



Thunder Bay & District Human Services Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC)

Meeting Minutes - Thurs, Nov 9 2023
 1:30pm - 3:00pm EST
 Via Zoom

Present: Jenny Leadbeater (CMHA), Claire Thiessen (CMHA), Paul Capon (Matawa), Stacey-Ann Dyer-McNish (YES Employment), Chris Lawrence (OPP), Desiree Danilko (John Howard Society), Kevin Haynen (John Howard Society), Lorna Hunda (YES Employment), Steve Cambly (Creighton Youth Services), Lauren Bennett (SOLGEN), Julie Tilbury (Thunder Bay Police), Stacey Routhier (Metis Nation of Ontario), Lee-Ann Chevrette (City of Thunder Bay), Rose Viel (Centr'Elles), Jennifer Moore (Dilico), Nicole Latour (Alpha Court), Kyra Shrader (Metis Nation of Ontario), Joe Dampier (Thunder Bay Police), Crystal Dunning (Thunder Bay Counseling), Shawn Doucet (SOLGEN), Michelle Davidson (TBRHSC), Ginny Wong (CMHA), Guest Speaker: Savannah Upton (Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre)

Regrets: Jason Anderson (Thunder Bay Police), Jennifer Burn (BISNO), Cathy Clara (St Joseph's Care Group)

Item & Purpose	Summary and Action Items
1. Welcome & Introductions & Land Acknowledgement	Jenny facilitated introductions and Claire provided a land acknowledgement.
2. Conflict of Interest	No conflicts to declare
3. Approval of Agenda	Motion to approve the agenda from Lee-Ann Chevrette, seconded by Kevin Haynen. Approved.
4. Brief Overview of How we got here and Review of draft Terms of Reference	Jenny shared a visual presentation on "How we got here" which included an overview of the former and current NW Community Mobilization Network structures. In 2017, the NW Regional HSJCC was rebranded into the NW Centre of Responsibility (NWCOR) and the Thunder Bay & District HSJCC was dismantled and replaced by Situation Table models in Thunder Bay and the district. The decision to return to our HSJCC roots was made earlier this year in a strategic planning session held by the Executive Committee of the NWCOR. Both the NW Regional HSJCC and Thunder Bay & District HSJCC are being revived with new membership to ensure issues emerging locally and in the district will have an appropriate venue for discussion. This structure will mirror the structure of the

	<p>Kenora Rainy River District HSJCC.</p> <p>Jenny shared and reviewed some highlights of the draft Thunder Bay & District HSJCC Terms of Reference. The membership was encouraged to review in detail prior to the next meeting so that they can be approved.</p> <p>ACTION: Members to review Terms of Reference prior to January’s meeting. Jenny will send out an updated version next week.</p>
<p>5. Co-Chair Nominations/Election</p>	<p>Jenny informed she has received a nomination from Jason Anderson from Thunder Bay Police and is seeking nominations for a second Co-Chair from the community sector. Crystal Dunning from Thunder Bay Counseling volunteered.</p> <p>Elections were held via private vote using the Zoom chat feature. Unanimous approval for both Jason and Crystal to become Co-Chairs.</p> <p>ACTION: Jenny will set up meeting with co-chairs to go over logistics.(COMPLETE)</p>
<p>6. PRESENTATION: Transitions to Care</p>	<p>Update by Paul Capon</p> <p>The Transitions to Care project is co-sponsored by P-HSJCC and Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Health Council, bringing health connections to persons leaving corrections, specifically to primary care. Raising awareness of care services available to the individuals. Carrying over care that was provided within corrections. Matawa is completing interviews for this position and they will be located in the old Dawson Court location, next to the District Jail.</p>
<p>7. PRESENTATION: Indigenous People’s Court</p>	<p>Presentation on the Indigenous People’s Court (IPC) provided by Savanna Upton of the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre.</p> <p>Two elders sit with every court appearance, typically on Fridays. Recognizing trauma of the community and addressing how this affects the justice system. Building partnerships, as per the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action. Program focuses on restorative justice, giving voice to the victim. To join the IPC, offenders need to admit responsibility and enter a plea of guilt. There are numerous pathways of referral; most common are self-referrals and by defense counsel. Also need to self-identify as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit. Opportunity to have a blanket ceremony at the end of the program which participants appreciate.</p> <p>Questions/Feedback:</p> <p>Are there any barriers? Yes. Many clients have difficulty getting legal aid certificates approved so they must self-represent which isn’t ideal. Just under half are approved for</p>

	<p>Legal Aid Certificates.</p> <p>How many people are in the program and how long is the process from intake to graduation? Carries an average caseload of 25. The process can range from 9 months up to 4 years in some cases as this is a healing process.</p> <p>Are there any charges not applicable? Yes. Typically does not include gang-related activity or high offenses like homicide.</p> <p>Is it common for individuals to drop out? It is a voluntary program, it happens sometimes. Most clients like having the support, particularly from the elders. Low drop out numbers unless someone incurs new charges deeming them ineligible.</p> <p>Who can refer to the program? Most referrals come from defense counsel or self-referral. (Discussion ensued about offering training/education to police officers, so they are aware of referral pathways.)</p>
8. TB Justice Centre Submission update	<p>Update from Paul Capon about proposed Thunder Bay Justice Centre.</p> <p>A sub-committee of the previous Release from Custody Taskforce completed a proposal which was submitted to The Indigenous Community Corrections Initiative through Public Safety Canada in June 2023. The proposal suggested setting up a pilot project similar to Kenora.</p> <p>Currently waiting for a response. Paul will update at a future meeting on how this might move forward.</p>
9. New Correctional Facility	<p>Update from Paul Capon</p> <p>Question raised at the former release from custody table re:</p> <p>How do we continue with the relationships developed, supporting the clients, and supporting the staff in the facility? Is there interest in creating a community advisory to provide input into the facilities development? There have been some communication issues - what role does this HSJCC have in building these relationships?</p> <p>ACTION: Members were asked to contemplate these questions for discussion during the next meeting.</p>
10. Moses Beaver Inquest Recommendations	<p>Item deferred to next meeting.</p>
11. City of Thunder Bay Youth Gang Prevention initiative	<p>Update from Lee-Ann Chevrette.</p> <p>Background: Thunder Bay was identified as eligible for funding from Public Safety</p>

	<p>Canada for the Building Safer Communities fund, intended to mitigate impacts of youth gang violence and involvement. A Steering committee has been developed and a consultant hired to complete a situation analysis, public consultations with youth, families, and services providers. A report has been generated by the consultants and will be brought to the City Council for review this month. Currently in the process of developing a strategy/program to address the issues.</p> <p>Some of the Identified needs include: mentorship and peer support for youth, system navigation, more 'place-based' supports, need for wellbeing stipends to address economic vulnerability which can lead to gang involvement.</p> <p>Questions/Feedback:</p> <p>Any connection to the youth hubs being developed? Yes, crossover in steering committee members, will ensure there is a strong connection between both programs.</p>
<p>12. Transitional & Supportive Housing updates</p>	<p>Jenny requested updates from members about new and developing transitional and supportive housing initiatives.</p> <p>Nicole Latour (Alpha Court), along with other partners, submitted an EOI to TBDSSAB for a tiny home village. TBDSSAB is interested in pursuing this. Currently looking into available land in Thunder Bay, this will be made public later in November. 1 acre of land for 12 tiny homes. Need to consider how to provide services for these residents – will reach out to community partners who can provide services who expressed they wanted to be part of this. Potentially looking at some of the land already being used by encampments. Needs to be adequate for utilities. One of the barriers is zoning bylaws (not allowed too many detached buildings on one property). This has been piloted in Edmonton with an exception made to the bylaw successfully.</p> <p>Kevin Haynen (John Howard Society) provided an update. John Howard Society operates as a federal halfway house with 20 beds designated as bail beds. JHS launched a transitional services program at the beginning of 2020 with 5 beds designated for the reintegration program into transitional housing. This has recently increased from 5 to 10 beds.</p> <p>This will be a standing item on agenda for updates.</p>
<p>13. TB Community Reintegration Planning Table (CRPT)</p>	<p>Laureen Bennett and Shawn Doucet provided updates.</p> <p>CRPT is a partnership between SolGen and the Provincial HSJCC network. It was launched early summer and has had 5 referrals to date. CRPT meets virtually or in person on a monthly basis. Program works with inmates with the highest needs, requiring multi-service agency involvement upon release. All referrals come from the institution and</p>

	CRO's. Planning starts before the individual leaves the institution.
14. TB Situation Table Updates	<p>Jenny provided an update.</p> <p>A Steering committee for the Thunder Bay Situation Table was created earlier this year. Claire converted many of the common forms used by the table to electronic versions using Formsite.com. This makes it easier for members to submit on the go. Also piloting a Non-AER referrals process which includes chronic high risk situations and must be consent driven. Table meets bi-weekly and just completed 3-year membership renewals. Referrals are slowing down, but continue to use meeting time for networking.</p>
15. Provincial HSJCC Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provincial HSJCC Virtual Conference ● Mental Health Court Best Practices Guide Project ● QI Supports for HSJCC 	<p>Jenny provided an update.</p> <p>The Provincial HSJCC Virtual conference is Nov 15-16. \$50 fee to join for HSJCC members. Jenny will share the link (in meeting chat) if anyone is interested in joining. hsjccconference.ca</p> <p>The P-HSJCC, in partnership with the Ministry of Attorney General, will be starting a Mental Health Court Best Practices Guidance Project. Updates will be provided as this initiative gets underway</p> <p>QI support has been made available through <i>E-QIP (CMHA Ontario)</i> to regional and local HSJCC. Good to keep in mind for future projects.</p>
16. Next meeting Land Acknowledgement - request volunteer	Nicole Latour will offer next meeting's land acknowledgement.
17. Next Meeting date and Adjournment Suggested Date: Thurs, Jan 25th 1:30-3:00pm EST	Next meeting is proposed for Jan 25, 2024 from 1:30 - 3:00 pm. Jenny will send out a meeting invite along with today's meeting minutes.