



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

Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2015

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; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Sarah Haslip, T.A. Patterson; Justice Jack Grossman; Wayne Willis, CHIRS; Arthur Stratton, Probation and Parole, Black Creek Office; Diana Korn-Hassani, Toronto Police Service; Anna Stanford, Crown Attorney's Office; Jessica Lee, CMHA; Bob Speakman, Salvation Army; Jennifer O'Brien, Cota

Regrets: Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; NYG; Amir Butt, Toronto Police Service; Lilliana Gallo, Probation & Parole, Jane St. Office; Lynda Lingard, Toronto Bail Program; Sheila Cressman, Crown Attorney's Office; Michael Story, Duty Counsel

Welcome and Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves.
- Rob Speakman updated the committee that he is replacing Sandra Ross. She retired a while back. He will retire at the end of the year.

Review of January 22, 2015, minutes

- The minutes were approved.

Business Arising from the Minutes

- Domenica Dileo reported on the information she gathered about medication dispensing procedures at the detention centres. For example, the Toronto East Detention Centre medication dispensing is based on the discretion of the health care staff and individual released may be issued 3 days of medication supply with exceptions.
- Concerns were expressed that this is limited because if one is released on Friday by Monday their meds will be used and most doctors do not work during the weekend to set an appointment to refill the Rx.
- What basis the health care professional decides whether or not to provide the meds?
- Some people do not have OHIP or ID when released to be able to refill meds quickly which impacts continuity of care once released from detention centres. Inmates meds are put with their belonging and they only have access to them when they have their belonging after leaving the detention centre. Sometimes belonging get misplaced so what happens to accessing meds? When detention centre provides medication upon

release, the name and instructions are provided on a sheet of paper placed with the meds in an envelope.

- If an inmate gives consent to the family doctor, the correctional staff is able to provide phone information about their medical care while in jail. Medical professional to medical professional with consent allows for care to continue when they are released.
- An inmate can leave the jail with their medical files but they have to request it.
- A medical file is transfer to another medical profession and require consent. With consent information can be provided by phone from one medical profession to another. If a case worker asks the detention centre's for the clients medical file with the consent of the released inmate – the detention centre will courier the file which can take one to seven days depending on the size of the file.
- It was agreed to continue gathering information about medication dispensing policies and procedures and make a list of our concerns. It's important to note that policies and practices might vary across detention centres.
- Prior to leaving jail the inmate can advise what clinic they will continue their methadone treatment and information can be sent to that clinic.
- What happens to the medication when one is remanded in custody?
- The medication dispensing initiative will be included in the 2015/2016 Work Plan. The goal of the initiative is to gather information and identify gaps and share the information with the HSJCC Locals. Look at developing a plan to address the gaps.
- Nirmala Budhram from the TSDC is not able to present today. It was suggested that she be invited to present at the next NY-HSJCC meeting. Andrew Graham will invite her. Jennifer O'Brien from Cota will be the presenter for today.

Lunch and Learns

- Domenica Dileo reported that the next Lunch and Learn will take place on March 30th from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in courtroom 304. The topic will be Fitness Hearings with Susan Adams and Michael Feindel. RSVP will be sent out shortly.

Presentation: Jennifer O'Brien from Cota, Release Planning Case Manager

- Distributed pamphlet on the Reintegration Centre. Located at 215 Horner Avenue (across the street from the Toronto South Detention Centre).
- John Howard Society of Toronto (the lead-agency at the Centre) has hired a Peer Program Supervisor/Reintegration Centre Coordinator and three peer workers as well. Peers will provide harm reduction education, support and community accompaniment.
- The Reintegration Centre is an innovative collaboration, modeled loosely after the United Way's HUBs. The John Howard Society of Toronto's staff will conduct needs assessments and warm referrals for men who are leaving the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC). The TSDC is a maximum security jail with a capacity for 1,620 inmates, almost all of whom will be on remand; charged but not convicted, awaiting trial or sentencing. The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services has anticipated that each week, 180 to 200 men will be released from this location. Research shows that 33-44% of these releases will be homeless, and that many will have mental health and substance use issues.

- Support provided by the Centre's services and the ability of the Centre's staff to respond to men immediately upon their discharge will help to increase community safety, reduce the likelihood of recidivism and prevent deaths resulting from accidental drug overdoses.
- Currently, working with the staff at TSDC to address ways to work together regarding release planning. They are meeting with The TSDC social workers to address what information is important for the referral process. Can the history of the client be part of the referral, can release planning start before being discharged and address concerns about privacy issues.
- Release Planning Case Manager is able to keep a case open for six months or longer depending on the situation when they are released
- Jennifer O'Brien was thanked for her informative presentation.

Agency/Organization Updates

- Diana Korn-Hassani reported on the expansion of MCIT. They are now across the city. Some units cover three police stations and partner with six hospitals. Hours of operation are from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. They are monitoring the stats to do an evaluation and are working on standardization. MCIT level one training took place last week.
- Jessica Lee reported on the new Post Incarceration Housing Program. Pamphlet was distributed. Objective is to prevent the cycle of homelessness and incarceration by assisting individuals to find and maintain affordable housing. We also help them to obtain the services and supports they need in their community. CMHA Toronto Post Incarceration Housing Workers are available at the Etobicoke, North York and Scarborough courts to assist individuals who are released from custody or have court matters. Assist with housing and working on program criteria. Flyer attached.
- The Safe Beds Network is having conversation about eliminating the Q registry. One sits in this registry for 48 hours. Demand for the Q registry is getting longer. Looking at various options given that the Safe Beds are at capacity. Looking at their criteria to define 'current involvement' mean. Looking at the end of the summer to conclude new direction. Jessica will inform the committee with any changes to Safe Beds referral.

Membership Review

- It's an annual process and part of our work plan. Domenica Dileo provided information on the Scarborough HSJCC model of including people with lived experience.
- Voices from the Street was invited to present in Scarborough and was able to assist in referring people with lived experience to the committee. Based on the committees criteria.
- It was agreed to ask Voices From the Street to present at the September 2015 meeting.

2015/2016 Work Plan

- Work Plan was approved as is with the following qualification: that it be flexible to include key issues to address as a result of the Enhanced Discharge Planning involving Medication Continuity from Detention Centres.
- The Work Plan is an ongoing process.
- Proposed budget to the T-HSJCC:
 - To continue with the support of TTC tokens and food vouchers at the courthouses after it was identified that it is a much-needed service. It is recommended that \$500 go towards tokens and \$500 go towards food vouchers (\$ 1000 total).
 - Lunch and Learns: \$1,985.00 total for three Lunch and Learns including a webinar
 - Clothing needs \$500.00

TOTAL BUDGET = \$3,485.00

- The Work Plan and Budget were approved.

Service Coordination Issues

- No issues reported

Updates from the T-HSJCC and P-HSJCC

- The T-HSJCC Complex Care Sub-Committee hired Taylor Newberry Consulting to address the needs and gaps for a Service Resolution process in Toronto. The consultants will be presenting their finding to the T-HSJCC meeting in March 2015.
- P-HSJCC save the date conference went out. It will take place November 16 – 18, 2015 in Toronto.

Actions

- Domenica Dileo will gather information on the medication dispensing initiative.
- Andrew Graham will invite Nirmala Budhram from the TSDC to present at the next NY-HSJCC meeting.
- Andrew Graham will purchase the clothing items.

Next Meeting

May 7, 2015

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Metro North Court Library, 1000 Finch Avenue West

Presenter – TBD