



**Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2021
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present: Dina Zalkind (Co-chair), Duty Counsel; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Andrew Graham, Cota; Lily Cormier, Probation and Parole

Regrets: Tammy Tinney (Co-chair) NYGH; Andrew Maclellan, Cota; Greg McInnes, Salvation Army

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of November 5, 2020 minutes

The minutes of November 5, 2020 were approved. Minutes were approved by Scott Skinner and seconded by Dina Zalkind.

Review Action Items:

Reviewed and completed.

Lunch and Learns

The Lunch and Learn with Michael French on immigration law and mental health has been postponed. Based on identified topics of interest the next Lunch and Learn will take place on February 2nd from Noon to 1:00 pm with Dr. Samim Hasham and Robb Johannes on “The Great Amplifier: Opioid Overdose in Times of Disruption”.

Other possible topics of interest for future lunch and learns included: African Legal Clinic. CAMH’s sexual behaviours clinic (how is the operating with COVID and what changes have been made); modifications and policing; street gangs/street violence and PTSD.

It was agreed to have the next Lunch and Learn on the African Legal Clinic. Dina will follow up a presenter from this organization.

Presentation:

No presentation this week. Time was reserved for member discussion/organization updates.

Review Workplan for 2020- 2021

- It was noted that the objective and goals were met. The committee agreed to continue with the same budget to support the TTC tokens and food vouchers at the North York courthouse.
- The committee agreed to meet five times per year; May, September, November, January and March on the first Thursday of the month, unless there is a holiday from Noon to 1:00 pm. If so, the meeting will be scheduled for the 2nd Thursday of the month.
- The committee agreed to have the Lunch and Learns and meetings virtually until further notice.
- For the 2020/21 fiscal year the committee agreed to redistribute the TTC tokens and food vouchers where there are gaps given that usage has been limited at the courthouse due to COVID-19 closures.

Scott noted and supported by other members that the meeting attendance has been decreasing. It was agreed to ask people to confirm their attendance or send their regrets . As well Domenica will call the regularly- attending members who are not present to find out what is interfering with them not attending the meeting.

Discussion ensued about people with lived experience joining the committee. The committee would like to welcome people from our targeted population to be part of the committee. Andrew would like to invite a person with lived experience to join the committee. Concerns were discussed about the challenges of keeping a person 's confidentiality and potential conflicts of interest. It was suggested that the person can join another HSJCC committee in order to address the conflict-of-interest situation.

Domenica reported that the Provincial HSJCC established an Anti-Racism Committee. They are suggesting that the Local and Regional HSJCC tables to explore Anti-Racism content/ education and/or training in the activities that we are doing, for example, the Lunch and Learn sessions.

The committee unanimously agreed to recognize and address challenges in racialized communities and enhance Anti-Racism education.

The committee unanimously agreed to incorporate as objectives for the workplan 2021/22 the following:

- To recognize and address emerging health equity challenges during and post COVID-19 by working collaboratively in identifying the gaps and needs of equity-seeking populations by focusing on Anti- Racism.
- To recognize, support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities by being self-aware and reflective about the equity impact of social determinants of health and how they may manifest in the work of the North York HSJCC.

Themes discussed regarding gaps: To address the barriers that our client population are experiencing with virtual court as many do not have access to technology, phone or a space they can call court from. For sex offenders who are not allowed to access

computers etc. they can't complete their program due to the current situation of organization mainly providing online groups and/or support. It was reported that employment/or lack of it has been challenging for clients.

Challenges for everyone to see client face to face and sometimes contact is lost as a result.

Understanding that the new virtual reality will become the norm.

It was also noted that given how limited our ability to meet in person has been the online Lunch and Learns are going well.

The committee agreed to invite Sue MacLennan, Aboriginal Legal Clinic to present on the challenges to Gladue court during Covid-19. Dina agreed to follow up.

How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community? /Agency and Organization Updates

- Lily , Probation and Parole noted that the situation is the same as it was reported at the November meeting.
- Andrew , Cota reported that it is challenging to connect or maintain contact with clients due to lack of face-to-face engagement. As a result, they have put into place calling clients for wellness check.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

The next Toronto HSJCC meeting is taking place on January 25th. The Provincial HSJCC 2021 conference will take place virtually.

Legal Aid Barriers or Challenges

Dina reported that duty counsel has an out- of-custody telephone number that clients can call to request assistance. She will report back on the correct number for this phone line. It was noted that Toronto South Detention Centre has 40 active cases of COVID-19. This makes it had to see clients on lock down leading to clients not being brought to appointments and/or court.

Service Co-ordination Issues

None

Actions:

- Dina will follow-up with a presenter for the March meeting and the next Lunch and Learn.
- Domenica will follow up with contacting the regular committee members re attending the meeting
- Domenica will follow up on the logistics for the February 2nd Lunch and Learn session.

Presenter for the next meeting: TBD

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Thursday, March 4, 2021 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.