



# **Niagara Human Service & Justice Coordinating Committee System Gap Analysis Review**

**September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**Purpose:** To identify the gaps that currently exist where vulnerable individuals come into contact with, enter or exit the criminal justice system.

**Definitions:**

Gaps – The difference between the current state of our system and the desired future state of what our system needs to be for optimal wellness for the individual, for fair treatment and for a reduction in contact with the criminal justice system

Vulnerable Individuals – Individuals spanning all ages with complex issues that may include mental health, addictions, developmental disabilities, brain injuries, dementia, developmental trauma, etc. Can also include individuals from marginalized groups

Criminal Justice System – Could be contact with police, involvement in youth or adult criminal court, contact with probation, custodial periods at a detention centre or correctional institution or involvement in community correctional services.

**Rules:**

1. No blame process
2. No identifying specific agencies or organizations
3. Be respectful

**Attendance:** Jeff Sinclair (Niagara Region), Sarissa Klassen (Gateway), Christina Hall (Niagara Detention Centre), Nancy Zuliani (Niagara Detention Centre), Katrina Paradise (Niagara Detention Centre), Tina Hardman (Niagara Detention Centre), Lori Dunne (St. Joseph's Hospital), Sam Messier (John Howard Society), Catherine Livingston (Community Care), Jay Gemmell (John Howard Society), Dee Tyler (Gateway), Kelly Falconer (CMHA Niagara)

**Question 1: What is the current state of our system as it relates to vulnerable individuals coming into contact with, entering or exiting our criminal justice system in Niagara?**

- No continuity of care from community to institution and then back again
- Individuals may have multiples plans of care
- Difficulty confirming personal health information due to lack of sharing of information
- Strict & separate mandates
- Fragmented system with no interconnection
- Need areas missed because supports involved think someone else is doing it
- Recently approved for a Youth Wellness Hub in Niagara
- Released from court with nothing in place and no belongings, including ID, meds, phone, keys
- Justice System is the safety net for some people, so they return intentionally because it is a safer option
- Lack of housing options upon release
- Increase in senior arrests

**Question 2: What is the desired future state of our system that would achieve optimal wellness for the individual, fair treatment and an overall reduction of contact with the criminal justice system for this vulnerable population?**

- Threads that link the tables together
- Case coordination model
- Seamless transitions and continuity of care
- Case Management that begins in the jail and continues immediately upon release to the community
- Bringing the services from different systems to where the individuals are and when they need them
- Hub Models – One Stop Shop
- A safe place to go to upon release with supports in place
- Lots of housing options i.e. maintenance based, harm reduction

### **Question 3: What are the barriers preventing us from getting from the current state to the future state?**

- Hierarchy
- Priorities
- Decision Makers disconnected with the issues
- Don't have the statistics to prove the need or the cost savings
- Those who become involved in the criminal justice system are not a big priority for the larger population
- Privacy Legislation prevents people from working together to assist the individual
- Mental Health Act Limitations
- Accessibility of Capacity Assessment
- Heavy caseloads
- Lack of expertise and options for treatment in the Region
- Significant increase in addiction issues in Niagara
- Wait lists for specialized services and long term care facilities
- Can't complete GAIN Screener at NDC to set individuals up for treatment upon release so they have to return to the community for at least a month and often to a shelter before they can go
- Lack of safe & immediate housing options
- Transportation
- Telephone access in the institution

#### **Question 4: What do we need in place that we do not have currently in place to address these barriers?**

- Integrated service hubs in different areas of the Region
- Having one person who is there with the individual in their corner to support them through the transition (came from individuals with lived experience advisory committee as being most important thing)
- Reliable transportation from institution
- Government issued one month bus pass for individuals released from custody with no funds
- Case Managers in the institution that coordinate services within and then services for release as well
- Increase in available psychiatry to complete capacity assessments and oversee Community Treatment Orders for individuals with serious persistent mental illness where nothing else has been successful
- Have Community Health Centre Staff come in to NDC to connect individuals to Primary Care
- Red Envelope Program – to have individuals property (keys, meds, ID and phone) go with them to court
- Safe housing to support transition out of institution
- Agreement for information sharing – Bring in the Privacy Commissioner – Need to ensure everyone involved has the plan of care.
- Integrated Community Lead Model of Care across Niagara

- More supports in place in the home to prevent seniors from being charged and emergency housing options for seniors with behaviours who require care

**Next Steps:**

**Chair to Forward this Report to the Niagara & the Niagara North Anchor Tables to request they review and respond back to the Niagara HJCC.**