



Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2021
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Dina Zalkind (Co-chair), Duty Counsel; Tammy Tinney (Co-chair) NYGH; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Andrew Graham, Cota; Lily Cormier, Probation and Parole; Wayne Willis, CHIRS; Christi Patterson, Probation and Parole; Riun Shandler, Judiciary; Sue MacLennan; Aboriginal Legal Clinic; Mary Murphy, Legal Counsel; Suzanne Layambe; JHS Toronto; Carol Walker, Toronto Bail Program.

Regrets: Andrew Maclellan, Cota; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Rose Gan, NYGH

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of January 7, 2021 minutes

The minutes of January 7, 2021 were approved. Approved by Dina Zalkind and second by Tammy Tinney.

Review Action Items:

Reviewed and completed.

Lunch and Learns

The Lunch and Learn with Dr. Samim Hasham and Robb Johannes on “The Great Amplifier: Opioid Overdose in Times of Disruption” took place on February 2nd, 125 people were in attendance. It was a successful session.

Other possible topics of interest for future Lunch and Learns included: 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 Black Legal Action Centre. Dina will follow up a presenter from this organization.

Presentation: Sue MacLennan on the challenges to Gladue court during Covid-19.

1. One of the major issues is that Gladue court isn't happening; however, diversion is still taking place, and we should be considering diversion where possible. Sue had indicated that, of 35 or so aboriginal diversions done over the last year, only ONE was from 1000 Finch. Please note that there are currently two locations for diversion hearings – one at a church at 45 Bellwoods, the other in Scarborough.
2. Sue noted she isn't in court physically these days and, as such, is not present at bail hearings. There have been issues with conditions of bail that Sue would have alerted us to had she been aware at the time of the hearing. For example, one individual was recently released with a radius condition that, inadvertently, prevents him from attending Anishnawbe Health. To avoid this, may I suggest that, if a referral to Sue is made, we also send proposed conditions for her review?
3. Sue has been unable to communicate with people at the institution and, therefore, has had trouble tailoring release plans to the individual needs of the client. While this is more of an issue with WASH matters, one should keep this in mind for new arrests and make referrals as early as possible. This will allow Sue to speak to clients while they are still at the police division.
4. There has been an issue with Sue's Release Plans getting to clients. What I've been doing is asking the clerks and court officers to send the Release Plans to the institution together with the Release Orders. Does anyone have any other ideas? If not, could we make this our usual practice?
5. If clients are arrested on the weekend they are taken to the South Detention Centre and can't be contacted.
6. Unknown whether clients are getting a copy of the release plan.

Sue was thanked for a very informative presentation.

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

- Suzanne reported that the Reintegration Centre is not open due to COVID. The trailer requires two staff. Suggestion was made whether Sue MacLennan can partner with JHS. On Monday and Wednesday afternoon people can go to the JHS office to access virtual court by referral only. Grateful acknowledgement for the collaboration between the Crown Attorney's Office and JHS.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

The next Toronto HSJCC meeting is taking place on March 8th. The Provincial HSJCC 2021 conference will take place virtually.

Legal Aid Barriers or Challenges

Dina reported that duty counsel's main challenge is the inability to contact clients and there are more delays at TSDC. The out of custody line is going well. There is a full-day person assigned and there are two DC at courtroom 301.

Approval Workplan 2021-2022

Domenica noted the goals of the workplan: information sharing, Lunch and Learns, five meetings, TTC tokens and food vouchers as well as supporting the technology needs for mental health diversion clients to access virtual court.

Two new objectives were added to the workplan:

VI. To improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized groups; recognize, support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities within the efforts of the North York HSJCC OR in accordance with the mandate of the North York HSJCC.

VII. To promote self-awareness/ reflection through education and dialogue about the equity impact of social determinants of health and how they may manifest in the work of the North York HSJCC.

Workplan 2021-2022 was unanimously approved.

The workplan and budget will be finalized by the Toronto Regional HSJCC and then submitted to the Provincial HSJCC.

Service Co-ordination Issues

None

Actions:

- Dina will follow-up with a presenter for the May meeting and the next Lunch and Learn.
- Domenica will follow up on the logistics for the next Lunch and Learn session.

Presenter for the next meeting: TBD

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Thursday, May 6, 2021 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.