



**Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, March 10, 2022**  
**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; Samim Hasham, Clinical Pharmacist Consultant; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; Jennifer Altosaar, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Julie Osbelt, Rehabilitative Care Alliance, GTA Rehab Network & Toronto ABI Network; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Carol O Neil, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario; Dana Riley, E Fry Toronto

**Regrets:** Katie Almond, Probation and Parole; Gerald Ngangue, Christian Horizons; Dunbar Leah, Toronto East Health Network; Nancy Blades, Cota; Scott McKean, City of Toronto; Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook; John McInnes, Judiciary

**Land Acknowledgement**

Samim 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.

**Review/Approval Minutes from the December 9th Meeting**

Motion to approve the December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes by Patricia and seconded by Samim. The minutes were approved.

**Action Items follow-up**

Reviewed and completed. The Priority Setting Exercise was submitted to the P-HSJCC.

**Toronto Regional and Locals Lunch and Learns Update**

Patricia provided a report.

- The CAMH Gender Identity Clinic was held on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Two hundred and fifty-one registered and one hundred and twenty-four were in attendance.
- The New Toronto Courthouse and Toronto Region Bail Centre session held on February 10<sup>th</sup> was successful. Two hundred and sixty-eight people registered and one hundred and fifty-eight were in attendance.
- The SolGen's Reintegration Unit session was held on February 24<sup>th</sup>. One hundred and fifty-three registered and seventy-two were in attendance.
- The NY-HSJCC Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Sexual Behaviour Clinic took place on January 20<sup>th</sup>. PowerPoint slides were circulated. One hundred and seven registered and sixty-three were in attendance.

**West Toronto HSJCC:** Patricia provided a report.

The meeting attendance continues to increase. The 2022-23 workplan reflects previous workplan to improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized groups. The objective is to support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities within the efforts or in accordance with the mandate of the West Toronto HSJCC. Workplan 2022-2023 was approved.

-The committee Co-chairs are members of the Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group.

-The members support allocating funds to the development of an Anti-Racism Lunch and Learn series.

-The committee has agreed to enhance communication with the Toronto South Detention Centre to address potential discharge planning concerns given that this courthouse will become the Toronto Region Bail Centre.

- At the March meeting there was a presentation on Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and the Criminal Justice System with Dr. Catherine Wiseman-Hakes and Dr. Flora Matheson.

**NY-HSJCC** Tammy provided the report.

She noted that Dina Zalkind has stepped down from her position as Co-chair. Dina has accepted a new position at Legal Aid Ontario and will not be working at the courthouse. At the March meeting Workplan 2022-2023 was approved with similar new objectives as the WT-HSJCC.

**DT-HSJCC** Susan provided a report.

- Concerns were expressed about the unknown impact of the New Court House and the Justice Centre on our client population.
- She noted concerns regarding the conditions in jails; they are still operating in a lock down model and there are many deaths.
- At the March meeting there was a presentation on the Gerstein Crisis Centre – Toronto Community Crisis Service Pilot Project (TCCSP). Presentation PowerPoint slides were circulated.
- In February 2021 the Toronto City Council piloted a new TCCSP to respond to individuals experiencing mental health and/or substance use crisis.
- There are four anchoring partners. The downtown east pilot led by Gerstein Crisis Centre (Division 51 boundaries), the northeast pilot, led by TAIBU Community Health Centre, the northwest led by the Canadian Mental Health Association and the downtown mid-west led by the 2-Spirited People of the 1st Nations. The pilots are intended to provide a non-police alternative to non-emergency and non-violence related calls for mental health crisis, wellness checks and low-level disputes.
- Meeting attendance continues to increase.
- Susan reported that Katie Almond will be retiring at the end of May. Congratulations to Katie. The immense contribution/ advocacy that Katie has made to the Toronto and Provincial HSJCC was noted. Katie will be missed.
- At the March meeting Workplan 2022-2023 was approved with similar new objectives as other Locals.

**S-HSJCC** Samim provided the report.

- She noted that Scarborough appears to be forgotten when discussing mental health, substance use, racialized communities, and the justice system. She acknowledged that 25% of the Toronto population lives in Scarborough and they are not seeing the benefits

of scaling up. There is a large BIPOC community in Scarborough concerned about the equity of the social determinants of health.

- How can we build capacity for anti-racism, Indigenous education, training and engagement post COVID-19 resilience?
- At the March meeting Workplan 2022-2023 was approved with similar new objectives as the other Local HSJCCs. There was a presentation with Deena Rahal and Lindsay Jennings from Thunder Woman Healing Lodge.

### **Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group**

Tammy reported that the Anti-Racism Ad Hoc committee membership includes local HSJCC Co-chairs. The main goal is to develop a four-part Anti-Racism educational series for the HSJCC target population. This is reflected in the Regional and Local HSJCCs workplan 2022-23. The committee has been meeting regularly. Each local will lead one series.

### **Review & Approval of Toronto Regional Workplans 2022-2023**

Patricia reported on the Toronto Regional workplan 2022-23.

Locals and Toronto Regional workplan with budget were circulated prior to the meeting.

Budget highlights: Includes TTC tokens, food voucher, virtual court equipment line, and increase to the Locals Lunch and Learn series to address Anti-Racism for/with our target population.

Motion to approve the Toronto Regional workplan 2022- 2023 and budget by Samim Hasham and seconded by Patricia Pagnani. Workplan 2022-2023 and budget was passed unanimously.

It was noted that for the next fiscal workplan to reassess the virtual court equipment line.

### **Current Issues:**

- What are the current issues to bring to the Provincial table:
- The following themes were discussed:
- Concern about the jail conditions
- Hotels have worked well and now there is the concern that they are closing. What is next? Natasha Bartlett noted that the city has provided 300 beds at the hotels on the periphery. She will find out if they are being closed and inform the committee.
- Does the city have a post covid plan?
- Wait time to access addictions services has increased.
- The mental health court is disconnected from where people are being released. This impacts the critical support that clients need.
- People are unable to access court matters due to a lack of technology. There are concerns regarding accessibility and equity in relation to technology, mental health and justice. As well, there are literacy issues that create barriers for our target population.
- Are people detained longer because release is more challenging?
- Dana expressed concerns that many black folks released are not formally diagnosed with mental health issues thus they do not qualify for mental health and justice housing. Is there advocacy for housing for racialized folks with MH and justice issues?

**Update from the P-HSJCC:** They will be meeting next week. Planning for the next conference began. There is support to continue with a virtual conference because many people were able to attend from up north. Six hundred and eighty people attended the conference. A hybrid model is too expensive.

**Discussion regarding intentional values**

The committee agreed that at this meeting our intentional equity perspective was practiced. It was important to note the struggles people are facing which reflects on our intentions.

**Action Items Follow-up:** Domenica to submit the Locals and Regional workplans and budget 2022-23 to the P-HSJCC.

**Next meeting** will take place virtually on Thursday, May 26 from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.