



Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 25, 2021
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair) Gerstein Centre; Katie Almond, Probation and Parole; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Dina Zalkind, Legal Aid Ontario; Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant; Chris Boddy, Toronto Police Services; Kathy Chau, Canadian Mental Health Association-Toronto; Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; Suzanne Lajambe, John Howard Society of Toronto (on behalf of Amber Kellen) Rachel Bromberg, CAMH; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Jennifer Chambers, Empowerment Council; Tazio Clarke, Victim Services Toronto

Regrets: Tammy Tinney, North York General Hospital; Jennifer Altosaar, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Lin Sallay, Cota; Melissa Perez, Correction Service Canada; Charissa Levy, Rehabilitative Care Alliance, GTA Rehab Network & Toronto ABI Network; Gerald Ngangue, Christian Horizons; Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Nancy Blades, Cota; Dr. Sandy Simpson, CAMH; Sylvia Starosta, Cota; Scott McKean, City of Toronto; Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network

Land Acknowledgement

This was done by Susan.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review/Approval Minutes from June 29, 2020 Meeting

Minutes were approved.

Action Items follow-up

Reviewed and completed

Updates from Toronto Local HSJCCs

Scarborough HSJCC:

Samim provided a report.

- At the January meeting members provided updates: Themes discussed: Video being used in the courthouses instead of phone communication. Common agreement among members is that the technology landscape navigation is challenging for clients. Travel/distance concerns have been expressed about having the Bail court at 2201 Finch Avenue West courthouse for Scarborough clients.
- Building UP presentation- Pre-apprenticeship and life skills trades program, have case managers part of the team/career path for individuals involved with the justice system.

Scarborough Resource Directory adhoc group – working on expanding committee members involvement from the initial interest.

- Lunch & Learn – *Affirming Trans and Non- Binary Gender Identifies* session took place in November. Went well. New participants from: hospital clinicians and justice sector
- Working on a Legal Lunch and Learn session to address the impact of COVID on the legal/ justice sector.

Workplan: Reviewed. Budget recommendation to remain the same. Discussed Anti-Racism Series to address the marginalized community gaps and needs specific to Scarborough, provide leadership by addressing health equity during and after COVID. Potential to move the series to a local conference. S-HSJCC Co-chairs taking the lead on this initiative.

- Suggest changing the workplan pillars to reflect racialized community challenges and enhance anti-racism education and engagement.
- Summary of the meeting/brainstorm session with OCASI took place. They offered to continue providing feedback.
- Understanding what/how is racism/classism/etc. and how they impact individuals health and justice equity during COVID and after COVID. Committee members support for Anti-Racism education/training series. Is there resources for curriculum development/consultation?

Themes discussed: Benefits of creating an adhoc anti-racism group. The committee acknowledged and support was indicated, for the need to address equity and anti-racism approaches now.

West Toronto HSJCC:

Debbie provided a report.

- At the January meeting there were two presentations - Building UP provides pre-apprenticeship and life skills/have case managers part of the team/career path for individuals involved with the justice system as well we had the City of Toronto Youth Outreach Counsellor (TYPE) presentation: address barriers, provide mobile case management. City of Toronto Youth Employment presentation: clients are people in conflict with the law. Agreed to have a Lunch and Learn panel discussion on youth employment pathways. Taking place February 11th. Invitation to all Locals was sent out.
- Workplan – reviewed budget- Recommendation that it remain the same as well as the activities.
- Challenges for everyone to see client face to face and sometimes contact is lost as a result.
- For the 2020/21 fiscal year the committee agreed to redistribute the TTC tokens and food vouchers where there are gaps given that usage has been limited at the courthouse due to COVID-19 closures.

NY-HSJCC Dina provided the report.

- The committee met in January and agreed to incorporate Anti-Racism education/training as a pillar in the workplan and to reflect the new direction. To address challenges for people in custody and/or out of custody during COVID.
- To support anti-racism and indigenous people's health and justice inequity/gaps and technological barriers. Difficult for clients to report because they have no phone. On

the other hand, sex offenders can't use technology and clients are unable to attend court remotely.

- Next Lunch and Learn will take place on February 2nd with Dr. Samim Hasham and Robb Johannes on " The Great Amplifier: Opioid Overdose in Times of Disruption.
- Sue MacLennan, Aboriginal Legal Clinic, will be presenting at the March meeting on the challenges to Gladue court during Covid-19. Working on a Lunch and Learn presentation from the Black Legal Action Centre addressing barriers during COVID-19.

DT-HSJCC

- Susan provided a report.
The committee met in January and addressed similar themes as other Locals. Acknowledging that the platform might be similar but actions maybe different at each Local. The committee was excited to learn about the work that the S-HSJCC is exploring with regard to an anti-racism educational series.
- It was suggested that we look at what Scarborough is doing re Anti-Racism. It was recommended to connect with the Scarborough folks and consider allocating funds for a comprehensive Anti-Racism education/training.
- Build on the workplan pillars to reflect the new direction. 1) How can we provide good service if clients don't have a space and/or resources to access MH and J. 2) To address challenges for people in custody and/or out of custody during COVID.
- Add the term neurodisability as we know the prevalence of neurodisability and justice to the pillars.
- Committee agreed that the TTC tokens and Lunch and Learn budget will remain the same.
- Themes discussed: Concerns about food insecurities are increasing. Supportive Housing Group identifying that it is becoming difficult to access housing for people dealing with substance issues. Where do clients with substance use challenges and/or identified substance use issues go for help? Concerns expressed about the impact of the 'drug market' and drug supply. There was been rapid overdoses and the grief.
- Next Lunch N' Learn: Living and Dying on the Streets: the Social Determinants of Palliative Care with Dr. Trevor Morey and Leeann Trevors
- 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.
- It was acknowledged that the virtual Lunch N' Learns have enhanced the opportunity for cross-over among the locals as all Locals are invited to attend these session. Attendance has increased due to the virtual convenience.

Review the Co-chairs Meeting:

These meetings usually take place after the Toronto Regional meeting. The notion to combine the Co-chairs meeting with the Regional meeting was brought forthward. This would involve the Co-chairs report at the regional meeting. It was noted, and the committee agreed, to keep the regional meeting at 90 minutes given that we are now having virtual meetings. It was agreed that if needed the Co-chairs can determine to meet following the regional meeting. The workplan will be adjusted to reflect these changes.

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.

Current Issues:

- COVID-19 Updates – Vaccination? Information was provided that it is unknown when the police will be able to receive the vaccination or the incarcerated clients. Correctional officers are being vaccinated; however it is still unknown when probation and parole officers will receive it. This illustrates the risks factors involved with priority populations in the mental health and justice population.
- It was noted that there is a high incidents of COVID-19 in the encampment population.
- Katie reported that there has been discussion with the Provincial HSJCC re the \$20,000 and anti-racism series funds support. For now it is unknown whether or not these funds can be carried over. It was agreed to create a small group created to discuss the funds. Samim and Katie will follow up re the \$20,000 and address the following: a) how can we build capacity for service resolution b) anti-racism, indigenouness education, training and engagement post COVID-19 resilience.

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.
- The committee is exploring ways to address COVID-19 impacts and anti- black racism. A provincial Anti-Racism Committee has been established.
- The committee is addressing the vaccine priority needs within the correctional institution.

Action Items Follow-up

- Katie and Samim will meet to discuss how can we build capacity for TSRP and anti-racism, education, training and engagement.

Next meeting will take place virtually on Monday, March 8th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.