



Meeting Minutes
May 4, 2022
Noon- 1:00 pm
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Dr. Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant (Co-chair) Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Jason Balgopal, Crown Attorney's Office; Valeria Danieli, P-HSJCC; Erwin Black, Cota; Greg J. McInnes, Salvation Army; Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Jocelyn Moreau, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario(MNO); Sarah Hannaford, YMCA Youth Gambling

Regrets: Sophia Brown, City of Toronto; Robert Koslowski, Peer Worker; Muthyala Nirmala, SolGen; Joy Boatswain, Centennial College; Tammy Alston, CMHA; Rachel Ross-Vance, CMHA; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Dana Riley, E. Fry Toronto

Call-in: None

Land Acknowledgment

Samim 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.

Action Items

Reviewed and completed. It was noted that the Toronto Regional approved the S-HSJCC 2022-2023 workplan and proposed budget.

Review of March 2, 2022 minutes

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

Presentation Bradley Scarr, Kyra Schrader and Jocelyn Moreau from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Presentation slides will be circulated.

- "Métis" means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.

- MNO Secretariat - established a provincewide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario. Directed through eight branches, the MNO employs 300 + people located in 32 offices across Ontario. Link below:
- Offer Mental Health, Addiction and Community Wellness Programs.

www.metisnation.org

MNO has Restorative Justice Indigenous Liaison Program – Individual can access the MNO Community Diversion Program as an alternative to traditional sentencing. It promotes conflict resolution and reintegration into communities.

The Justice Council is made up of Métis Elders, community members and professionals. The program can utilize in-house Métis - focused support programs. Catchment area: Peel Region, York Region and Durham Region.

Justice Liaison Program: can access legal information, assistance with understanding various court and tribunal processes, general information about the law, information about various court and tribunal forms. Does not provide legal advice.

Contact info: 1-800-263-4889 Ext 7 or email at Justice@metisnation.org

Barriers to services were identified. They are:

1. Lack of involvement from courthouse staff
2. Communication barriers
3. Lack of referrals to MNO Programs
4. Lack of education on who Métis Peoples are
5. Lack of Métis-specific Programs
6. Lack of culturally relevant supports and services 14 Barriers
7. Lack of connections/relationships within the human and social services sector
8. Need for additional cultural services (ex: Métis Gladue Writer, Métis-led mediation)
9. Mistrust of colonial systems, including the criminal justice system and court process (including mistrust of lawyers, courthouse staff, law enforcement, etc.)
10. Educational barriers (there is a lack of education and awareness regarding Métis rights in the CJS)

Themes discussed

Diversion program requires a catchment, but other programs are available throughout the province. The crown must consent to diversion for non-violent matters. Why MNO is not serving the Toronto Region? Due to funding restrictions MNO is unable to serve Toronto Region. However, clients can choose who provides services to them i.e. Aboriginal Legal Services or MNO. Currently, they are working with Newmarket courthouse to develop protocols. Please note that there are twenty-eight thousand Métis living in Ontario. They have a blend of religion practices.

Bradly, Kyra and Joycelyn were thanked for the informative and insightful presentation.

Lunch and Learns

- Domenica reported on the upcoming session on the Sentencing and Parole Project (SPP) taking place on May 19th. SPP is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality. Their work has built upon the use of the reports in Nova Scotia

where they are ordered by the judiciary to assist with the sentencing of marginalized Black people. Presenter will be Faisal Mirza.

- The reports give judges and parole boards the information they need to make informed sentencing and release decisions. They include recommendations for culturally appropriate programs to assist with rehabilitation. The SPP also trains justice system participants about racism in the justice system.

Agency/Organization updates

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

- Sarah from the YMCA Youth Gambling program stated they provide service to Toronto East for youth age 18-24 using a harm reduction approach.

-Jason reported that most matters are being done through Zoom – in-person starting for trials. Bail set dates are done through Zoom. Bench warrants are issued if one does not attend court. Encourage clients to attend to their court matters.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

Domenica reported that the Toronto Regional committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc committee. Its membership includes all local HSJCC Co-chairs. The main goal is to develop an Anti-Racism educational series for the HSJCC target population. The main focus is education, increase awareness, identify issues and collaboration.

Next T-HSJCC meeting is taking place on October 13th.

Domenica reported on the Provincial HSJCC. Planning for the next conference has begun.

Action Items

- Domenica will report on the Lunch and Learn sessions at the next meeting
- Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint presentation slide deck.
- Members were encouraged to provide feedback on the annual members evaluation.

Presenter for next meeting: Sophia Brown from the City of Toronto, Employment and Social Services Confronting Anti Black Racism – Action Plan & Racque Hamlet, Manager of Wellness Community Crisis Response Team at TAIBU CHC.

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Wednesday, September 14th, 2022 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.