

Waterloo-Wellington Human Services Justice Coordination Committee
Minutes
March 21, 2014
OP boardroom
5420 Highway 6 North, Guelph

Chairperson: Sharon Deally-Grzybowski, Canadian Mental Health Association WWD

Recorder: Jean Defaux, CMHA WWD

Present: Cheryl MacDonald, Cheri Bilitz, Linda Elliott, Pamela Borghesan, Alison Johnston, Kelly O'Connor, Sarah Nelson, Doug Sheppard, Anthony Piscitelli, Marylou Schwindt

Regrets:

Wanda Hehn, Don Roth, Janos Botschner, Joan Nandlal, Aaron Stauch, Angela Vanderheyden, Rhonda Frank, Garry Male

Absent: Janis Sandeson, Sarah Stagg, Daryl Goetz, Gloria Kovach, Jack Hunjan, Kevin McIntyre

Guests from:

Conestoga College: Jennifer Robinson, (Program Coordinator, Community and Criminal Justice), Josiah Thorogood, Jessica Turner, Farhana Azeez, Cameron Allendorf (students)

Wilfrid Laurier University: Paul Sheridan, Community Psychology Masters student

CMHA WWD: Deb Gauthier, Manager First Step and Eating Disorders, Shirley McQuinn, Nurse Clinician 1st Step Team, Joe Schwoob, EPT Clinician 1st Step

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sharon welcomed with a round of introductions.

Acceptance of Agenda of March 21, 2014

Acceptance of Minutes of December 6, 2013 accepted by consensus. If there are any edits, please send them to Sharon; once finalized the minutes will be posted on the provincial HJSCC website.

2. Mental Health Court Research Project

Students from Conestoga College presented their research on Mental Health Courts, hardcopy of Power Point presentation provided. There are 12 mental health courts in Canada and 250 in the United States. These courts are criminal courts, and their purpose is not to let individuals avoid criminal records. A theme arising out of the literature review is the need of housing for MHC participants. Summation: MHCs are generally effective in reducing recidivism, providing treatment, and connecting individuals facing mental health issues to community agencies.

Paul Sheridan continued presentation with Phase II-Region of Waterloo Mental Health Court Research Project:

Part 1: Proposal was to strike a HJSCC subcommittee with the following objectives:

- Develop a logic model (ensuring validation by full HJSCC)
- Build a process map (ensuring validation my MHC clients)
- Compare and contrast

Part 2: Addressing Housing challenges

Literature review-several studies prioritize housing (as #1 need for those with serious mental illness released from prison) however no studies were found that specifically address how to do so

Proposal: Strike HJSCC subcommittee to:

- Document the housing gap locally

- Survey other Canadian MHC's
- Identify potential strategies feasible for WR

It was noted that there currently is a housing review going on, which is supported by the WWLHIN.

Sharon stated the information will be tabled for the June meeting to see where we go with phase 2. She added that the letter for the Ministry on pre-budget consultation has been circulated; housing was noted as an issue in their area, especially for those that come in contact with the law.

Discussion on risk assessment: Allison Johnson recently attended two part presentation by Dr. Craig Beech (from St. Thomas). Morning consisted of workshop on suicide and violence. There afternoon was a discussion on complex cases and what is risk/violence. She will share documentation with Sharon so she can circulate it. As work on next year's budget is starting, Sharon asked for anyone interested seeing a presentation on risk of violence and suicide by a forensic psychiatrist to let her know. Other possible presenters could be Dr. Resenick or Dr. William Johnson.

Alison will inform Waterloo Regional Homes about the housing review students did for this table to see if WRH can use them. Sharon noted that this table has not agreed to Phase 2 Housing, as set out in Paul's presentation or how it functions with the courts, so this will be tabled for the June meeting. To be determined: how budget is to be used and if students should be part of the project. Sharon asked committee to reflect on this and then provide her with their input. Sharon will see what she can do to pull together information regarding the current state of housing review(s) such as who is participating and if there are multiple tables working on this etc.

3. First Step Program Presentation

Deb Gauthier, Shirley McQuinn and Joe Schwoob presented. Hardcopy of Power Point presentation handed out along with brochure *"there's something (whacked) about mary-Understanding the risks of marijuana use"* and *"Marijuana & Psychosis What's the Big Deal?"*

First Step Program is a provincially directed serve with specific provincial standards that serves people who are experiencing a first episode of psychosis. The team serves individuals the Waterloo, Wellington and Dufferin areas between the ages of 14-35. There are two levels of service, Initial Assessment and Intensive Treatment & Rehabilitation Services. Evidence shows those treated in First Step often go further in school, get into the work force and have more purpose in their lives. Anyone can refer to the program with permission from the person. (Additional criteria outlined in the hardcopy of the presentation.) The program may interface with justice system, at time of referral, mental health court, at arrest, pre-sentence reports, Community Treatment Order, Breach of Probation. Discussion ensued on specific case the team is working on. If your organization would like a presentation on First Step, connect with Deb at 519-821-8089 x 4510.

4. Updates from Provincial HSJUC – Sharon

None at this meeting

5. New Business

None at this meeting

6. Future Meeting Dates

The following dates have been chosen for JHSCC meeting dates in 2014:

- June 20
- September 19
- December 5