

Toronto East Detention Centre Community Reintegration Planning Table

September 28, 2023



Agenda

- Background
- Overview of Ministry Initiatives
- P-HSJCC & SolGen Partnership
- Community Reintegration Planning Tables:
 - Goals & Objectives
 - Funding Model
 - Site Locations
- CRPT Structure and Key Functions
- From Phase 1 to Phase 2
- Lessons Learned from Phase 1
- Spotlight: Toronto South Community Reintegration Planning Table
- Questions & Discussion

Background

- The Ministry of the Solicitor General (SolGen) is identifying opportunities to enhance community reintegration planning to support sentenced and remand populations.
- SolGen has hosted engagement sessions with frontline staff from Community Correctional Services, Institutional Services and healthcare, as well as community service providers, Indigenous communities/organizations and municipalities to identify current best practices and gaps in community reintegration planning.
- Through SolGen's enhanced community reintegration initiative, the ministry is aiming to provide:

An **inclusive** and **people-centered** approach that is **standardized and consistent** across the province, that **capitalizes on multiple intervention points** in the individual's journey and **leverages the skills and expertise of SolGen staff and community partners**

Overview of Ministry Initiatives

SolGen is supporting enhanced community reintegration through several initiatives:

Additional Supports (Phased Approach at select institutions)

Community Reintegration Officers (CRO)

- Specialized PPO positions that support institutions with **high needs, high risk** individuals that require **additional supports** for their successful reintegration.

Community Reintegration Planning Tables (CRPT)

- Planning tables or forums to **streamline referrals** to a network of community partners to **ensure multi-agency support** can be accessed for complex cases with high needs.
- Work to operationalize Tables is underway and being conducted in partnership with the Provincial-Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (P-HSJCC).

All Institutions Across the Province (all 25 institutions)

Community Reintegration Planning Form

- A **standardized** form that is initiated for **both sentenced and remanded** individuals upon intake, to assess their areas of **need and risk**.
- This form is used to develop and document reintegration plans, **including connections** made to service providers.

Community Reintegration Policy Guidelines

- A policy has been introduced to ensure **proactive and consistent** community reintegration practices **across all institutions**.
- This process enables staff to identify **areas for early intervention** and they can connect in with service providers as part of their planning.

SolGen Partnership, Goals & Objectives of CRPTs

Provincial HSJCC & SolGen Partnership:

- In May 2022, P-HSJCC and SolGen entered into a partnership to support the development and operationalization of joint ministry-community led CRPTs.

Goals & Objectives of CRPTs:

- Facilitate **stronger collaboration** between SolGen staff, the justice sector, and community service providers by providing a venue to meet and discuss release planning.
- **Enhance community reintegration planning** (i.e., proactive, coordinated and holistic release planning) for **high need individuals** leaving provincial correctional institutions.
- Facilitate **access to appropriate interventions** in local communities and mitigate potential individual risk.

CRPT Sites

- SolGen and P-HSJCC are using a **phased approach** for the introduction of CRPTs.
- This approach allows for program evaluation based on lessons learned and best practices from Phase 1 sites prior to a full implementation.

Toronto East Detention Centre Site:

- There are numerous agencies and initiatives in the region that have demonstrated leadership in proactive community reintegration planning and support.
- SolGen and P-HSJCC are interested leveraging existing reintegration support services, including the local HSJCC, and other service providers in the region to

Phase 1

- CRPTs have launched at the following sites and will become “case carrying” starting in May 2023.
- Thunder Bay Jail and Correctional Centre
- Elgin-Middlesex Detention Centre
- Maplehurst Correctional Complex
- Toronto South Detention Centre

Phase 2

- Efforts are continuing to launch CRPTs at the following sites:
- Kenora Jail
- Vanier Centre for Women
- Brockville Jail
- Sarnia Jail
- Quinte Detention Centre
- Toronto East Detention Centre

Toronto East: Proposed CRPT Structure and Key Functions

Proposed Structure:



Co-chair model Community Reintegration Officers (CROs) and Community Co-Chairs share responsibility for:

- Supporting coordinated and timely planning, case conference, and referrals for individuals released from custody
- Identifying CRPT membership (both core and as needed)
- Coordinating and co-chairing CRPT meetings; and
- Administrative tasks necessary to support the ongoing development and implementation of the CRPTS, including data collection



Key Functions:



Coordinate and triage reintegration planning for **all** individuals released from custody, **prioritizing high need individuals.**

- Prioritizing high need individuals will support a person-centric, standard and consistent approach to community reintegration planning across all institutions.



Support the **collection of community reintegration data** through Evaluation Tools developed to track progress and CRPT outcomes.

- Data will enable us to understand CRPT achievements and challenges that exist at the local level and enable SolGen to work collaboratively with ministry partners to improve outcomes for individuals reintegrating into the community.

Toronto East: Proposed CRPT Structure and Key Functions



Membership:

Core Group Membership

- CRO Co-Chair: Representative(s) from Sarnia Jail
- Community Co-Chair: Suggested representative with broad reintegration expertise, Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) organizations with similar mandates should be given priority for this role
- Community Service Providers: i.e. housing, MH&A, primary healthcare, income assistance, BIPOC organizations
- People with lived experience
- Elders



As Needed Group Membership

- A broad range of local service providers who may be called on to support specific cases based on individual need, such as:
- Institutional staff (social workers, NILOs, chaplains etc.)
- Specialized support services (e.g. ABI services, support for victims of human trafficking or domestic violence etc.)

CRPT Funding Model

- ❑ CRPT funding supports Community Co-Chair functions and table operations.
- ❑ A tiered process of issuing emergency funds (after hours supports, quick turnaround releases, extensive waitlists) for eligible expenses (food, shelter, clothing and transportation) will be employed



From Phase 1 to Phase 2

Environmental Scan

- Outreach to Phase 2 sites to identify existing tables and reintegration services
- Identify local issues (geography, service gaps etc.)

Evaluation + Lessons Learned

- Ongoing evaluation and data tracking of exiting sites
- Serves to support ongoing improvement of processes, implementation
- Evidence to address systemic barriers and build inter-ministerial partnerships

Development of Phase 2 CRPTs

- Identify co-chairs
- Develop TPA
- Confirm membership, TOR, confidentiality agreements

Lessons Learned from Phase 1 Sites

Relationship Building

- Consistent communication between SolGen and P-HSJCC
- Broader and more targeted outreach to community partners
- Transparency and communication with community partners

Remand Populations

- Develop strategies for responsive planning for remanded individuals

Community Capacity

- Leveraging existing forums and initiatives
- Funding
- Flexibility with timelines

Institutional & Systemic Challenges

- Housing
- Health cards & ID
- Barriers to referral for complex clients



Learning from the Toronto South CRPT

Co-chairs: Sarah Bellhouse, CRO Toronto South Detention Centre
and Sarah James, Manager Community Programs & Engagement,
John Howard Society Toronto



Questions & Discussion

- Who is missing from this meeting?
- What organizations should we be meeting with to discuss the community co-chair role?
- What gaps/ barriers exist in your community that need to be addressed when implementing the table?
- Are there existing forums/ tables already addressing community reintegration that we should leverage?
- Are there PWLE and peer-led services that we can consult with?



Thank You!

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