

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 30, 2023
9:30 am – 11:00 am.
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present: Susan Davis (Co-chair), Gerstein Centre; Sarah James (Co-chair), JHS Toronto; Tazio Clarke (Co-chair), City of Toronto; Tammy Tinney, North York General Hospital; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Natasha Bartlett, Fred Victor; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program; John McInnes, Judiciary; Sikora Bozena, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Julie Osbelt, Toronto ABI Network; Tricia Dunbar, CHIRS; Dana Riley, E Fry Toronto; Melissa Maguire, Community Reintegration TEDC/SolGen; Natasha Bronfman, Mental Health Advocate; Barbara Domenech, Cota

Regrets: Scott McKean, City of Toronto; Carol O’Neil, Mennonite Central Committee Ontario; Brad Scarr, MNO; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Imtiaz Mousalien, TAIBU Community Health Centre

Land Acknowledgement

Susan Davis provided the Land Acknowledgement, recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on. Members are encouraged to share the Land Acknowledgement. Please email Susan or Domenica if you can provide it before the next meeting.

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves by providing an in-depth introduction to the work they do. John McInnes, Judiciary, was welcomed to the committee. Susan acknowledged the importance of knowing what we do and being in one space; sharing issues is helpful and brings us together.

Review/Approval Minutes from September 21, 2023 Meeting

The motion to approve the September 21, 2023, minutes was made by Tammy and seconded by Patricia. The committee approved the minutes.

Action Items follow-up

Domenica noted that we have not reviewed the Toronto Regional and Local Terms of Reference. However, we need clarity regarding the impact of the justice sector changes (TRBC and OCJ-T) on the Toronto HSJCC so we can reflect this, if need be, in the Terms of Reference review. We must have a process for people to become members so that one understands the purpose of the HSJCC, noting that we are not an exclusive group. The Terms of Reference review is on hold for now.

Presentation:

Deferred to the next meeting.

Updates from the Toronto Local HSJCCs

Susan said that the Hybrid Toronto Local HSJCC mega meeting occurred on November 2, 2023, at the OCJ-T. Flora Matheson and the St. Michael research team facilitated and led the discussion. A light breakfast was provided. The mega meeting summary report was circulated before this meeting.

The hybrid HSJCC Mega Meeting brought together the four Toronto Local Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees to discuss two significant changes in the criminal justice system—the recent opening of the Toronto Regional Bail Centre and Ontario Court of Justice - Toronto. Some overarching questions guided our discussion of the bail centre and downtown courthouse:

What's working well? What's not working well?

How have these changes impacted people who work in the system? How have these changes affected people going through the system? How have these changes impacted community agencies? What should the Toronto Local HSJCCs focus on regarding service coordination, advocacy, and information gathering?

Questions to consider:

- 1) What's working well? For whom? With what impacts?
- 2) What's not working well? For whom? With what impacts?
- 3) What's next for us as the four Toronto Local HSJCCs?
 - a. What should we be doing from a service coordination perspective?
 - b. What should we be doing from an advocacy perspective?
 - c. What information gathering still needs to be done?

Discussion ensued about work that can be done at the Local HSJCCs.

-Susan noted high member engagement at the Toronto Local HSJCC mega meeting. Members commented that it was great to be together again. Sixty-six members attended the mega meeting; 40 were virtual, and 26 were in-person. Where are we now regarding the HSJCC leadership with the information gathered thus far at the mega meeting? What was not covered?

-Patricia identified the lack of resources for transporting female clients to Vanier. Does this require upper-level involvement for women and their belongings to be transported to Vanier?

The problem with not knowing when one is released at court impacts not having one's belongings. Should this not be solved at the courts, then? How were prisoners' belongings solved before the TRBC and the OCJ-T? Why are past solutions not working?

-Patricia reported that a group of social service agencies is collaborating at the TRBC to ensure care packages are available for individuals in need when released. She acknowledged a gap and that no funds are available to support the supplies needed to maintain the care packages. She does not know how long the care package supplies can be sustained. There is no permanent solution. If you have resources to share, please get in touch with Patricia.

-Sarah reported that she followed up on providing the harm reduction supplies at the TSDC, noted at the mega meeting and helped make care packages at the TRBC.

-Sarah stated that there are gaps with late releases at the TSDC, and JHS is working on increasing hours at the Reintegration Trailer to provide service to individuals released in the evening. She informed the committee that JHS uses Uber for clients' transportation needs and was wondering if that would solve the transportation challenges identified at the mega meeting.

- A brainstorming discussion occurred regarding using Uber's taxi service for the clients' transportation needs. Members noted that we would need data on how many Ubers might be required per month. From where to where?

-Natasha reported that Edward Kelly, judiciary, joined the Mental Health Court Consortium at OCJ -T. Susan acknowledged that he was involved with the initial development of the Downtown Toronto HSJCC. Natasha stated that the MH Court Consortium is aware of the issues identified by the HSJCC members.

Can we brainstorm a Toronto HSJCC action plan? If so, we can have a road map for 2024 by maneuvering solutions.

Natasha said that the court diversion staff (Fred Victor, CMHAT) and Cota) agreed to participate in letter writing to express their concerns.

Suggested Action Plans: Tazio stated that connecting with the detention centre social workers department can be beneficial to discuss release concerns.

There was approval to create working groups based on the identified themes of the mega-meeting. Susan, Sarah, Tazio and Domenica will meet to categorize working committees' areas to help develop an action plan for the HSJCC.

Update from Toronto Regional Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group

Susan reported on the Anti-Racism Committee's work. The group agreed to have a follow-up series. Dr. Reece recommended a session on white supremacy and anti-Indigenous racism. The series will have five parts. Each Local HSJCC will lead one session.

The order is:

1. Foundational 101 - October 26 (Lead by T-HSJCC) - Completed
2. Whiteness and White Supremacy - November 23 (Lead by NY-HSJCC) Completed
3. Anti-Indigenous Racism - TBD (January 25, 2024) (Lead by S-HSJCC)
4. W2B - February 2024 (Lead by DT-HSJCC)
5. Organizational/Operational Change - March 2024 (Lead by WT-HSJCC)

Domenica said that the registration and attendance numbers for the series thus far are lower than the previous year's series.

Current Issues:

TRBC and OCJT

See above. Domenica stated she is working with Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Toronto Rehab Institute (DT-HSJCC), to connect with the Accessibility Coordinator at the OCJ-T and TRBC and invite them to the DT-HSJCC meeting to learn about the services provided by the AC. Thus far, members have stated that they cannot connect with the Accessibility Coordinator at the courthouse.

Justice Centres

Members would like to have an update on the Justice Centres. Tazio said he will invite Scott McKean to present at our next meeting. Scott is the Manager of Community Safety & Well-Being Planning, SafeTo and Justice Centres in the City of Toronto.

Bozena said that Surrey Place has a staff that works at the Justice Centre downtown, and they can provide contacts there if needed.

Sarah provided an update on the Reintegration Planning Tables at the TSDC. She said that they completed phase 1 and are moving towards phase 2. Individual situations are being addressed at the table. Committee members suggested that an updated presentation on the Reintegration Planning Tables at the TSDC and TEDC be given at the March meeting.

Toronto Community Crisis Services:

Susan reported that the TCCS will be city-wide in 2024—over 8000 responses in one year among the four teams. The pilots are working well, and there has been maturity, cultivating relationships and collaboration, creating pathways across the region. Calls are being diverted through 911 to 211. To access TCCS, call 211 and ask for it. We are moving away from a police response to a mental health crisis to a health response rooted in the community and connected to the resources that people need. She stated that the Gerstein TCCS is expanding from south-central Toronto to south-central Etobicoke.

She provided information on the case study *Mental Health Crisis Support Rooted in Community and Human Rights*. The Human Rights Watch has partnered with Gerstein Crisis Centre, a community-based service provider in Toronto that provides mental health crisis services that are trauma-informed, non-medical, and focused on harm reduction, information provision, empowerment, and consent.

This report provides a viable, replicable framework for a holistic approach to mental health crisis response that supports the individual's autonomy in crisis. The report was launched in Toronto on November 15 and will be launched in New York City this week on December 15. Susan will send the report to Domenica to circulate to the committee members.

Update from the P-HSJCC:

Sarah provided an update on the P-HSJCC November 28, 2023 meeting. The conference went well; it took place from November 15 to 16, 2023.

She said the Toronto Locals mega meeting summary report was shared with the P-HSJCC. There was a P-HSJCC pre-budget discussion. Housing was identified as a priority issue. There is also the need to create integrated healthcare pathways for individuals with mental health and substance use, and it needs to be aligned with housing support. There is an increase in criminal justice involvement due to a lack of services and resources. It is necessary to look at prevention strategies to address the determinants of health. The next P-HSJCC meeting will take place **on January 16, 2024**.

Discussion regarding intentional values

The committee agreed that our intentional equity perspective was practiced at this meeting. Are we rooting this from the lens of our anti-racism commitments regarding Indigenous, Black and Racialized populations? It is essential to note people's struggles and reflect on our intentions.

Action Items Follow-up:

- Domenica will send the invitation to the committee members for the next meeting.
- Susan, Sarah, Tazio and Domenica will meet to identify working groups to help develop an action plan to address the Toronto Local HSJCCs mega meeting issues.
- Domenica will circulate the *Mental Health Crisis Support Rooted in Community and Human Rights* resource.

- Domenica will circulate the Lunch and Learn registration flyer for the December 7 and January 25th sessions.
- Tazio will invite Scott McKean to update the committee on the Justice Centres at the next meeting (Deferred to the March meeting)

The next meeting will occur virtually on Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am.