

Project Charter: DEVELOPING MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT OF PERSONS WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE

Project Leads: Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) Advisory Committee: Engaging Persons with Lived Experience Across the HSJCC Network

Project Status: Project Initiation (Defining scope of project and developing workplan)

1. Project Overview

Research has demonstrated that organizations derive clear benefits when they involve persons with lived experience in high level planning and decision-making. Organizations incorporating persons with lived experience are enabled to offer services that are more culturally appropriate, efficient, focussed, and sustainable.¹ Living experience knowledge produces understandings of marginalization, discrimination and oppression, and provides shared insights into changes in social status or inclusion, relationships, loss, and employment as a result of diagnosis² or incarceration.

The Provincial HSJCC values the full participation of persons with lived experience and family members. As a result, the Provincial HSJCC draws frequently upon the expertise and resources of people who have lived experience in the human services and justice sectors in HSJCC work at the Provincial, Regional, and Local levels. Given the significance of contributions that persons with lived experience can provide to the HSJCC Network, this Advisory Committee has been mandated to develop guidance and support to improve the meaningful engagement of persons with lived experience in the HSJCC Network.

2. Project Priorities

1. Identify strategies that may attract persons with lived experience to engage with the HSJCC Network, and to optimize their guidance and contributions to the organization.
2. Identify key issues that may interfere with or inhibit persons with lived experience engaging with the HSJCC Network, and develop remedial solutions to address such issues.
3. Identify supports that may be required by persons with lived experiences arising from their engagement with the HSJCC Network.

3. Project Outcomes

¹ Suicide Prevention Resource Center, “Engaging People with Lived Experience: A Toolkit for Organizations”: <https://zerosuicide.edc.org/resources/engaging-people-lived-experience-toolkit-organizations>

² Louise Byrne, “Promoting Lived Experience Perspective: Discussion Paper Prepared for the Queensland Mental Health Commission” (February 2017): <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/313757552>

1. Persons with lived experience provide expertise and guidance to the Provincial, Regional, and Local Levels of the HSJCC.
2. Increased understanding of how prejudice and discrimination resulting from involvements with the mental health care and justice systems impact on the issues addressed by the HSJCC Network.
3. Best practices are developed to attract persons with lived experience to participate at all levels of the HSJCC Network, in a manner that is safe and supported.

4. Project Outputs

- Two surveys:
 - one to be delivered directly to persons with lived experience currently engaged with a Committee in the HSJCC Network, that will permit these persons to reply in confidence to the Secretariat, and
 - one survey to be delivered to the Chair of each HSJCC Committee, asking for their views and perceptions about engaging persons with lived experience on their committees
- Focus groups conducted with HSJCC members who identify as persons with lived experience.
- A guidebook for HSJCCs to improve the engagement of persons with lived experience in the work of the HSJCC Network. This resource would include guidance around recruitment, orientation, financial compensation, accessibility issues and other additional considerations.

5. Intended Audience

- The HSJCC Network at the Provincial, Regional, and Local levels.

6. Project Timeline and Deliverables

PWLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROJECT CHARTER

Timeline	Deliverable (all intermediary steps/products involved in project)
Fall 2020	1. Develop and launch surveys
Feb - April 2021	2. Planning for Focus Groups 2.1 Develop Discussion Questions (Feb-March) 2.2 Identify Participants (March) 2.3 Scheduling Focus Groups Dates (April – May)
Jan – Feb 2021	3. Guidebook outline – Feb 8
April – August 2021	4. Guidebook Content Development 4.1 Lived Experience History – April 4.2 HSJCC Network – Complete 4.3 What is meaningful engagement – April 4.4 How to improve engagement 4.4 a) Laying the groundwork - June 4.4 b) Outreach and recruitment – June 4.4 c) Access and Equity – June 4.4 d) Compensating PWLE – August 4.4 e) Privacy and Confidentiality – August 4.5 Assessing Engagement – August 4.6 Appendix - August
TBD	5. Conduct Focus Groups
TBD	6. Consolidate Focus Group Feedback
September 2021	7. Finalize Guidebook (review, copyedit, layout)
October 2021	8. Develop Implementation and Knowledge Exchange Strategy
October – December 2021	9. Knowledge Exchange Activities (webinar, etc.) - HSJCC Virtual Conference – November 16 – 17, 2021
January 2022	10. Evaluation Activities (TBD)