



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

Meeting Agenda – Thurs, Jan 25 2024
 1:30pm – 3:00pm EST
 Via Zoom

Present: Co-Chair Crystal Dunning (TBCC), Coordinator Jenny Leadbeater (CMHA Thunder Bay), Jennifer Burn (BISNO), Nicole Latour (Alpha Court), Julie Tilbury (TBPS), Rose Viel (Centr’Elles), Jennifer McKenzie (Dilico), Jason Anderson (TBPS), Glenda Takalo (CAS), Shawn Doucet (SOLGEN), Claire Thiessen (CMHA), Steve Cambly (Creighton), Stacey Routhier (MNO), Lee-Ann Chevrette (City of Thunder Bay), Kevin Haynen (JHS), Desiree Danilko (JHS), Stacey-Ann (YES Employment), Laureen Bennett (SOLGEN), Paul Capon (Matawa), Michelle Davidson (TBRHSC)

Guest Speaker: Regional Justice David Gibson

Regrets: Cathy Clara (SJCG)

Item & Purpose	Meeting Minutes
1. Welcome & Introductions & Land Acknowledgement	Crystal Dunning welcomed the group and reminded the group to identify First/Last Name and Organization in Zoom in lieu of introductions. Nicole Latour provided a land acknowledgement.
2. Conflict of Interest	No conflicts were declared.
CONSENT AGENDA:	
3. Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes	Mover: Lee-Ann Chevrette Seconder: Rose Viel. All Approved
NEW BUSINESS:	
4. PRESENTATION: *new* Thunder Bay Court Processes with guest Justice David Gibson	Regional Justice David Gibson provided an overview of a new Restorative justice stream commencing at the Thunder Bay Courthouse in March 2024. This process will work cooperatively with the Crown Attorney’s office to have charges screened upon first appearance in court. Individuals screened for less than 6 months custody will be referred to the new restorative justice court. This

will be held in Roundtable (conference-style) Courtroom, and all are welcome to observe. The records within this court will be kept confidential and will not be used against the individual.

This court will utilize a rehabilitative approach for individuals with pending charges who may be facing mental health challenges, substance use, housing issues and other de-stabilizing issues who've been charged with low level crimes. It is known these individuals tend to put added pressure on the system. By taking a rehabilitative approach and providing wrap-around services, it will reduce rates of recidivism while also working through root causes of offending behaviors. The restorative justice court will also consider the impacts on victims/community supports/families. The primary goal is to engage in community healing. This court is requesting collaboration with community support services to support healing plans for those accessing the Restorative Justice court. To date there have been 3 court sessions for the Restorative Justice court (Dec 14th, Jan 5th, Jan 12th) resulting in 20 out of 25 outstanding matters being resolved, some with peace bonds and others having charges withdrawn.

For matters where the Crown's office is seeking more than 6 months of custody, matters will be directed to case management court/trial or sentencing.

Currently there is significant backlog within the Thunder Bay court system (due to COVID/court shutdowns).

The system has been processing charges and admitted there have been too many hoops to jump through. The hope is to streamline processes and eliminate unnecessary steps. Many of the cases have resulted in withdrawals, but as we move through some of the easier cases, we will eventually get to the difficult, more complicated cases that are repeatedly interacting with the system and are highly likely to be incarcerated again. Jail should be the absolute last resort.

Restorative Justice Court will seek how individuals can make amends and who can be called on to assist? * Every case screened for less than 6 months of custody will go through this stream. Plea courts will still run should someone wish to plead guilty. Will be hiring case managers to assist with this to perform outreach and monitor healing plans.

	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Will this apply to youth courts? Not yet. The youth are combined with the family court stream at present. Expects the philosophy will impact youth in time but will require a culture shift. Youth are on the radar (provided example in Kenora’s Justice Centre – 155 youth with only 3 counts of recidivism) - Dual warrants (youth and adult) – can be dealt via video if necessary - What days will the Restorative Justice Court be operational? Starting in March, every 2nd week on Thurs/Fri to start. There are currently no statistics that have been screened at front end by Crown Attorney for more than 6 months custody. Attempting to make case management streams more knowledgeable about how many require less than 6 months. <p>Once an official communique is developed, Justice Gibson will forward it to Jenny who can circulate to the committee.</p>
BUSINESS ARISING:	
5. Terms of Reference approval – Co-Chair	<p>Mover to approve with changes provided by Lee-Ann: Mover: Lee-Ann Seconder: Steve. Approved.</p>
6. City of Thunder Bay Youth Gang Prevention initiative updates – Lee-Ann Chevrette	<p>Lee-Ann provided an update. The City has finalized a prevention strategy for the community. Background: Funding received from Public Safety Canada through Building Safer Communities. A Steering Committee was developed, and consultants were hired to complete a situational analysis and youth engagement.</p> <p>The strategy will be shared with the Steering Committee at the upcoming meeting on Feb 8th.</p> <p>The strategy will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hiring program staff (City hiring Youth and Family Support, Youth Navigator, Youth mentor, - Place based referral partners to provide support to those 10-13 year olds - Fast track youth to MH and substance use supports - Well-being stipends (financial supports to families to meet basic needs)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two streams of funding (place based referrals and support organization providing MH and Substance use supports)
ISSUES MANAGEMENT:	
7. Burdens of Alcohol on the Legal System - Jenny and Claire	<p>Jenny provided an overview of how topics can be brought forward as an Issues Management item on the agenda.</p> <p>Claire provided a brief overview of the briefing note (included in the meeting package) and asked the group several questions.</p> <p>ACTION: Jenny will put questions into a survey to distribute to the group.</p>
8. Transportation from Corrections to Communities - Paul Capon	<p>Paul shared that NAN Legal has suspended their transportation program (developed during COVID) which had assisted individuals released from custody back to their home communities. This may become an issue for agencies and individuals moving forward. Paul will keep this group updated as to what transpires.</p> <p>Steve commented that Creighton has utilized NAN services frequently, especially after many youth justice facilities were closed in the region. Once detention ends there needs to be mechanisms to transfer youth home. MCCSS has also supported transportation needs previously.</p>
HSJCC-RELATED COMMITTEES:	
9. TB Community Reintegration Planning Table	<p>CRPT Co-Chairs will engage in planning for the year ahead including funding discussion with CMHA Thunder Bay (TPA). To date, the table has received 7 referrals and meets monthly. Co-Chairs thanked contributing organizations for their support.</p> <p>Current partnership with John Howard Society to access 5 beds for CRPT has been successful. This will be reviewed prior to year-end.</p> <p>Jason Anderson informed Thunder Bay Police have received a 2-year grant approval to hire a Violent Crime Outreach Worker. This position will be housed at TBPS but will provide outreach at the jails to help with releases. Jason will make a connection to the CRPT.</p>
STANDING ITEMS:	

<p>10. Transitional and Supportive Housing initiatives</p>	<p>Alpha Court update on Tiny Homes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City needs to collaborate on finding land - Waiting on advancement in terms of finding land before we can move forward with a more solidified plan - K-Z lodge is a youth tiny home project through Hammarskjold HS which teaches trades to students. Nicole Latour was able to tour the program <p>City of Thunder Bay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meeting is set with the city in late Feb - Some issues around zoning bylaw with tiny homes. Lee-Ann can try to advocate internally - Issue with tiny homes is that there can't be multiple detached dwellings on a single lot
<p>11. Situation Table Updates</p>	<p>Jenny was not able to access the Risk Tracking Database for the past 2 months due to technical issues but the issue was temporarily resolved. 2023 Stats and reporting will be upcoming for Thunder Bay and NW Region.</p> <p>Situation Table Orientation Dates for 2024: Feb 26, April 22, June 24, Aug 26, Oct 21, Dec 16</p> <p>Anyone interested in attending a session can email Jenny to sign up.</p>
<p>12. Provincial HSJCC Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 Pre-Budget Submission ● Jan 2024 Meeting Highlights 	<p>Jenny provided P-HSJCC updates:</p> <p>Pre-budget submission key requests are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Equitable access to mental health and substance use care - Addressing the housing issue – transitional housing, supportive housing <p>MOH and P-HSJCC working on mental health and addictions justice service inventory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point in time count - What services exist for this population? - Inventory will be on the HSJCC website – Jenny will send that out once it's posted

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Goal is to have it out by the end of March <p>Crisis response services project was circulated to the group. Sara provided input into the changes.</p> <p>2024-2035 HSJCC Work plan submission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due Mar 15th for local and regional HSJCC's - Jenny will be drafting the TBD and NWR work plans with input from the membership - Final draft will come to group by March 7 for feedback <p>Everyone is encouraged to provide input into work plan development.</p> <p>ACTION: Jenny to send a copy of the work plan template and previous work plan to request input from members.</p>
13. Next meeting Land Acknowledgement	Jennifer Burn from BISNO will provided next land acknowledgement
14. Next Meeting date and Adjournment Suggested Date: Thurs, Mar 21 st from 1:30-3:00pm EST	Jason Anderson will chair the next meeting.

