



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

**Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2013 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Reconnect, 56 Aberfoyle Crescent, 4th floor**

Present: Mohamed Badsha (Co-Chair), Reconnect; Laval Binns (Co-Chair), Probation and Parole; Sarah Haslip, T.A. Patterson & Associates; Debbie Lynch, CTYS; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC Coordinator; Abigail Paul, John Howard Society; Elana Glass, Duty Counsel; Karen Poole, Reconnect; Patricia Pagnani, Toronto Bail Program

Via Teleconference: Mary Dwyer, TWDC; Danuta Rasiewicz, TWDC; Doris Galas, Humber River Regional Hospital

Regrets: Nicole Giles, CMHA; Leann Gallant, CMHA

Welcome and Introductions

- Everybody introduced themselves.

Review of November 13, 2012 minutes

- The minutes were approved

Munch and Learn Debriefing

- Elana Glass gave the following report.
 - Greg Rogers, Executive Director of the John Howard Society presented on The South Etobicoke Reintegration Centre on January 9th at the Metro West Court. The event was successful. The Munch and Learn piggybacked on the Crown's learning schedule. There was great representation from Duty Council, the Crown and Senior Crown. Greg Rogers was knowledgeable and open to questions, which allowed for an engaging dialogue to occur. Whether or how going to the Reintegration Centre should be part of the sentence was discussed, with various opinions and concerns expressed.
 - There is support for having a tour of the New Toronto South Detention Centre as a group.
 - Inmates are not able to get their property and ID when released from court. Detention is not accessible by TTC. Danuta Rasiewics (Mental Health Nurse) can make arrangements to give belongings to offenders. Call Danuta at Extension 4384 to make arrangements.

Discussion of 2013/2014 Workplan

- The main issue for the WT-HSJCC 2013/2014 Work Plan is the Reintegration Centre. This will be an ongoing issue as things unfold. There is a need to assess our involvement. There is a commitment from the WT-HSJCC to provide support, to have open communication, to share resources and to provide education. The goal is to prevent reoccurrence.
- It was suggested that when the Reintegration Centre opens each agency should present to the WT-HSJCC.
- The main issue for the court is not having a psychiatrist. They are only able to refer offenders to OCH court for a fitness test or if the person has a file at OCH court. Mohamed Badsha will talk to Frank Sirotich from CMHA about whether the MAG office can help the HSJCC access a psychiatrist at the court.
- The dates on the 2013/2014 Work Plan are not correct. Domenica Dileo will revise the proposed 2013/2014 Work Plan, ensuring that meeting dates do not fall on holidays or March Break.

Agency/Organization Updates

- Karen Poole announced that there is a *Welcome Home* guide, a resource published by the City of Toronto. She will send the PDF version to Domenica for distribution to committee members.
- Having an alternative WT-HSJCC teleconference was discussed. Some members do not have access to office space. It was decided that the WT-HSJCC would meet in person and have available call-in.

Agency Presentation

- Abigail Paul presented on the John Howard Society. She is the Housing Counselor/South Etobicoke Reintegration Centre Manager.
 - Slide deck presentation will be distributed with meeting minutes.
 - Post-Release Strategies and Services are all free. They collaborate with Street to Homes. The courts recognize the Addictions/Relapse Prevention program.

Next Meeting

- Reconnect will provide a brief presentation at the March 19, 2013 meeting.
- The meeting has been rescheduled to March 19 instead of March 12 due to March Break.

Actions:

- Domenica Dileo will put updates on the Reintegration Centre and New Toronto South Detention Centre on the next meeting agenda.
- Domenica Dileo will revise the dates on the 2013/2014 Work Plan.
- Mohamed Badsha will connect with Frank Sirotich about the psychiatrist situation at the Toronto West Court.