



**Meeting Minutes
May 6, 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; Mary Murphy, Legal Counsel; Carol Walker, Toronto Bail Program; John McInnes, Judiciary; Genieve Chin, Toronto Bail Program; Julia Loparco Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; (student); Jin Chien, Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic.

Regrets: Andrew Maclellan, Cota; Tammy Tinney (Co-chair), NYGH

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of March 4, 2021 minutes

The minutes of March 4, 2021 were approved. Approved by Dina Zalkind and second by Andrew Graham.

Review Action Items:

Reviewed and completed.

Lunch and Learns

Suggested topics: CAMH Behavior Clinic, Aboriginal Legal Challenges. Suggested to canvas members prior to deciding.

Presentation: Jin Chien, staff lawyer at the Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic

PowerPoint slides will be circulated.

- Established in 1987 with a staff of 9: 4 lawyers, including CD; 4 community legal workers; and office manager.
- Funded by LAO but not LAO staff
- Provide free services to low income, non- English-speaking and members of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian Communities in Ontario
- Office location is 123 Edward Street, Suite 505, Toronto
- Satellite offices in Scarborough and Mississauga
- **What we Do** – intake (phone and in-person) referrals and summary advice, public legal education with community partners e.g., CCNCTO, Butterfly, annual frontline workers” training

- **Direct representation:** Courts, administrative tribunals, CBSA, etc....
- **Law Reform:** Test case litigation, advocacy campaigns, submissions to all levels of government and to UN bodies
- **Areas of Law:** housing and tenants' rights; social assistance and income maintenance
- **Recent Activities:** Webinars on Federal and Provincial Supports, continue phone intake and select in-person appointments; technical support for virtual hearings
- **Anti-Asian Racism:** Joint report with CCNCSJ and CCNCTO on incidents of racist attacks across Canada, March 2021: <https://www.covidr racism.ca/>
- **Media:** Newspaper interviews, TV and radio news programs

Jin was thanked for her informative and insightful presentation. Invited to come back for another presentation.

Organization/Agency Updates

- Update from NYGH—Rose Gan (part-time clinician) left her position as of April 9th. We are in the process of rehiring for the part-time position. Right now, wait times are a bit longer than usual because I have all of the patients. Wait time for intake appt with me is approx. 3 weeks from date I receive referral. Wait time for psych intake is 3-4 months (based on priority of need. Sometimes less depending on severity of illness). Currently we have 26 patients on waitlist for psych. Frequency of appts are biweekly, with a few patients being seen weekly due to being unwell. No anger management groups due to COVID. Anger management is being run on an individual basis. If referring ONLY for anger management, consider checking out other AM resources in the community (if available) as there is only one of me. If an AM program can't be found in community, you can still refer it will just take a bit longer to complete than usual. I hope to have a part-time worker soon that will help with this. Reminder—please fill out as much of the info on referral form as possible otherwise I'm taking time to find out the missing info. OHIP required. If you do not have a valid OHIP don't send the referral. Wait until you have the OHIP. For those on my email list I will send out an email once a new worker is hired.
- Andrew reported that Cota is starting Anger Management group for their clients.

2021/22 Workplan new objectives' outcome measurements? Section 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 Downtown Toronto HSJCC OR in accordance with the mandate of the Downtown Toronto HSJCC.

Discussion ensued: Outcome needs to go beyond analysis. These new objectives are relating to the committee's values. It was suggested that we look at intentional reflection of our values. A couple of ways we can do it; checking ourselves or have a group check at the end of the agenda such as a quick self-evaluation if we accomplished the new objectives. Are we as a group following these values? If you have other suggestions, please email Domenica.

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

Dina reported that there are delays at TSDC due to staffing issues, sometime the wait time is one hour or the afternoon. There are challenges for clients set disclosure. 303 court is going well.

Andrew reported that they are losing track of clients.

It was noted that COVID shows how hard everyone works to make things happen.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

The next Toronto HSJCC meeting is taking place on June 7th. 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.

Service Co-ordination Issues

None

Actions:

Dina will follow up on presenter for next meeting.

Presenter for the next meeting: TBD

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Thursday, September 9th 2021 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.