



Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 7, 2021
9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair) Gerstein Crisis Centre; Katie Almond (Co-chair) 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, CMHA; Carol O Neil, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario; Scott McKean, City of Toronto; Charissa Levy, Rehabilitative Care Alliance, GTA Rehab Network & Toronto ABI Network; Tricia Dunbar, Community Head Injury Resource Services; Tammy Tinney, North York General Hospital; Natasha Brofman, Canadian Mental Health Association-Toronto; Mary Hogan, Judiciary; Margaret Cheung; John Howard Society-Toronto; Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant; Miriam Henry, Ministry of Attorney General; Kate Matthews, Ministry of Attorney General

Regrets: Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network; Nancy Blades, Cota; Dr. Sandy Simpson, CAMH; Tazio Clarke, Victim Services Toronto; Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; Jennifer Chambers, Empowerment Council; Lin Sallay, Cota; Jennifer Altosaar, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region

Land Acknowledgement

Susan Davis noted the Land Acknowledgement statement.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Presentation: Justice Centre and the Youth Justice Centre with Kate Mathews, MAG Lead, Justice Mary Hogan, Miriam Henry, MAG and Scott McKean from the City of Toronto

- PowerPoint presentation slides deck will be circulated.
- Background information was provided.
- The model draws from innovative practices around the world. Community needs assessment was conducted resulting in shared provincial vision with integrated service delivery as well as four local adaptations.
- Current context: Ontario is introducing four unique Justice Centres models through initial Pilots to be evaluated in advance of expansion.
- Following the onset of COVID-19, MAG-CLD worked with community and justice participants to identify how Pilots could be adapted to promote access to justice and address the accumulation of cases in the OCJ. Key adaptations are:

- o Including both virtual and remote court proceedings for certain matters;
- o Reducing the number of individuals held on bail and remand(in the appropriate cases) while

balancing need to protect public safety;

- o Improving continued access to in-person, wrap-around community-based supports, with a focus on connecting people to virtual services; and

- o Safeguarding access to justice for vulnerable, racialized and self-represented individuals in contact with the justice system (in collaboration with LAO and Defence Bar).

- Justice Hogan noted that she went to Red Hook Community Justice Centre in Brooklyn New York and saw the opportunity of wrap-around contributing to the social determinants of health. It was acknowledged that Justice Centre provide wrap-around services to understand and connect people to services. From the beginning the worker will be there to help them.
- The London Pilot project opened in September.
- Local Model: Hybrid Health & Justice Centre. The Toronto Downtown East (DTE) is a pilot for individuals with a history of recidivism. Sound Times is embedded at 51 Division and they have case managers on site to meet with people to create a bail plan. Integrated access case managers; enhanced psychiatrist, primary care and addictions medicine; and digital technology to attend OCJ Justice appearances. All-in-person health and case management services, including video access to be located at Sound Times .
- Purpose of pre-trial to assess how they are doing with their plan. This gives the opportunity to address bail conditions that are challenging.
- Miriam Henry presented on the Toronto North West (TNW) Justice Centre whose focus is youth. Six Division are involved. Cognizant of the ongoing gun issues, impact of trauma on young people and the neighbourhood has many kids.
- Do they have a lawyer? Enhanced First Appearance: Assessment can be done in-house and make referrals, including and educational plan. Using an individualized tailored to appropriate cultural services, not a traditional approach. Ensuring safe equitable access for youth.
- Scott McKean presented on Safe TO/Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan. It aims to inspire a culture of prevention and collaboration to help bring about a safer Toronto
- To achieve this, the City will leverage its role as a service provider, policy developer, partner, system navigator, convenor and negotiator.

Themes discussed: The presenters were thanked for their work and sharing the information. It was noted that the work they are doing will benefit individuals going through the justice system specifically the wrap-around service.

- Toronto East has an older population, thus building trust is the main issue and is essential to meet people where they are at.
- Tricia noted that the services do not state cognitive impairment, brain injury and developmental disability.
- Scott informed the committee that ABI and development disability have been recognized and are included in the Safe TO Plan.

- Appreciation for the work of the Safe TO Plan for recognizing brain injury, development disability was given.
- Samim inquired whether there has been a Justice Centre needs assessment in Scarborough? Scott stated that there are discussions going on about Scarborough.
- It was noted that neurodisability has been added to the HSJCC workplans.

Review/Approval Minutes from March 8, 2021 Meeting

Minutes were approved by Dina Zalkind and seconded by Natasha Bartlett

Action Items follow-up

Reviewd and completed

Addressing Anti-Racism Across the HSJCC Network Regional and Local HSJCC Survey

- It was agreed for the Local Co-chairs to complete the P-HSJCC anti-racism survey and send it to Domenica to summarize and circulate the outcome to the Toronto Regional members.

West Toronto HSJCC:

Patricia provided a report.

- At the May meeting there was a presentation with Jin Chien staff lawyer at the Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic. Acknowledging the experience of racialized groups. Access to technology has been identified as a challenge to access virtual court. The committee has agreed to purchase flip phones for clients based on available funds. The April 29th Lunch and Learn on Suicide Risk and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Transforming threat to skills for safer living 100% evaluated the session very good to excellent. Ninety-two people attended the session.

North York HSJCC

Dina provided the report.

- At the May meeting Jin Chien, staff lawyer at the Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic presented on their program and the impact of racism on their client population. There was a Lunch and Learn on March 31 on Anti-Black Racism: A Discussion with the Black Legal Action Centre (BLAC). The session was successful. At the March meeting Sue MacLennan from the Aboriginal Legal Services presented on the challenges to Gladue court during Covid-19.

Scarborough HSJCC

Samim provided the report.

- The committee met in May the Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic presented. The committee has incorporated the Land Acknowledgement and addressing BIPOC community concerns. It is also working on a Scarborough Resource Directory and the Scarborough Addiction Services Partnership has agreed to amalgamate mental health and justice organizations to the database. The committee is monitoring engagement to ensure that equity seeking and racialized groups and concerns are addressed.

Downtown Toronto HSJCC

Katie provided the report.

- The committee met in May and had a presentation on the Sentencing and Parole Project (SPP). It is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced presentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality.
- The reports give judges and parole boards the information they need to make informed sentencing and release decisions. They include recommendations for culturally appropriate programs to assist with rehabilitation.

Update from the Toronto Service Resolution Project (TSRP): Katie provided the report. 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:

Deferred to next meeting

Update from the P-HSJCC

Katie reported that the conference will be virtual in November 2021. The Specialized Courts Forum -- 500 people attend from across the country. The forum examined various models of alternative and therapeutic jurisprudence courts. Several people with lived experience attended as guests and as presenters.

The committee is exploring ways to address COVID-19 impacts and anti- black racism. A provincial Anti-Racism Committee has been established. On April 30th Tanya Sharpe presented on Homicide impact on racialized communities. It was very well attended.

Action Items Follow-up

- Domenica to collate the P-HSJCC anti-racism survey , circulate to the members and submit

Next meeting will take place virtually on Monday, September 27th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.