

P-HSJCC Biweekly Updates Meeting Highlights

April 14, 2020

PROVINCIAL HSJCC UPDATES

- Following the March 25, 2020 P-HSJCC Meeting, members emphasized the need for ongoing communications, information sharing and updates from our network as we continue to respond to the evolving pandemic.
 - As result, the P-HSJCC decided to hold a series of biweekly virtual meetings to hear updates from our members re: the impact of COVID-19 across the network.

Roundtable Updates re: The Impact of COVID-19 across the HSJCC Network

- To help facilitate our discussions, members were asked the following questions:
 - How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your region?
 - Is there any information that you would like to share that could help support the HSJCC Network during this time?
 - How can the PHSJCC + Secretariat support you?
- Based on today's discussion, the P-HSJCC would like to move forward with **submitting a letter to our partner ministries** following biweekly P-HSJCC check in meetings.
 - The letters would reflect the ongoing and emerging issues across the network and will urge the government to consider our top priorities and issues during the pandemic.
- Our latest submission will include the following critical issues:

1) Housing Supply & Release from Correctional Custody

- A housing crisis is emerging due to the influx of Ontarians being released from correctional custody during the pandemic. Members are concerned that the housing needs of those released from custody cannot be met by the current level of housing supply.

2) Inadequate PPE for Mobile Crisis Intervention Teams

- Due to a limited supply of protective equipment, mental health professionals that usually accompany police officers when responding to crisis calls have been reduced to only providing support by phone.

3) The Impact of Cell phone-related Restrictions on Service Provision

- Many vulnerable clients do not have a cell phone, and therefore cannot be reached by their service providers during this pandemic. In addition, individuals within correctional institutions are not permitted to call a cell phone, which prevents them from being able to reach service providers who are working remotely during this time.

4) A Lack of Release from Custody Planning and Tools for Reintegration

- A lack of release from custody or discharge plans is putting our vulnerable clients at additional risk for a number of negative outcomes. Members are also concerned that the standard procedure of providing NARCAN to clients upon release is currently being disrupted.

IMPORTANT ACTION ITEMS:

- The Secretariat will draft a letter for submission to our partner ministers highlighting the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on service delivery across the HSJCC Network. The letter will be circulated to voting members for feedback before submission.