



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, December 9, 2021**  
**9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
**Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Susan Davis (Co-chair) Gerstein Centre; Tammy Tinney, North York General Hospital; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Dina Zalkind, Legal Aid Ontario; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Lin Sallay, Cota; Julie Osbelt, Rehabilitative Care Alliance, GTA Rehab Network & Toronto ABI Network; Natasha Brofman, PWLE; Dana Riley, Elizabeth Fry Toronto

**Regrets:** Katie Almond, Probation and Parole; Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant; Kathy Chau, Canadian Mental Health Association-Toronto; Jennifer Altosaar, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Gerald Ngangue, Christian Horizons; Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network; Nancy Blades, Cota; Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; Carol O Neil, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario

**Land Acknowledgement**

Susan noted the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves. Dana Riley and Julie Osbelt were welcomed.

**Review/Approval Minutes from September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting**

Deferred to the next meeting

**Action Items follow-up**

Reviewd and completed

**Toronto Regional and Locals Lunch and Learn Update**

- Domenica reported that there will be a Lunch and Learn on the New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre on February 10<sup>th</sup>. Invite and registration information will be circulated. Please mark this in your calendar.
- NY and WT-HSJCC Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Sexual Behaviour Clinic will take place on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Invite will be circulated shortly.
- T-HSJCC will have a Lunch and Learn on SolGen's Reintegration Unit on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Priority Setting Exercise:**

Susan provided the context for the **SWOT** (strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats) **exercise**. The Provincial HSJCC is gathering input from all the Locals and Regional to develop a work plan for the next three years. To guide our input the following questions will be addressed to identify priorities:

- 1) What new initiatives are occurring in our environment that are impacting the work of our HSJCC.
- 2) How are these initiatives changing or shaping the HSJCC's role in our community? (Please consider the impact of the COVID-19)
- 3) What are the **top three issues** or challenges in human services and justice coordination in our community?
- 4) What are the top three priority areas that DT-HSJCC will be leading over the next year?
- 5) What support would the DT-HSJCC like to receive from the Provincial HSJCC to achieve our mandate?
- 6) What should the P-HSJCC start, stop or continue doing?

### **West Toronto HSJCC:**

Patricia reported on the West Toronto priority setting exercise:

#### ***The top 3 issues and challenges:***

1. COVID restrictions have impacted access to the court system for the most vulnerable involved in the criminal justice system
2. Recruitment of committee members and encouraging attendance to regular meetings – Domenica will send out two meeting reminders, one day in advance and one the day before
3. Access to immediate and affordable/supportive housing

#### ***The top 3 priority:*** areas that WT-HSJCC will be leading over the next year?

1. To address the impact of COVID-19 on services specific to accessing technology and justice
2. Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism education and engagement
3. Preparing for the Regional Bail Centre and how to increase communication between jail and courthouse to assist with release planning

#### **What new initiatives** are occurring in our environments that are impacting the work of our HSJCC.

- New Toronto Courthouse and Regional Bail Centre. Both are opportunities and challenges.
- Toronto Northwest Justice Centre for Youth and Downtown East Justice Centre for Adults – Both are opportunities to connect Clients to needed services.

### **North York HSJCC**

Dina reported on the North York priority setting exercise:

What new initiatives are occurring in our environment that are impacting the work of our HSJCC

- Geographical impact of the New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre

#### ***The top three issues identified are:***

1. The gaps and services for older individuals with dementia who have no history with the justice system and can't return home.
2. People with sexual offending charges have limited referral resources.
3. People who are charged with arson can't access housing resources due to assessment.

#### ***The top three priorities are:***

1. To have a safe beds program for elders with dementia
2. To address the impact of isolation on one's mental health

3. To address the impact of PTSD

The NY-HSJCC had a successful Lunch and Learn on November 25<sup>th</sup> on the FEIS team at the TSDC.

### **DT-HSJCC**

Susan reported on the DT-HSJCC priority setting exercise

#### ***The top 3 issues and challenges:***

1. Still siloed (weakness) but a committed network across sectors (strength)
2. Lack of sharing information among agencies/organizations
3. Not looking at the cross-over of mental health and addiction. The complexity is a weakness but there is an opportunity to build across sectors and not remain in the silo position

- Lack of building relationships from jail to community
- COVID restrictions have impacted access to the court system
- Impact of amalgamation on agency culture

**The top 3 priority** areas that DT-HSJCC will be leading over the next year?

1. Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism education and engagement
2. To address the impact of COVID-19 on services specific to accessing technology and justice
3. Access to housing and diversity of housing models

**What new initiatives** are occurring in our environment that are impacting the work of our HSJCC. Same as WT-HSJCC.

### **S-HSJCC**

Domenica reported on the S-HSJCC priority setting exercise

#### ***The top 3 issues and challenges:***

1-2 top issues same as DT-HSJCC

3. Recruitment of committee members and encouraging attendance to regular meetings

**The top 3 priority:** areas that S-HSJCC will be leading over the next year?

- 1-2 priority same as DT-HSJCC
3. Meaningful engagement with people with lived experience

**What new initiatives** are occurring in our environments that are impacting the work of our HSJCC. Same as WT-HSJCC.

### **Discussion ensued summarizing the themes discussed across the tables**

The collated priority setting exercise submission will be circulated to committee members prior to submitting it to the Provincial HSJCC. The purpose of this is to provide input from the Toronto Regional to the P-HSJCC to assist in the development of their three-year plan.

#### **What support to receive from the Provincial HSJCC:**

- Strong advocacy and making statements to inform policy that may improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized populations with the Indigenous and Black communities within the efforts, and in accordance with the HSJCC mandate.
- To increase Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black collaboration with sectoral agencies to inform and develop best practices for the New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre.
- To advocate for funds to assist with the technology and Wi-Fi needs for individuals who come into contact with the justice system in order to limit bench warrants to prevent/reduce recidivism.

- To advocate, inform polices by addressing the Black narrative in the pre-sentence report.
- To advocate for best practices that allow for an in-person set date court for the HSJCC target population.
- To advocate for funding for an addiction court worker for the five courthouses in Toronto to address the multiple barriers of this population.

**Current Issues:**

COVID-19 Updates:

- Julie reported that there will be an educational webinar focusing on ABI, mental health and addiction and the impact on care. More information to follow.
- Dana reported that there have been changes for federal inmates, who were vaccinated and had to be trasfered out of the institution due to the increased risk of getting covid.
- Lin noted that people discharged from TSDC can't access services unless they are vaccinated or tested. Concerns were noted that asking if one is vaccinated or not can make people feel uncomfortable.
- Dina noted that TEDC is expreincing a covid out break which makes it challenging to access staff.
- Patricia noted that courthouses are seeing people in person.

**Local HSJCC Updates:** Discussion ensued regarding building on the the Scarborough HSJCC Anti-Racism series strategy with the four Local tables. It was agreed to establish a Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group to explore an action plan for all Locals. Patricia, Dana, Susan, Dina and Tammy expressed interest in joining. Anyone who is interested please contact Domenica.

**Update from the P-HSJCC**

Susan reported that the Provincial conference keynote speakers were amazing. She thanked the P-HSJCC for providing a high caliber panels and discussions.

**Action Items Follow-up**

- Domenica to circulate the collated priority setting exercise summary to committee members prior to submitting it to the P-HSJCC.
- Domenica to set a meeting date for the Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group

**Next meeting** will take place virtually on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.