



**Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2022
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

Present: Dina Zalkind (Co-chair), Duty Counsel; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; John McInnes, Judiciary; Andrew Graham, Cota; Sue MacLennan, Aboriginal Legal Services, Tonya Passi, LAO; Andrew Wills; CHIRS, Richard Nathanson, Crown Attorney's Office; Dana Riley, Elizabeth Fry Toronto

Regrets: Tammy Tinney (Co-chair), NYGH; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Andrew Maclellan, Cota; Genieve Chin, Toronto Bail Program; Jessica Lee, CMHA; Barry Sharp, Salvation Army; Carol Walker, Toronto Bail Program; Chris Patterson, Probation and Parole

Call-in: None

Land Acknowledgement

Dina noted the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves. Richard Nathanson was welcomed. He is representing the Crown Attorney's Office. Tonya Passi was welcomed. She is representing LAO.

Approval of November 4, 2021 minutes

The minutes of November 4, 2021 were approved by Dina and seconded by Andrew.

Review Action Items:

Tammy will follow up on the Probation and Parole membership replacement on this committee.

Priority setting summary was circulated and submitted to the Provincial HSJCC.

Three priorities were identified. They were:

1. To address the impact of COVID-19 on services specific to accessing technology and justice.
2. To address and recognize Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism using self-reflection, educational strategies and tools as well as advocating and informing policies.
3. To address the equity impact of social determinants of health on housing with particular focus on diversity of housing models that address barriers for priority

populations; seniors with dementia, individuals with arson assessments, neurodisability, youth, mental health and addictions using an Anti-Indigenous and Anti- Black racism health equity lens.

Presentation: Dana Riley from the Elizabeth Fry Toronto on *Supporting Individuals Impacted by the Criminal Justice System from an Intersectional Lens*

- PowerPoint slides will be circulated with the minutes.
 - Learning Objectives reviewed: highlight systems core values and missions that should be implemented while supporting black individuals impacted by the criminal system using intersectional lens; explore and share insights on the barriers & challenges that impact Black individuals; share my experience to further our understanding on the impact of the criminal justice system; identify tools and practices that support Black individuals; explore how systems and organizations can collaborate
 - Intersectionality definition: the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experience of discrimination and oppression
 - Identified systems core values and mission and the impact of systems and social network
 - Dana shared her own lived experience as a Black woman going through the criminal justice system. This included; loss of identity, feelings of shame, separation from loved ones and isolation
 - Tools and practices to support were discussed: holistic approach, give people a voice, be trauma informed, non-judgmental, active listening, root causes, restorative justice and continued support
 - Takeaways: What does innocent until proven guilty look like? What does serve and protect look like? What does successful reintegration look like? What does harm reduction look like to you? What does community support look like to you?
- Dana was thanked for the informative and interactive presentation.

Themes discussed: Discussion ensued regarding the importance of having people with lived experience share their insight and expertise on this committee. This is based on insider's knowledge. It was noted that the root causes are impacted by the historical context of Black people's experience. It was acknowledged the importance of sharing lived experience through the lens of a Black woman to inform awareness on the impact of the justice system on Black individuals and family members going through it. What can help? To work closely with community support workers who can build trust and provide a link to the justice system. Sue MacLennan noted that Sec 718.2(e) instructs sentencing judges to consider all available sanctions other than imprisonment for ALL offenders. She inquired if the section was being used for all offenders, since the section states "particular attention to the circumstances of Aboriginal offenders" but is not limited to Aboriginal offenders.

Dana was thanked for her informative and insightful presentation. She was invited to come back for another presentation.

Lunch and Learns

Domenica reported on the upcoming Lunch and Learns.

- There will be a Lunch N' Learn on the New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre on February 10th. Invite and registration information will be circulated. Please mark this in your calendar.
- NY and WT-HSJCC Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Sexual Behaviour Clinic will take place on January 20th. Invite will be circulated shortly.
- T-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on SolGen's Reintegration Unit on February 24th.
- WT-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic on March 8th.

Review Workplan for 2021-2022

- What we accomplished and future areas to consider?
- Who is missing at the table
- Budget

Domenica reported that we accomplished our goals of having 5 regular meetings and the Lunch & Learn. The committee has been continuously improving to recognize and address emerging health equity challenges during and post COVID-19 by working collaboratively by addressing the intersectional, equity and Anti-Racism approach to social determinants of health affecting racialized communities in contact with the justice system. In process.

Domenica noted that due to covid the courthouses have been mainly operating virtually, as a result TTC tokens and food vouchers provided at the courthouse haven't fully been used and will be carried over to the next fiscal year. This means that there will be excess funds that will not be necessary to purchase the TTC tokens or food vouchers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

- The committee unanimously agreed to allocate any excess funds towards the Anti-Racism work. Please note that the HSJCC budget is annual only.
- To date the feedback from the courthouse partners is to maintain the virtual court equipment of \$1600 for the North York courthouses. The committee agreed to continue with the virtual court equipment.
- The committee agreed to add to the workplan that the committee will explore the impact of the New Toronto Courthouse and Region Bail Centre on the NY-HSJCC target population.

Agency and Organization Updates

Number 8, 9 and 10 agenda items were incorporated in the Agency/Organization updates sections below.

- How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community?
- Service Coordination/Resolution Issues

Dina announced that she accepted a new position at LAO. Many people acknowledged her contribution and advocacy for people going through the criminal

justice system. She will be missed. She made a difference. Thank you, Dina. Tonya will be representing LAO on the committee moving forward.

It was noted that there are barriers to contact clients who do not have a phone. Appreciation was noted for the Cota staff's effort to contact clients given the barriers.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

Domenica reported that the virtual P-HSJCC conference took place on November 16-17.

- 680 people registered
- 29 presentations/workshops
- 14 people with lived experience in attendance
- The Indigenous keynote panel titled: Dismantling Anti-Indigenous in the Criminal Justice System was very successful. Two speakers spoke about their family members who overdosed.
- Looking at a hybrid model for the next conference. Planning for the next conference will start in June.

Domenica reported on the Toronto Regional HSJCC

- The committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group. It will address an Anti-Racism action plan for all the Locals which may be incorporated into their 2022-2023 workplan. Next meeting is taking place on March 10th.

Legal Aid Barriers or Challenges

Dina noted that access to clients at the jail is very challenging.

Service Co-ordination Issues

None

Actions:

- Domenica will send Outlook January meeting invite after this meeting and reminder prior to the meeting
- Domenica will report on the Lunch and Learns at the next meeting.

Presenter for the next meeting: TBD

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Thursday, March 3, 2022 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.