



**Meeting Minutes  
January 12, 2023  
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm  
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Tammy Tinney (Co-chair), NYGH; Sue MacLennan (Co-chair), Aboriginal Legal Services; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Tonya Passi, LAO; Andrew Graham, Cota; Victoria Young, Cota; Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), Tandy Clarke, Cota; Wayne Willis, CHIRS; Joaquin Canton, Crown Attorney's Office; Kristina Dobosz, Community Network of Specialized Care, Toronto Region; Genieve Chin, Toronto Bail Program, Orson Payne, Reclaiming our Communities Investing in our Youth

**Regrets:** Andrew MacLellan, Cota

**Call-in:** Justice John McInnes

**Land Acknowledgement**

Tammy provided the Land Acknowledgement recognizes the Indigenous people's history and their contribution to the land we stand on.

Committee members are encouraged to share the Land Acknowledgement. Please email Tammy, or Domenica if you are interested before the next meeting.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves. Orson Payne was welcomed.

**Approval of November 3, 2022 minutes:**

The minutes of November 3, 2022, were approved by Sue MacLennan and seconded by Wayne Willis.

**Review Action Items:**

Action items were reviewed and completed.

**Presentation:** Andrew Graham and Victoria Young from Cota on the role of the court support worker at the courthouse.

The presentation PowerPoint slides will be circulated.

The Crown Policy on mental health diversion was introduced in 1994. The policy involved an agreement between the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Ministry of Attorney General. The policy states that if the individual suffering from a mental illness has committed a low-risk offence, and the treatment facility was willing to accept the individual, the Crown has the discretion to withdraw the charges (stay the charge)

- Goals of Diversion
- Avoidance of Criminalization
- Opportunity to receive treatment in the community

**Process**

Symptoms of mental illness  
 Impaired functioning  
 Criminal activity  
 Criminal charges  
 Referral

**Assessment**

Intervention- Cota Court Support Program  
 Diversion plan- approval by the Crown  
 Follow-up  
 Charges stayed

**Criteria for Diversion**

Probable conviction  
 Safety not compromised  
 No criminal record or acceptable record  
 Criminal conduct related to mental illness  
 Appropriate class of offence  
 Offence Classes 1, 2, and 3 were discussed.

**Criminal Responsibility**

Requires comprehensive assessment by a forensic psychiatrist to determine if one is responsible for the crime  
 Assessing mental state at the time of the crime  
 Even very ill individuals are found criminally responsible

**Themes discussed:** Cota assists with assessment order and makes it as streamlined as possible. It was noted that there are challenges when one is actively using substances. Email Cota staff to schedule an appointment for clients to see the Psychiatrist, Dr. Ali. She is often booked. Committee members acknowledged the important service that Cota provides at the courthouse.

**Lunch and Learns**

Domenica provided the report on the Anti-Racism Series' third session of 5 taking place on January 26th. The topic is Voices/ Lived Experience. The registration information for this session was circulated. The Anti-Racism series feedback has been phenomenal. 217 registered, and 97 attended session 2.

**Review Workplan for 2022-2023**

What have we accomplished and what future areas to consider?

- Tammy noted that meetings and Lunch and Learn attendance has increased, indicating that the virtual format is working well.
- We held 5 meetings and had two Lunch and Learns. It was agreed to continue with having 5 meetings per year. The committee agreed that one of these meetings be a mega meeting with all of the Toronto Local HSJCCs coming together to discuss mutual concerns.

Who is missing at the table?

Members acknowledged the importance of having people with lived experience become members, as well there was been the absence of the Toronto Police Division.

#### New courthouse updates/Impact on NY-HSJCC meetings

Committee members acknowledged the importance of monitoring the justice sector changes to identify their impact on the client population we serve. As well, how will these changes impact the HSJCC?

-Committee members agreed that one of the NY-HSJCC regular meetings to be a mega meeting with the other Toronto Local HSJCCs to address the impact of the New Courthouse/Regional Bail Centre on our client population.

#### Virtual/In-person meetings format for 2023-24?

-Members acknowledged the benefits of having virtual meetings because more people can attend them. The committee agreed to continue with virtual meetings, eventually, implement a hybrid model when we know more about the New Courthouse/Bail Centre space and virtual accessibility there.

-Committee members suggested that we have one Lunch and Learn in-person per year. This can enhance members' network and engagement opportunities.

#### Agency and Organization Updates

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

It was noted that the North York courthouse will be moving in mid-April to the New Courthouse.

Bradley reported that the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO), received funding to hire eight restorative justice coordinators.

Legal Aid barriers and challenges?

None Identified

Service Coordination/ Resolution Issues

None Identified

#### **Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:**

Tammy reported on the Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group.

The next T-HSJCC meeting is taking place on March 9th, 2023.

The provincial conference will take place virtually on November 15-16.

#### **Action Items:**

Domenica will report on the Lunch and Learn sessions at the next meeting.

Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint meeting presentation slide deck.

**Presenter for next meeting:** Orson Payne, Family Support Worker at Reclaiming our Communities Investing in our Youth.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, March 2, 2023 (virtually) from 1:00 pm to -2:00 pm (NEW TIME).