

Area {Barrie}{Collingwood}{Midland}{Orillia}
Human Services Justice Coordination (HSJC) Advisory Group

Terms of Reference

Background

The Ontario government's policy framework for people with clinical needs who come in conflict with the law, *A Provincial Strategy to Coordinate Human Services and Criminal Justice Systems in Ontario*, was approved in June 1997.

Further, the report of the Forensic Mental Health Services Expert Advisory Panel entitled, *Assessment, Treatment and Community Reintegration of the Mentally Disordered Offender (2002)*, recommendation that:

"the four partner Ministries (Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services, Ministry of Public Safety and Security, and Ministry of the Attorney General), with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care being the lead Ministry, equally endorse and fund the establishment of local and regional forensic coordinating committees, a key mechanism as per the inter-ministerial report, *A Provincial Strategy to Coordinate Human Services and Criminal Justice System in Ontario* (Human Services and Justice Coordination Project, 1997).

It is further recommended that a formal commitment be made by each of the four Ministries to recreate the Provincial Coordinating Committee to provide support and oversee the work of the Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees throughout the Province. Local and Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees must liaise with the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care as the lead Ministry."

Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees (HSJCCs) were established in response to a recognized need to coordinate resources and services, and plan more effectively for people who are in conflict with the law. Priority consideration will be made for people with a serious mental illness, developmental disability, acquired brain injury, drug and alcohol addictions, and/or fetal alcohol syndrome. The committees are a cooperative effort of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-term Care, and Community Safety and Correctional Services.

The two primary areas of emphasis for the committees are:

1. to provide a planning table to bring together service providers to find solutions to the problem of the criminalization of people with the defined unique needs, and;
2. to develop a model of shared responsibility and accountability in dealing with this group of individuals at points of intersection with the justice system.

Regional committees were established to coordinate communication and service integration planning between health, criminal justice and developmental service organizations within specific regions. Local committees/advisory groups are formed as required in each Region.

Reporting

Area HSJC Advisory Groups, located in Barrie, Collingwood, Midland and Orillia report to the Simcoe-Muskoka Human Services & Justice Coordination Committee.

Purpose

To improve local service delivery for persons with defined unique needs who become involved with, or are at risk for becoming involved with, the criminal justice system. Defined unique needs includes people with a serious mental illness, developmental disability, acquired brain injury, drug and alcohol addictions, and/or fetal alcohol syndrome.

Goals

- To promote local cross-sector communication between human services and justice systems.
- To facilitate implementation of the regional HSJC strategy at the local level.
- To create a point of contact and information for police, probation, community mental health and developmental services.

Objectives

1. To identify priority issues.
2. To create local solutions to local problems in relation to target client group.
3. To act in an advisory capacity to colleagues as human service and justice interface issues arise.
4. To organize and deliver local a community education and public awareness event (at least once every 2 years).
5. To advise the Simcoe-Muskoka Human Services & Justice Coordination Committee on strategy development.

Membership

Membership may include representatives from:

- Community Mental Health Services/Ministry of Health and Long Term Care
- Institutional Mental Health Services
- Addiction Services
- Developmental Services
- Aboriginal Community
- Police
- Probation and Parole
- Families and Consumers
- Simcoe-Muskoka Human Services & Justice Coordination Committee
- Provincial HSJC Committee
- Other interested affiliated community members/agencies

Other constituencies may be considered for membership at the discretion of the Area HSJC Advisory Group.

Term of Membership

Membership terms are open-ended and dependent upon the availability of individual members.

Frequency of Meetings

Each Local Area HSJC Advisory Group will normally meet four times per year.

Recording and Circulation of Minutes

Administration task responsibility to be determined by Area HSJC Advisory Group members. Minutes and reports will be circulated to local Area HSJC Advisory Group members. Minutes can be made available upon request to any Simcoe-Muskoka HSJC members.

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