



Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2021
Noon- 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Dr. Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant (Co-chair); Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Cecilia Kwok, Probation and Parole; Robert Koslowski, Peer Worker; Julia Loparco (student), Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto; Nirmala Muthyala, Probation and Parole; Region; Erwin Black, Cota; Jason Balgopal, Crown Attorney's Office; Jin Chien, Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic.

Regrets: Tazio Clarke (Co-chair), Victim Services Toronto; Rachel Ross-Vance, CMHA; Joy Boatswain, Centennial College; Patrick Whiffen, Probation and Parole.

Land Acknowledgment

Samim did the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the indigenous people & their contribution to the land we stand on.

Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves

Presentation: Jin Chien, staff lawyer at the Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic
PowerPoint slides will be circulated.

- Established in 1987 with a staff of 9: 4 lawyers, including CD; 4 community legal workers; and office manager.
- Funded by LAO but not LAO staff
- Provide free services to low income, non- English-speaking and members of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian Communities in Ontario
- Office location is 123 Edward Street, Suite 505, Toronto
- Satellite offices in Scarborough and Mississauga
- **What we Do** – intake (phone and in-person) referrals and summary advice, public legal education with community partners e.g., CCNCTO, Butterfly, annual frontline workers' training
- **Direct representation:** Courts, administrative tribunals, CBSA, etc....
- **Law Reform:** Test case litigation, advocacy campaigns, submissions to all levels of government and to UN bodies
- **Areas of Law:** housing and tenants' rights; social assistance and income maintenance

- **Recent Activities:** Webinars on Federal and Provincial Supports, continue phone intake and select in-person appointments; technical support for virtual hearings
- Anti-Asian Racism: Joint report with CCNCSJ and CCNCTO on incidents of racists attacks across Canada, March 2021: <https://www.covidracism.ca/>
- Media: Newspaper interviews, TV and radio news programs

Jin was thanked for her informative and insightful presentation. Invited to come back for another presentation.

Themes discussed: They don't have an office in Scarborough but have a room with their settlement agency partnership. They had a joint submission to the Federal Government with Colour of Change on Anti-Black Racism.

Action Items

- **2021/22 Workplan new objectives' outcome measurements? Section VI** To improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized groups; recognize, support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities within the efforts of the Scarborough HSJCC OR in accordance with the mandate of the Scarborough HSJCC.

Themes discussed: Should we expand the equity seeking and racialized groups to add various communities? It was acknowledged that our Lunch and Learns reflect on having a conversation on anti-racism and equity in relation to the social determinants of health.

- Scarborough Resource Directory. Working on setting a meeting. The set meeting was cancelled. If you are interested in joining the committee, contact Domenica.
- How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community?

Review and Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2021

Minutes were approved by Jason and second by Cecilia.

Jason noted that people are encouraged to attend court via video. If a bench warrant has been issued the police have a procedure in place to follow.

Themes: Discussion ensued about the importance of having people with lived experience share their insight and expertise on this committee.

Legal Aid Barriers and Challenges

Still not coming to court and are providing online support. Applying to LAO call 1-800-668-8258

Agency/Organization Updates

- Robert reported that due to the contaminant of fentanyl there has been an increase of deaths.

- Jason reported in the next two weeks trials will reopen virtually due to covid. The police will notify people when they need to appear to court if they do not show-up.
- Domenica reported that the HSJCC is allocating about \$1600 towards flip phone purchases for Scarborough court diversion clients who do not have any technology or data to use to attend court. The court diversion staff will coordinate the distribution.
- Samim reported that mobile clinics are being set up noting that alcohol disorder has increased by 62% during covid.

Lunch and Learns

The Anti-Racism series will be the committee's Lunch and Learn sessions.

Service Coordination/Resolution Issues

None

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC.

Next Toronto Regional meeting will take place on June 7th , 2021. The Provincial HSJCC conference this Fall will be virtual.

Presenter for the next meeting: TBD. It was suggested to have a post-pandemic topic.

Next Meeting:

Virtually Wednesday, September 8, 2021 from Noon-1:00 pm.