate Human Services and Criminal Justice System in Ontario (Human Services and Justice Coordination Project, 1997).

It is further recommended that a formal commitment be made by each of the four Ministries to recreate the Provincial Coordinating Committee to provide support and oversee the work of the Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees throughout the Province. Local and Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees must liaise with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as the lead Ministry.”

Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees (HSJCCs) were established in response to a recognized need to coordinate resources and services, and plan more effectively for people who are in conflict with the law. Priority consideration will be made for people with a serious mental illness, developmental disability, acquired brain injury, drug and alcohol addictions, and/or fetal alcohol syndrome. The committees are a cooperative effort of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-term Care, and Community Safety and Correctional Services.

The two primary areas of emphasis for the committees are:

1. to provide a planning table to bring together service providers to find solutions to the problem of the criminalization of people with the defined unique needs, and;
2. to develop a model of shared responsibility and accountability in dealing with this group of individuals at points of intersection with the justice system.

Regional committees were established to coordinate communication and service integration planning between health, criminal justice and developmental service organizations within specific regions. Local committees/advisory groups are formed as required in each Region.

2. Purpose

To improve service delivery for persons with defined unique needs, who become involved with, or are at risk for becoming involved with, the criminal justice system. Defined unique needs includes people with a serious mental illness, developmental disability, acquired brain injury, drug and alcohol addictions, and/or fetal alcohol syndrome.

3. Goals

- a. To coordinate communication and to establish effective linkages between criminal justice, health and social service agencies.
- b. To establish processes for coordinated planning, joint problem solving, and the integrated delivery of services.
- c. To promote, organize and deliver education and public awareness opportunities.

4. Objectives

- a) To identify priority issues.
- b) To implement the Simcoe-Muskoka strategies that address priority issues in our work plan.
- c) To support the efforts of the local Area {Barrie, Collingwood, Midland & Orillia} HSJC Advisory Groups.
- d) To ensure that consumer and family perspectives and input are integral to the development and implementation of Simcoe Muskoka strategies.
- e) To appoint sub-committees and working groups as required to address identified issues.
- f) To maintain linkages with established committees, structures, or groups within the criminal justice, health and social service systems, as necessary, in order to facilitate the work of the Committee.
- g) To exchange information with other Human Services and Justice Coordination projects around the province.

5. Frequency of Meetings

The Simcoe-Muskoka HSJC will meet at least five times per year.

6. Membership

There will be representation from the following groups and service sectors:

- Community Mental Health Services/Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- Institutional Mental Health Services
- Addiction Services
- Developmental Services
- Aboriginal Community
- Police Services
- Crown Attorney's Office/Ministry of the Attorney General
- Central North Correctional Centre
- Probation and Parole
- Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services
- Families and Consumers
- Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Provincial HSJC Committee
- Other interested affiliated community members/agencies

The Committee will review membership as necessary to facilitate the work of the Committee. Where regular participation from a sector is not possible, the Committee will ensure sector liaison strategies are in place.

7. Co-Chairs

Two Co-Chairs will be appointed by the Committee for a two year term with the possibility of renewal.

8. Recording and Circulation of Minutes

Administrative support to the Committee will be the responsibility of the membership. Minutes and reports will be circulated to all Committee members (to share with representative sectors).

9. Linkages

The Committee will maintain linkages with other standing committees and planning structures including but not limited to the Simcoe County Mental Health System Management Committee, the Simcoe County Developmental Services Operations Committee, Central East Network of Specialized Care, Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee, Simcoe County Coalition of Child, Youth & Family Services and North Simcoe Muskoka LHIN.

Approved by the Simcoe-Muskoka Human Services and Justice Coordination Committee Nov. 22, 2010