

MINUTES

Human Service and Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, December 17, 2015

12:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Present:

Chair: Terry McGurk

Co-Chair: Dennis DeSalvo (absent)

Recording Secretary: Sandra Rodwell

Jill Pollock
Sandra Kurdziel
Lisa Whittingham
Antonio Stanissa
Kristen Emery
Liz Coccia

Gene Uchida
Fiona Kouyoumdjian
Todd Norman
Tom Bennett
Deirdra Burke
Kimberly McCallum

Liane Taylor
Greg Tedesco
Jennifer Johnston
Deb McGrath

Regrets:

Robert Cosby
Wil vanDokkumburg
Barbara Benedict
Gale Melligan

Heather Saunders
Jenn Sansalone
Heather Padgett
Fraya Mortensen

Lina Winship
John Whyte
David Stam
Marilyn Jewell

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Review and Adoption of Minutes – November 26, 2015

Minutes were approved by Jill Pollock, and seconded by Lisa Whittingham,

3. Agenda

• **Consultation re: Segregation in Detention Centres**

- Provincial Hsjcc was asked to do segregation review to see if there are better ways to handle individuals with mental illness who are in segregation
- Terry talked to Barb Benedict and Fiona Kouyoumdjian regarding what happens in Hamilton
- Liz Coccia expressed that some people feel safer in segregation and don't want to leave to go anywhere else; with overcrowding in the detention centres, many inmates prefer segregation
- In Hamilton> segregation leads to a lack of human connection with support staff and others
- In the 90's, the detention centre opened a specialized unit>was award-winning, and offered specialized training for guards

- Language around segregation can have a negative impact on the resources that are made available on release>"administrative lock-up" is a better and more descriptive term; "segregation" sounds more punitive
 - To be able to hand-pick the staff who work in segregation and Special Psychiatric settings in detention to find the most empathetic qualities would be helpful, but this is not possible.
 - Changes in the environment are difficult, & consistency is important to those with mental illness
 - What support do guards receive?
 - There is a perception of distrust among staff; staff do understand the difference between criminals and those with mental illness
- **Update on MCRRT:**
 - funding is now in place, and there are currently 2 MCRRT teams in both Hamilton and Halton, providing service from 1000-2200 and 1300-0100; Niagara MCRRT provides service 7 hours/day; Haldimand/Norfolk MCRRT provides service from 0700-1800; Brantford also provides MCRRT service from 0800 – 2300hrs.
 - These teams have diverted many from the emergency department, providing a great cost savings for police & hospitals
 - Wait times have been greatly reduced
 - Because of this success, funding has been provided to standardize service across the LHIN, Terry has this task.
 - Costs have been reduced; now need to measure what the impact is on clients health and satisfaction levels
 - A threshold grid with 25 points to be met has been developed to help gather stats
 - Police, crisis workers & hospital partnership
 - Consistent reduction in wait times
 - MCRRT service can only be accessed from 911 dispatch
 - EMS also responds to calls; contentious> is there an opportunity for MCRRT to relieve EMS? Half EMS clients are mentally ill in Niagara
 - Monthly stats are gathered and submitted to LHIN
- **Review of Old Cases**
 - **New Cases**

4. Next Meeting: Thursday, January 28, 2016

Meeting Schedule for 2016:

Thursday, February 25, 2016

Thursday, March 24, 2016

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Thursday, May 26, 2016

Thursday, June 23, 2016

Thursday, July 28, 2016

Thursday, August 25, 2016

Thursday, Sept. 22, 2016

Thursday, October 27, 2016

Thursday, November 24, 2016

Thursday, December 22, 2016