



**West Toronto Human Services and Justice  
Coordinating Committee (WT-HSJCC)**

**Meeting Minutes  
November 23, 2015  
1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Metro West Courthouse, 2201 Finch Avenue West, Boardroom**

**Present:** Patricia Pagnani (Co-chair), Toronto Bail Program; Debbie Lynch (Co-chair), CTYS; Mary Ross-Hendriks, Judiciary; Leann Gallant, CMHA; Elana Glass, Duty Counsel; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Nicole Giles, CMHA

**Call-In:** Andrea Monteiro, Toronto South Detention Centre

**Regrets:** Amber Kellen (Co-chair), John Howard Society of Toronto; Doris Galas, Humber River Regional Hospital; Laval Binns, Probation and Parole

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Review of September 29, 2015 minutes**

The minutes were approved.

**Presentation:** Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program

- In addition to the Toronto Bail Program, the John Howard Society, the Salvation Army, St. Leonard's, Youth in Conflict and Elizabeth Fry Society run Bail Programs across Ontario; Peterborough and some areas in Northern Ontario do not have a Bail Program.
- Most referrals come from Duty Counsel and private legal counsels. Clients report once per week or more depending on the situation. Some clients have developmental/mental health challenges. Reminding clients of their court date is just one important function. Also, making referrals regarding mental health and addiction counselling, life skills, anger management and etc....
- After a person misses an appointment a letter is sent. They have five days to reply.
- Staff carry a case load of approximately 50 clients each. Currently, there are about 1300 people reporting to the Toronto Bail Program. It has eight locations including Newmarket and Oshawa.

- Approximately five per cent of bail clients fail to appear and fifteen percent fail to comply
- Discussion ensued about sensitive situations when an accused is asked 'why' no surety is available. It was suggested that if the accused does not have surety that they work with the Bail Program. Some may be isolated from family or friends while others have dysfunctional family situations.
- Question was asked as to why have a residential condition as part of the surety? Sometimes people who are the surety may abuse the accused and ask them to do things against their will.
- It was suggested that in situations that are known to have power/control issues that the Bail Program provide supervision.

### **Munch and Learns**

- Debbie Lynch reported about the Munch and Learn on November 19<sup>th</sup>. The topic was: Psychogeriatric Discussion with Cheryl Kolin, Cota; Debra Walko, LOFT Community Services; Susan Wild, West Park.
- It was suggested that future Munch and Learns focus more on learning about the topic instead of what agencies do.
- To look at skill-based learning objectives, for example how do we engage with specific situations etc. What are the barriers?
- Suggested topics are: ABI, Dual Diagnosis, Schizophrenia, Aboriginal Clients/Gladue Principles, Sensitivity Issues, Peer Leaders Perspective.
- If we do a Munch and Learn regarding people with lived experience, it would be important to invite the clerks to attend.
- Suggested agency Griffin Centre, Cota, and Aboriginal Legal Services.

### **Provincial Priority Setting Exercise**

Debbie Lynch provided the context for the exercise as a way for the Locals to report to the provincial policy makers about issues and challenges clients face at the local level.

How can the mandate of the PHSJCC be adjusted to better reflect the needs of Ontarians? To attain funds to build capacity and address system issues. The committee was asked to conduct a SWOT analysis. For Strengths: Cross-sectoral membership from various tables, PHSJCC webinars, Information/network sharing. For Weaknesses: People who should be at the table are not here, low turnout for opportunities to learn. For Opportunities: Munch and Learns, bring people from different agencies, webinar. For Threats: Funding cuts, overwork and heavy case load leading to staff sick leave.

New initiatives occurring in your network?

- Fred Victor 24 hour drop-in at the Adelaide Women's Resource Centre which will have legal services, the Reintegration Centre

What are the top three issues?

- Access and barriers to services, housing/shelter and legal aid. There is a long wait time to know whether you qualify for legal aid. The process assumes you have a phone.

What are the top three initiatives that your Local HSJC will be leading over the next year?

- Continuation with the Munch and Learns and TTC tokens and Food Vouchers
- Bring people with lived experience to the table
- Continuation with the information sharing including slides and resources

What support would your Local HSJCC like to receive from the PHSJCC.

- Attain more funds for services and housing

#### **Agency/Organization Updates**

- Mary Ross-Hendriks reported that video bail has not started yet. The required technology is not complete.

#### **Service Coordination Issues/Service Resolution**

Deferred to next meeting

#### **Updates from the T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC**

Deferred to next meeting

#### **Actions**

- Domenica Dileo to invite the Salvation Army for a presentation at the next meeting

#### **Next Meeting**

- January 12, 2016 at 2201 Metro West Courthouse, 2201 Finch Avenue West, Boardroom (between courtroom 202 and 203) from 1p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Domenica Dileo will add the cell numbers for Elena Glass and Patricia Pagnani to the meeting reminder to let people know who to call if they need to get into the meeting.