



Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2022
Noon- 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Dr. Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant (Co-chair) Rachel Ross-Vance, CMHA; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Robert Koslowski, Peer Worker; Jason Balgopal, Crown Attorney's Office; Valeria Danieli, P-HSJCC; Dana Riley, E. Fry Toronto; Erwin Black, Cota; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Krysty Hazelton, Cota; Muthyala Nirmala, SolGen; Joy Evans, Cota; Joy Boatswain, Centennial College; Tammy Alston, CMHA; Michael Darling, City of Toronto

Regrets: Patrick Whiffen, Probation and Parole.

Call-in: None

Land Acknowledgment

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

Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone introduced themselves. Dana was thanked for agreeing to co-facilitate the meeting with Samim.

Action Items

Reviewed and completed

Priority setting summary was circulated and submitted to the Provincial HSJCC.

Three priorities were identified. They were:

1. To address the impact of COVID-19 on services specific to accessing technology and justice.
2. To address and recognize Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism using self-reflection, educational strategies and tools as well as advocating and informing policies.
3. To address the equity impact of social determinants of health on housing with particular focus on diversity of housing models that address barriers for priority populations; seniors with dementia, individuals with arson assessments, neurodisability, youth, mental health and addictions using an Anti-Indigenous and Anti- Black racism health equity lens.

Agency/Organization updates

- Jason noted that most court functions are taking place in-person. Trial matters in-person or not is determined by the judge. Disclosure is done virtually. Given the pandemic things are moving well.
- Rachel also noted that the MH and J Diversion program is also moving slowly to in-person.
- Dana reported that she has a new position at E Fry, as outreach and community employment supervisor. She is reaching out to the BIPOC community.
- Erwin reported that the Scarborough Mental Health and Justice program, client's visits are taking place in the community on an essential basis.
- Joy noted that Centennial College is conducting all programs on-line. Their correction literacy program in partnership with the Toronto East Detention Centre (TEDC) will be publishing a book of the students writing and art from the TEDC. She will send the information for circulation.
- Kristy noted that she is the Dual Diagnosis worker at Cota
- Tammy stated that there have been many referrals from the court support program. She also mentioned that Steve Lurie, ED of CMHA Toronto retired after 41 years in 2020. Currently, the team is short staffed. They are mainly working with clients via phone and, if necessary, in-person. Clients having access to the phone is very important.
- Michael stated that they are using WebEx and ZOOM to connect with clients as well in the community.
- Samim noted that there has been more fentanyl on the streets, main reason is the social isolation people are experiencing

Review of November 3, 2021 minutes

The minutes of the November 3, 2021 meeting.

Valerie approved the minutes, seconded by Robert. The minutes were approved.

Presentations: 1) Rachel Ross-Vance on CMHA Toronto Mental Health Court Support Program PowerPoint slide deck will be circulated.

CLIENTS: Individuals (18 yrs. old and over)

Living with serious mental illness

Current criminal charges (before the Metro East or Metro West Courts)

- SERVICES: Release planning for bail or sentencing purposes

Mental Health Diversion

Referral to community mental health supports and treatment

Consultation (lawyers, family, service providers etc.)

Coordination of forensic assessments (Fitness, NCR etc.)

- Release Planning: Assessment and consultation for bail and plea court
- General psychiatric assessments to inform release plans
- Plans usually to minimize risk of further contact with criminal justice system
- Psychiatric Follow-Up – Off site, one half day per week
- Forensic Assessments – Co-ordinate and arrange court-ordered forensic assessments
- Consultation – to consumers, family members, services providers, court personal and judiciary
- Goals of the program were identified

Themes discussed: It is a voluntary program. The plan is based on what clients need and want. Release planning is also voluntary and provide support, not supervision. The case manager is instrumental in building a rapport with the client. It is difficult to navigate the mental health justice system. The program can help with explaining the process and provide guidance. Jason acknowledged the great work the court support program does at the courthouse.

Presentation:2) Valerie Danieli presented on the P-HSJCC Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and their survey results.

Presentation PowerPoint slides will be circulated with the minutes.

Five objectives of the Provincial HSJCC Anti-Racism Committee were identified- Identify common challenges and issues relating to anti-racism and decolonization within the human services and justice systems; develop evidence-based solutions and actions to address anti-racism and decolonization; provide guidance for Regional and Local HSJCCs to improve engagement of racialized populations; promote best practices and key considerations for improving the experiences of racialized populations.

Based on the Regional and Local HSJCC survey results three project areas were identified 1. Knowledge Exchange, which includes developing training modules, 2. Members Engagement Strategies, 3. Provincial Framework/Strategy.

Rachel and Valerie were thanked for their very informative and interactive presentations.

Lunch and Learns:

Domenica reported on the upcoming Lunch and Learns.

- There will be a Lunch and Learn on the New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre on February 10th. Invite and registration information will be circulated. Please mark this in your calendar.
- NY-HSJCC Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Sexual Behaviour Clinic will take place on January 20th. Invite will be circulated shortly.
- T-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on SolGen's Reintegration Unit on February 24th.
- WT-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic on March 8th.

Review Workplan for 2021-2022

- What we accomplished and future areas to consider?
- Who is missing at the table
- Budget

Domenica reported that we accomplished our goals of having five regular meetings and started the process of the Toronto HSJCC Anti-Black Series. The committee has been continuously improving to recognize and address emerging health equity challenges during and post COVID-19 by working collaboratively by addressing the intersectional, equity and Anti-Racism approach to social determinants of health affecting racialized communities in contact with the justice system. In process.

Domenica noted that due to covid the courthouses have been mainly operating virtually, as a result TTC tokens and food vouchers provided at the courthouse haven't fully been used and will be carried

over to the next fiscal year. This means that there will be excess funds that will not be necessary to purchase the TTC tokens or food vouchers for the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

- The committee unanimously agreed to allocate any excess funds towards the Anti-Racism work. Please note that the HSJCC budget is annual only.
- To date the feedback from the courthouse partners is to maintain the virtual court equipment of \$1700. The committee agreed to continue with the virtual court equipment, TTC tokens and food vouchers.
- The committee agreed to add to the workplan that the committee will explore the impact of the New Toronto Courthouse and Region Bail Centre on the S-HSJCC target population.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

Domenica reported that the virtual P-HSJCC conference took place on November 16-17.

- 680 people registered
- 29 presentations/workshops
- 14 people with lived experience in attendance
- The Indigenous keynote panel titled: Dismantling Anti-Indigenous in the Criminal Justice System was very successful. Two speakers spoke about their family members who overdosed.
- Looking at a hybrid model for the next conference. Planning for the next conference will start in June.

Domenica reported on the Toronto Regional HSJCC

- The committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group. It will address an Anti-Racism action plan for all the Locals which may be incorporated into their 2022-2023 workplan. Next meeting is taking place on March 10th.

Action Items

- Domenica will send a meeting invite for the next meeting after this meeting and reminder prior to the meeting.
- Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint presentation slide deck and Lunch and Learn invite

Presenter for next meeting: TBD

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Wednesday, March 2, 2022 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.