

MINUTES

Hamilton Local Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee

Thursday, May 28, 2020

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Zoom Meeting – Details in Meeting Request

Membership:

Satar Wahidi - COAST - Co-chair	R	Jessica Montana - Aboriginal Court Worker	R
Tyler Benn - CMHA - Co-chair	✓	Joyce Nyamadi - Choices	R
Ainsley Howard - HWDC	✓	Karen McLeod - SJHH ACTT2	✓
Alison Hibbett – Bethesda (Mat Leave)	R	Katryna McKenna - Bethesda	✓
Amanda Richmond – SJHH COAST	✓	Keri Zammit - HWDC	✓
Andrew McLean - Crown Attorney	✓	Kristen Emery - DSO	✓
Angela Ethelston - Bethesda	✓	Lenore Lukasik-Foss - Barrett Centre	R
Angela Isoki - Correctional Service	R	Lina Caruso - Probation & Parole	R
Barb Benedict/Liane Taylor - SJHH Forensics Program	✓	Lisa Gajewicz - John Howard Society	✓
Ben Millard - SJHH CTO Coordinator	✓	Martha Harvie - DSO	R
Cathy Serra	R	Michelle Semonovitch - Mental Health Outreach Program	R
Danielle Newton - Contact Hamilton	R	Pete Wiesner - HPS	R
Ethan Stepho - SJHH PES	R	Rachel Lamont - SJHH Psychiatrist	R
Fanis Juma-Radstake - Hamilton Bridge	R	Ruth Greenspan - John Howard Society	R
Gene Uchida - ABI Program	R	Samantha Harding - Good Shepherd	R
Greg Melnik - SJHH ACTT2	R	Sandra Kurdziel - Social Navigation Program	✓
Heather Saunders - SJHH CSIS	✓	Sarah Fuller - SJHH RAAM Clinic	✓
Helen Harris - SJHH Hospital to Home	✓	Sue Phipps - CMHA	R
Ian Lockett - Bethesda	✓	Susan Boyd - ADGS	✓
Jennifer Johnston - HWDC	✓	Sherry Lewis – COAST - Recorder	✓

- **Welcome and Introductions**
 - Tyson welcomed everyone

- **Review and Adoption of Minutes – February 27, 2020**
 - Minutes were approved by Angela Ethelston and seconded by Lisa Gajewicz

- **Additions to the Agenda**
 - None

- **Program Updates**
 - Tyson – CMHA & Court Support Services are working virtually, providing services by email and phone, etc.

- Because they're not at Court House and can't access the Detention Centre, shifted focus from connecting while they're in custody to while they're out of custody
- Getting great support from various organizations regarding referrals
- Keeping everyone busy
- Some resources available HSJCC members during the pandemic
 - CMHA – number of webinars and training if looking to do professional development while working at home
 - in collaboration with St Joe's also offering telephone support and counselling for front line workers – peer support – CBT – four sessions of phone support with practical tools, resources and next steps
 - Canadian Alliance and Homelessness – some really good information, tips and strategies
 - Beck institute has also set up some CBT webinars as well
- Angela – Ian and Angela working remotely supporting individuals with passport, finding support workers, continuing to take on new clients
 - Everyone has been coping
 - Seeing some breakdown with families now because it's been going on so long.
- Ian – Busier, especially in Hamilton
 - Difficult to navigate in and out of the legal system right now
 - Never been busier
 - It's been difficult but manageable
- Lianne – Barb and I are alternating one week at a time in the office
 - Carrying on as usual
 - Still getting a fair amount of fitness referrals
 - All assessments by video
 - With HWDC getting creative with cell phones
 - Using cell phones in custody is unique
 - Primarily the last 2 months main referrals are for fitness
 - Still taking people in but everyone who comes in has to follow safety protocols
 - Had to admit patients who had COVID
 - Releasing people from custody from the forensic unit which is unusual
 - All court sessions are done by video
 - Difficulty getting people where they need to be once out of custody
- Lisa – John Howard – very busy
 - Most programs running remotely
 - Bail program very busy
 - Cases aren't closing
 - Caseloads getting bigger and bigger
 - A lot of more high needs people than normal
 - Supporting clients using Facebook and lots of different platforms
 - Not coming in but finding a way to get support
 - Thank you to everyone for their support

- Keri and Jennifer (HWDC) – things have changed a lot starting around the end of March
 - Started intake unit for isolation precaution
 - Every new admit were put on isolation for 14 days
 - Moved units around to accommodate that
 - Releases through court has helped
 - Moved all women out to Vanier Centre while dealing with COVID
 - All are essential services, so working but with proper PPE
 - Not doing transfers because of their numbers
 - Not transferring to treatment facilities
 - Otherwise business as usual for them
 - Difficult connecting people with service during this time
 - Jennifer working with CMHA to help connect people with service as much as possible
 - Video bail? Haven't heard about any new video suites
 - Officers using cell phones to do video bail hearings
- Heather – inpatient units, schizophrenia
 - Had to decant one unit on the other 2 units
 - Was a bit crowded but back to 3 units now
 - Had an outbreak on Waterfall 2
 - Taking regional patients
 - Were able to decant a few patients into community housing
 - Challenged with dual diagnosis and getting support for them
 - Other than that, business as usual
 - Have a couple of vacancies on each of the units
- Helen – thanks for shout out with McGinty
 - Wants to acknowledge her colleagues at Good Shepherd neighbours who helped them to get temporary housing for 13 patients with plans to find permanent housing
 - Have had a lot of help supporting clients with housing – helping to decant
 - Indwell has found permanent housing for 2 patients
 - Please note name change from “HealthLinks” to “Hospital to Home”
 - Hoping to continue to move forward under the new structures of the Hamilton Health Team
 - Continuing to provide an integrated approach, Hospital to Home still seeing people, mostly virtually but will go out to see clients if needed with all proper precautions
 - Referrals we're getting are people having issues with:
 - More complex needs
 - Dual diagnosis
 - Homelessness
 - Transitioning clients as much as possible when people feel ready
 - Caseloads are growing
- Kristen – part of the DSO with Contact Hamilton

- Closed to public physically but doing it all virtually
- Intake is still open, receiving calls and proceeding with intake and eligibility confirmations for developmental services
- Assessors are doing applications with people who are confirmed eligible and needing to apply for the services by video conference – going well
 - Trying to help people with technological issues
- Grateful for all of their community partners who are doing what they can to support clients, collaborating virtually or offline
- Extremely busy
- Some people desperately need help are having difficulty getting the services they need
- Business as usual as much as possible
- Call us if you have questions
- Andrew – things at courts very different than they were in March
 - Courts are existing virtually right now
 - Bail hearings by telephone
 - Guilty Plea Court done by video conferencing
 - All out-of-custody remands – delayed for 10 weeks until at least July 6th
 - Not sure what will happen then
 - Last week launched out-of-custody Guilty Plea Court – conducted by video
 - Can participate by audio conferencing, as well, so they can wrap their matters up
 - Only non-custodial sentences are being done right now
 - Getting through some of the backlog but caseloads are growing
 - When arranging an out-of-custody plea, it's usually done with council but it can be done by someone who is self-representing
 - If self-representing must be done by video (no audio conference by telephone)
 - All the cases so far have had council
- Karen – we have moved to a different service provision
 - Face to face only for essential services
 - Face to face only for injections
 - Oral meds – face to face only if there's no other alternative
 - CTO renewals – face to face only if there's no other alternative
 - Safety for a suicidal situation, for instance, where intervention is required
 - If they must be in physical contact, they are ensuring their safety – using the pre-screening process, proper PPE, social distancing, etc.
 - All other care being done by telephone – which is really difficult for their clients and interferes with the ability to build rapport
 - Interesting to note: Numbers are consistent with the numbers for the same time last year when you combine the telephone and face to face encounters
 - ACTT teams split into 2 groups
 - Half the staff works at home
 - Half of them work in the office

- Switch every 2 weeks to ensure that if there was any contracting of the virus, teams can switch places
- Looking at ramping up the services but will remain doing face to face only when absolutely necessary
- Business as usual, other than that
- Re: outpatient at St Joe's – moved to telephone or zooming as much as possible
- Anyone going in for an injection is taken care of with all the appropriate precautions
- Van for SOC and TOPS outpatient programs
 - Drives around and stops in front of lodging homes or individuals' homes and provides an environment where the individual can come out and get their injection in a clean work space
 - The van has been good during COVID due to several reasons
 - Takes out several of the necessary steps
 - Individual screened by phone – then asked to come out to the van
 - Individual receives care needed and can return to the environment
 - Received a lot of accolades for SOC and TOPS – but more challenging for ACTT
 - Something that SOC and TOPS and ACTT will continue using
 - it would be good to continue after all is done if we can get funding for it – could expand the services they currently offer
- Ben – not much to add
 - CTO office operating as per usual
 - Reacting to new precedent by CCB
 - A lot of physicians doing assessments over the phone or video
 - Still seeing some people in person as needed
- Katrina – working remotely
 - Attempting to support individuals who are in the justice program and the detention centres
 - HWDC has been amazing
 - Huge help
 - Super easy to contact
 - Taking referrals
 - Still coming in at a rapid rate
 - Have had about 40 referrals since the beginning of COVID
 - Still have a lot of individuals going in and out of custody
 - Continuing to flow through
 - With the July 6th date approaching, trying to contact individuals out on bail to give them their new dates
- Sandra – extremely busy
 - Business as usual plus
 - Doing the same work but can't focus on referrals
 - Focusing on basic needs – homeless numbers are high

- Working with Street Outreach for the homeless to make sure they have the necessities and know where to go to get support
 - Went from 35 unique to 50 unique
 - A lot of people out on the street right now
- Susan Boyd – ADGS – working remotely
 - Taking new referrals
 - Calls increasing for new people
 - Lost some people, possibly because they don't have access to phones
 - Not sure when they are going back to normal – just looking into this now
 - Working with Street Outreach
 - Case managers are working mostly from home but will go out if necessary
- Sarah – RAAM - Everything by telephone or OTN
 - Sarah and the addiction specialist are both in the office
 - Physicians working remotely
 - Initially saw lower numbers but it's getting busier in the last couple of weeks – lots of referrals
 - Not a “walk-in” right now – not sure what that will happen with that in the next few weeks but it will be different than it has been in the past
 - Retaining people is going well
 - Having good luck with touching base by phone – more so than some in-person visits
 - Downfall is not getting to see people face to face
 - Business as usual just by phone
- Update on Provincial HSJCC
 - Meeting weekly
 - Doing a lot of advocacy with the Ministry of Justice
 - Asked for a funding increase for HSJCC network to match or double our current funding
 - More funding may flow through our network allowing more opportunity for training & research - will keep everyone informed about that
- **Review of Cases**
 - 7 cases discussed
 - 0 new cases
 - 0 cases closed
- Can we continue to offer a call-in option – YES we can – easier for people
- Please send agenda items for the next meeting to Tyson or Satar
- **Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, June 25, 2020 – 12:30**
Zoom – Details included in the meeting request