



Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2020
Noon- 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Dr. Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant (Co-chair); Tazio Clarke (Co-chair), Victim Services Toronto; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Sharon Williams, Scarborough Hospital; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Greg McInnes, Salvation Army (on behalf of Becky Paonessa); Erwin Black, Cota; Patrick Whiffen, Probation and Parole; Jason Balgopal, MAG; Michael Darling, City of Toronto; Dana Lee Riley, E. Fry Toronto Society; Gabrielle Lesley Hastedt, Probation and Parole

Regrets: Cecilia Kwok, Probation and Parole; Robert Koslowski, Peer Worker; Natalie Reitmeier, CHIRS; Tammy Alston, CMHA; Rachel Ross-Vance, CMHA

Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves. Jason Balgopal was welcomed. He has been a Crown Attorney at the Scarborough courthouse since 2004.

Virtual Meeting Format

Reviewed

Action Items:

Reviewed and complete.

Review and Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2020

The minutes of May 6, 2020 were approved with the following amendment: to change the organization name associated with Scott Skinner from Toronto Network of Specialized Care to Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region.

Scott Skinner approved the minutes, seconded by Gabrielle Lesley Hastedt.

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

- Greg reported that the Lifestyle Program is continuing at the Scarborough courthouse. They are sorting out what their role will be at the courthouse. Currently doing wellness checks. The Durham court is the most active.
- Scott Skinner reported that Surrey Place, DSO opened four weeks ago for in-person assessments. The four offices will be opened for one-on-one following social distance rules, using masks and PPE. Using virtual healthcare system. There has been technology challenges for clients. They received tablets donation from Telus which went to families in need, and they will have free data until December.
- Dana Lee Riley reported the Exit Door program which assists women out of sex work is operating. The case manager supports clients with their transition in three stages. They are doing outreach with Toronto Public Health. Mainly doing referral and support due to COVID.
- Erwin Black reported that service is still continuing by meeting clients virtually. The Safe Bed registry is taking referrals. Clients need to take a COVID test and referred by correction, who can get the test results because individuals don't always have access to the technology to get the results. Clients are able to use the court website to find out their legal conditions and requirements to avoid a bench warrant. Zoom calls are being used to remand court matters. Individuals can access the court date on the provincial court website.
- Sharon reported that she is in the office every Tuesday--other days provides support by phone. They are using OTN to see patients. Using shields and face masks when interacting with clients. All clients get screened, practicing social distancing. No walk-ins.
- Patrick Whiffen reported that their client numbers are low because the courts have been closed but, continue to meet with high risk clients. They are observing an increase in mental health concerns among their clients, such as anxiety and depression. They will be starting groups for offenders who are in the community. They have an in-house counselling program for substance users. Clients appear that they are adapting to the phone engagement. More custodial/intermittent sentences are taking place at home instead of in custody.
- Michael Darling reported that he works with youth involved with the justice system. He is still working remotely. They collaborated with OASIS and had virtual workshops that 500 people attended.
- Tazio Clarke reported that the priority is for clients to access legal aid services.

Themes discussed: To have a Lunch and Learn on the changes and impact that are taking place with legal aid.

Agency/Organization Updates

None

Lunch and Learns

- Erwin Black has agreed to contact a legal aid counsel to find out if they would be able to present at a virtual Lunch and Learn session on changes to legal aid. Erwin Black has agreed to follow-up on contacting a presenter.
- It was agreed that the Lunch and Learns will take place separate from the regular committee meetings.
- Domenica will follow up a virtual Lunch and Learn on Affirming Trans and Non-Binary Gender Identities

Annual Members Survey was reviewed. Many positive responses.

- Themes discussed: Should we increase the frequency of the meetings? The members unanimously agreed to continue with the current frequency. Acknowledged that community engagement is important to enhance membership. Comment made that attendance has declined?
- An adhoc group was created to discuss a Scarborough Resource Directory. Dana, Michael, Samim and Domenica will form the committee. How will this be different from 211? Programs and services are only available on 211 if you are connected to agencies.

Service Coordination/Resolution Issues

None

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC.

Domenica reported that the Provincial HSJCC 2021 conference will take place virtually. The Provincial HSJCC will not be meeting in person for the next year.

Action Items:

- Domenica will follow up with the logistics for the Scarborough Resource Directory
- Erwin will follow up on the Legal Aid Lunch and Learn
- Domenica will follow up on Affirming Trans and Non-Binary Gender Identities Lunch and Learn
- Domenica will contact CMHA, probation and parole and bail program to request an update for the next meeting.

Presenter for the next meeting: Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan Toronto with Scott McKean, City of Toronto Program Manager

Next Meeting:

Virtually Wednesday, November 4, 2020 from noon-1:00 pm.