

P-HSJCC Biweekly Updates Meeting Highlights

April 28, 2020

PROVINCIAL HSJCC UPDATES

- The P-HSJCC has been convening on a biweekly basis to ensure ongoing communications, information sharing and updates from our network as we continue to respond to the evolving pandemic.
- Given the frequency of these meetings, members have decided to forego the full P-HSJCC regularly scheduled meeting on May 12th. The P-HSJCC will continue with biweekly one-hour check in meetings for the foreseeable future.

Updates from the HSJCC Secretariat

- The Secretariat has been looking into options to improve the quality and experience of meetings and webinars for our members.
 - After consulting with our members, we have heard that Zoom is not an accessible platform for some of our police partners, and therefore is not an option for our network.
- Over the past year, the P-HSJCC has been using CMHA Ontario's Adobe Connect account to run webinars and meetings.
 - Moving forward, the P-HSJCC will be registering for our own Adobe Connect account. The only difference with this account would be a limitation of 100 participants.
- After almost five years with CMHA Ontario and the HSJCC Secretariat, our Project Manager Joseph Szamuhel will be moving on from his role.

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 discussions, the P-HSJCC would like to continue to move forward with submitting a letter to our partner ministries following biweekly check in meetings.
- The next P-HSJCC submission will focus on highlighting the **impact of court closures** on our network:

1) Continue to Increase Court Accessibility:

- The P-HSJCC urges the Courts and MAG to continue to work together to increase court accessibility such as electronic filing of court material, remote scheduling and remote hearings.

2) Backlog of those in Custody Awaiting Criminal Trials:

- The P-HSJCC is concerned that some individuals are waiting in custody for criminal trials that cannot be scheduled during this time. The wait will result in a backlog that will continue once court returns to normal operations.

3) Considerations for Alternative Forms of Release

- The P-HSJCC is urging courts to consider all alternative forms of release, including judicial interim release (bail), temporary absence permit requests and emergency early release requests.

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.