



North York Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (NY-HSJCC)

Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2016

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Metro North Court Library, 1000 Finch Avenue West

Present: Susan Adams (Co-chair) Defense Counsel; Andrew Graham (Co-chair), Cota; Tammy Tinney, NYG; Riun Shandler, Judiciary; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Arthur Stratton, Probation and Parole, Black Creek Office; Sheila Cressman, Crown Attorney's Office; Sabrina Cocuzza, Toronto Bail Program; Clayton Blackbeard, Duty Counsel (On behalf of Michael Story); Kaitlin Maynard, T.A. Patterson & Associates Inc. Wayne Willis, CHIRS

Regrets: Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; Nancy Blades, Cota; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Sheine Mankovsky, Judiciary; Diana Korn-Hassani, Toronto Police Service; Michael Story, Duty Counsel; Becky Paonessa, Salvation Army; Jennifer Kasha, CMHA

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of March 3, 2016 minutes

Minutes were approved.

Action Items Follow-up

- Andrew Graham reported on the TTC Tokens and Food Voucher meeting. Probation, Bail Program, Salvation Army, Duty Counsel and Cota were present. The purpose was to ensure access to the vouchers and tokens. 1. If a client has no mental health issues can be referred to the Salvation Army for these items. 2. If released from jail can get these items from Probation and Parole. The Committee will address access to these items collaboratively. Minutes were taken.
- Lunch and Learns. The topics of interest are Cultural Competency and available Resources for Sex Offenders given that CAMH has a long waitlist.

Presentation –Across Boundaries – Peter Ackie and Shen Adachi

- Information and handouts was distributed about Across Boundaries – An Ethnoracial Mental Health Centre and its anti-racist holistic services delivery model.
- They discussed the mandate of the organization – to provide dignified, inclusive and holistic mental health addiction services for racialized communities in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Offer services in 20 different languages
- Use a Housing First model approach
- Have a drop-in program
- Referrals can come from anywhere
- Application comes for Access Point
- Inmates can apply while in custody
- Alternative Therapies such as yoga, African Drumming, Traditional Chinese Medicine
- They summarized the issues facing racialized communities from the Courts, the Police, Officers of the Court – Bail and Probation, Duty Counsel and lawyers.
- Also discussed other barriers such as ESL -- those who can't read and write -- and the emotional impact of trauma. As well, it is difficult for those who are heavily medicated to wake up for early morning appointments.
- Peter Ackie and Shen Adachi were thanked for their informative presentation.

Lunch and Learns

- The next Lunch and Learn is on May 30, 2016. Topic is Legal and Psychosocial Perspectives on Immigration and Refugee Law. The invitation and flyer were distributed. It will be in – person and webinar format.
- Timeframe for sessions are May, October and February

Agency/Organization Updates

- Toronto Service Resolution Project – no updates

Service Co-ordination Issues

- Tammy Tinney informed the committee that the wait time for a psychiatric appointment at North York General, Mental Health and Justice Treatment and Support Services is taking longer. They are now booking for July. She currently has 69 active clients and 13 scheduled to see. There has been high demand for services. Also looking at geographical boundaries. Currently serving eight probation offices. Looking at whether to have shorter service terms.
- More update at the next meeting
- Because of the heavy workload response time may be slower.

- There has been an influx of requests for psychiatric letters. The psychiatrist is not always available. As a result the new procedure for people approved for Diversion is as follows: The psychiatrist will write the initial letter; Tammy Tinney will write the following letter, which will be reviewed by the psychiatrist. The final letter will be written by the psychiatrist.

Updates from the T-HSJCC and P-HSJCC

- Next meeting for the T-HSJCC is June 23, 2016
- P-HSJCC is working on a new website. More information to follow.

Presenter for next meeting – Tammy Tinney from North York General Hospital

Actions:

- No actions at this time

Next Meeting

September 8, 2016 from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Metro North Court Library, 1000 Finch Avenue, West