



Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 29, 2020
9:30 a.m. - Noon
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Steve Lurie (Co-chair), Canadian Mental Health Association -Toronto; Katie Almond, Probation and Parole; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Dina Zalkind, Legal Aid Ontario; Tammy Tinney, North York General Hospital; Chris Boddy, Toronto Police Services; Jennifer Altosaar, Toronto Network of Specialized Care, Natasha Bronfman, CMHA

Regrets: Amber Kellen (Co-chair), John Howard Society of Toronto; Susan Davis, Gerstein Centre; Melissa Perez, Correction Service Canada; Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant; Kathy Chau, Canadian Mental Health Association – Toronto; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Lin Sallay, Cota; Gerald Ngangue, Christian Horizons; Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; Jennifer Chambers, Empowerment Council; Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review/Approval Minutes from March 18, 2020 Meeting

Minutes were approved.

Action Items follow-up

- Domenica will purchase the TTC tokens and food vouchers - Completed
- DT-HSJCC will explore becoming a Service Resolution Table - Ongoing
- Locals will explore legal aid challenges/barriers – Ongoing
- Domenica will submit 2020-2021 workplans with budget to the P-HSJCC – new deadline August 1. Reviewed.

Outcome:

- It was agreed for locals to have Legal Aid challenges/barriers as a standing agenda item at the Fall meetings.
- Service Resolution Toronto (SRT) - It was agreed that the DT-HSJCC will continue with the SRT discussion using the Northwest Center of Responsibility model of transitioning a HSJCC local to a Service Resolution Table.

Themes discussed:

- The FOCUS Tables (East, West and Rexall) were addressed. Soundtimes project with division 51 - look at what is operational. What are the gaps the SRT can fill? What are the implications of the new courthouse located downtown? How does a Service

Resolution Table fit with the Justice Centres? The committee needs to address the pathway to care. Who needs to be at the table moving forward?

- A motion was passed unanimously for the DT-HSJCC to lead the SRT table exploration and for the committee to make recommendations. The recommendations were regarding the usage of the available \$20,000 which can be used for report writing or accessed at a later time.

How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community?

- Natasha Bartlett reported that work continues to be very busy. Courts are working remotely. Case Managers are taking new clients, Indigenous Bail partnership is working very well, information provided has increased. The staff are using case conferencing and are getting ready for the courts to open. There has been an opportunity to increase housing within the justice sector due to the city being responsive. Fred Victor has opened a Bengali justice support line which is receiving over 50 calls per month for Bengali mental health and justice issues.
- Chris Boddy reported that calls and apprehension have decreased because people are afraid of going to hospitals, calls for people in crisis are normalized, mental health calls are a result of safety concerns that only the police can attend to.
- Jennifer Altossar reported that the Dual Diagnosis and Justice Case Manager (Scott Skinner) is now referred to as Dual Diagnosis and Justice Coordinator. Staff working remotely are not going into the community. Surrey Place was invited to join the FOCUS Tables. Scott Skinner is attending these tables regularly. Clients have been released without notice, so we are unable to connect to them. Main contact with clients has been by phone and video calls.
- Katie Almond reported that similar issues have been reported at the Provincial HSJCC table – people are being released without notice and there has also been limited discharge planning. The main issue is lack of communication with community partners. P-HSJCC has raised these concerns at their table. Probation and parole has released 2500 clients. There will be discussion to learn and assess how 2500 clients were released with the Ministry of Attorney General (MAG) and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS).
- Steve Lurie reported that the staff at CMHA is working remotely, when face-to-face service is required the staff will have PPE. The safe beds and forensic site had a COVID-19 outbreak. They reopened at the beginning of the month. It is challenging for people who can not self-isolate i.e. can not stay in their room. Community spread of COVID-19 is still an issue. CMHA is connected with North York General Hospital (NYGH) for wrapped testing when needed. Some barriers are that public health is unable to move rapidly for contact tracing as there is no quick solution. The CMHA nursing team stayed opened. Food distribution in safe beds had to be changed - a food box program was organized.
- Tammy Tinney reported that she sees patients mainly by phone and video. Few people who are high risk are seeing on site with PPE. Psychiatric services are provided by phone or OTN.
- Dina Zalkind reported that the duty counsel is working remotely. This is challenging because people are not brought to court and duty counsel is only able to speak on the

phone with clients. Individuals appear on video or audio for court procedure. It is very challenging to provide instructions to individuals who have mental health challenges, it is also difficult to build trust. You can only see clients at jail if there is a scheduled video meeting or if you leave a message at the jail. Moreover, it is difficult to hear people which makes communication challenging especially for marginalized clients. Cota provides support but they are also working remotely. Bail plans are limited, negotiation with the Crown Attorney's Office is more limited. The prospect to return to court soon is unlikely, instead are looking at returning to court in September 2020.

Themes discussed:

- Are people tested when they are released? The City of Toronto has isolation centres. If you need a city facility you can call Jessica Lee at CMHA. EMS want the police to attend if there are safety issues, CAMH called the police 200 times this year.
- It was agreed for the Local HSJCCs to address at their meetings the following: Working remotely for and with clients creates challenges for people with mental health issues. How are you enhancing face-to-face visits to deal with the COVID-19 social distancing practices?

Updates from Toronto Local HSJCCs

Domenica reported on the Annual Member Evaluation Summary for each local and Toronto Regional-HSJCC. The summaries were circulated prior to the meeting. Local and regional member evaluation summary highlights were reviewed.

2019-2020 Annual Report – the submission date was extended to August 1, 2020. The P-HSJCC has developed a new reporting template. The Toronto Regional report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed for Domenica to submit the annual report to the P-HSJCC.

- The committee agreed unanimously for the Toronto Regional and locals to plan the Fall meetings virtually using Microsoft Teams Meeting.
- The committee agreed to continue with the one hour meeting timeframe at the local meetings, while meeting remotely.
- The committee suggested for the locals to come up with a Lunch and Learn collective plan that will reflect the members interests. Lunch and Learns will continue remotely as well.

P-HSJCC Update:

Katie Almond reported that the Committee is meeting every other week. Concerns expressed at the committee are: face-to-face contact, health conditions, clients not getting the care they need due to fear, housing, corrections, increase in lack of primary care, untreated diabetes, domestic violence and child protection issues.

There has been public debate on defunding the police – how do we weigh in? It was agreed that the committee will discuss this at the next T-HSJCC meeting taking place in September.

Action Items Follow-up

- Domenica will submit the Toronto Regional and locals Annual Report to the P-HSJCC.

- DT-HSJCC will explore creating a Service Resolution Table
- Locals will discuss legal aid challenges/barriers

Next Meeting: Monday, September 21st, 2020 from 9:30 to noon. It will be virtual (Co-chairs meeting to follow).