



Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 8, 2021
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Katie Almond (Meeting chair on behalf of Susan Davis) Probation and Parole; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Dina Zalkind, Legal Aid Ontario; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Chris Boddy, Toronto Police Services; Kathy Chau, Canadian Mental Health Association-Toronto; Rachel Bromberg, CAMH; Lin Sallay, Cota; Jennifer Altosaar, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Carol O Neil, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

Regrets: Susan Davis (Co-chair) Gerstein Centre; Tammy Tinney, North York General Hospital; Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant; Charissa Levy, Rehabilitative Care Alliance, GTA Rehab Network & Toronto ABI Network; Gerald Ngangue, Christian Horizons; Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network; Nancy Blades, Cota; Dr. Sandy Simpson, CAMH; Scott McKean, City of Toronto; Tazio Clarke, Victim Services Toronto; Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; Suzanne Lajambe, John Howard Society of Toronto (on behalf of Amber Kellen); Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Jennifer Chambers, Empowerment Council

Land Acknowledgement

Katie Almond read the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review/Approval Minutes from January 25th, 2021 Meeting

Minutes were approved by Dina Zalkind and seconded by Natasha Bartlett

Action Items follow-up

Reviewed and completed

Updates from Toronto Local HSJCCs & Approve Workplans for 2021-2022

West Toronto HSJCC:

Patricia provided a report.

- At the March meeting there was a presentation on the Salvation Army program update specific to the justice sector and vulnerable clients. Lunch and Learn panel discussion on youth employment pathways took place on February 11th. Invitation to all Locals was sent out. Planning the next Lunch and Learn on suicide risk and the covid-19 pandemic.

Workplan 2021-22 was approved with two new objectives:

- **VI.** To improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized groups; recognize, support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities within the efforts of the West Toronto HSJCC OR in accordance with the mandate of the West Toronto HSJCC.
- **VII.** To promote self-awareness/ reflection through education and dialogue about the equity impact of social determinants of health and how they may manifest in the work of the West Toronto HSJCC.

NY-HSJCC Dina provided the report.

At the March meeting Sue MacLennan from the Aboriginal Legal Services presented on the challenges to Gladue court during Covid-19. One of the major issues is that Gladue court isn't happening; however, diversion is still taking place, and we should be considering diversion where possible. Sue noted she isn't in court physically these days and, as such, is not present at bail hearings. There have been issues with conditions of bail that Sue would have alerted us to had she been aware at the time of the hearing. Sue has been unable to communicate with people at the institution and, therefore, has had trouble tailoring release plans to the individual needs of the client. While this is more of an issue with WASH matters, one should keep this in mind for new arrests and make referrals as early as possible. This will allow Sue to speak to clients while they are still at the police division. There has been an issue with Sue's Release Plans getting to clients.

- There was a Lunch and Learn on February 2 with Dr. Samim Hasham and Robb Johannes on "The Great Amplifier: Opioid Overdose in Times of Disruption. 120 people in attendance. There will be a Lunch and Learn on March 31 on Anti-Black Racism: A discussion with the Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC).
- Workplan 2021-2022 was approved with similar two new objectives as the WT-HSJCC.

DT-HSJCC

- Katie provided a report.
The committee met in March and addressed similar themes as other Locals in relation to the Workplan 2021-2022 approval. Add the term neurodisability as we know the prevalence of neurodisability and justice to the pillars.
- There was a presentation on the encampment population, their needs and gaps.
- Next Lunch N' Learn: Living and Dying on the Streets: the Social Determinants of Palliative Care with Dr. Trevor Morey and Leeann Trevors taking place on March 16th.
- The Service Resolution was deferred to the next meeting.
- It was noted that the Justice Centre is looking at integrating the notion of a service resolution.

S-HSJCC

Domenica provided the report.

The committee met in March. There was a presentation on the Salvation Army program update specific to the justice sector and vulnerable clients. Main theme discussed was the benefits of having people with lived experience on the committee. Several members identified as people with lived experience. Working on setting up an adhoc group to develop a Scarborough Directory Resource. Summer project to address an anti-racism educational series.

Update from the Toronto Service Resolution Project (TSRP): Katie provided the report. The Terms of Reference are not completed. The DT-HSJCC is exploring how to integrate the anti-black racism/ indigenous discussion with the TSRP. Discussed the context of the project as well whether or not the DT-HSJCC should become a SR table?

Current Issues:

- COVID-19 Updates: Main issue identified is that people are unable to access court matters due to a lack of technology. Concerns regarding accessibility and equity in relation to technology, mental health and justice.
- The impact of cognition issues and the need to 'see' what you are saying.
- People released from custody are not receiving their release plan.
- Vaccinations- . Correctional officers and clients are being vaccinated
- It was noted that there is a high incidents of COVID-19 in the encampment population.
- How can we build capacity for service resolution b) anti-racism, indigenous education, training and engagement post COVID-19 resilience.
- Natasha reported that Fred Victor has a downtown Toronto boardroom that the HSJCC can access for meetings.

Approval Toronto Regional Workplan 2021-2022

Locals and Toronto Regional workplan with budget were circulated prior to the meeting. Budget highlights: TTC tokens remain the same, food voucher budget increase, new virtual court equipment line. Motion to approve the Toronto Regional workplan 2021-2022 and budget by Kathy Chau and seconded by Natasha Bartlett.

Update from the P-HSJCC

- Katie reported that the conference will be virtual in November 2021. They are looking for conference proposals as well addressing technology barriers to ensure that people can attend the conference. Next week there is a Specialized Courts Forum capability for 500 to attend.
- The committee is exploring ways to address COVID-19 impacts and anti- black racism. A provincial Anti-Racism Committee has been established.
- There will be a Ministry of Health submission requesting a budget increase

Action Items Follow-up

- Domenica to submit the Locals and Regional workplans 2021-22 to the P-HSJCC.

Next meeting will take place virtually on Monday, June 7th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.