



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

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2013 – 2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

Reconnect, 56 Aberfoyle Crescent, 4th floor

Present: Elana Glass (Co-chair), Duty Counsel; Debbie Lynch (Co-chair), CTYS; Sarah Haslip, T.A. Patterson & Associates; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC Coordinator; Karen Poole, Reconnect; Lynda Lingard, Toronto Bail Program; Amber Kellen, John Howard Society; Mike Burgess Toronto Police Service, 12 Division; Jim Lamb, Toronto Police Service, 22 Division; Danuta Rasiewicz, Toronto West Detention Centre; Abigail Paul, John Howard Society.

Via Teleconference: Leann Gallant, CMHA

Regrets: Laval Binns, Probation and Parole; Mohamed Badsha, Reconnect;

Welcome and Introductions

- Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of October 8, 2013 minutes

- The minutes were approved

Agency/Organization Updates

- Elana Glass reported that the West Courthouse has no access to psychiatry and it is not known when the psychiatric position will be filled. People are sent to Old City Hall for fitness testing.
- Danuta Rasiewicz reported that the West Detention Centre inmate population has increased because of the Don Jail closing.
- Mike Burgess, Toronto Police Service Division 22, will be replacing Kevin McAlee on the WT-HSJCC committee.
- Abigail Paul reported that John Howard Society is moving to 1669 Eglinton Avenue West. The housing office will remain at 740 Broadview.

Service Coordination Issues/Service Resolution

- Karen Poole reported that the Mental Health and Justice organizations are getting together to discuss prevention. They will explore how to engage with priority referrals to address the needs of priority populations to improve coordination.

- They are looking at Toronto South Detention Centre to have seamless access to medication.
- Elana Glass reported that the West Courthouse started a new e-disclosure initiative, which requires DVD's and access to a computer. Video disclosure will be difficult because not everybody has access to a computer and it will be difficult to provide proper legal advice. The judicial interim release is on a computerized template form. When going over conditions, they are listed in priority. The form can't be printed because it's not feasible to have a printer. The record of arrest is no longer on the new template. Mike Burgess from 12 Division will take the concern to 12 Division that not having a record of the arrest can leave out knowledge of mental health concerns at the bail stage.
- Mike Burgess will bring to 12 Division the importance of offenders having access to their cell phones. Often cell phones have contact information for a surety.
- At times people who are arrested go to court without their meds. They don't know what meds they are on or who prescribed the meds. Bringing meds to court is helpful. Mike Burgess will suggest to 12 Division having a refresher for officers on dealing with the medication issue when one is arrested.
- Members were encouraged to bring hypothetical or real client issues to discuss at the WT-HSJCC meetings.

Presentation – Reintegration Update, Amber Kellen

- The exact date of when the Toronto South Detention Centre (TSDC) will open is not known yet.
- Core partners for the Reintegration Centre include Cota, LAMP Community Health Centre, Reconnect, and African Canadian Legal Clinic.
- There will be 16 forensic beds for 1650 inmates.
- They are addressing how to deal with the large number of people who will be released weekly. Most will be on remand, so there is not a lot of time for discharge planning.
- They are streamlining many services. The new facility will have video monitors instead of face-to-face visits. Medical distribution will be done electronically. They have a fresh air program and a program for aboriginal inmates.
- The goal is to create a hub not a centre. They are looking into a one-stop model that provides needs assessment and referral and resources services. The intent is to connect people to their home community.
- Their community advisory committee is chaired by Bruce McKay from the Gatehouse.
- They are looking at a site within walking distance of the TSDC.
- Local police and politicians are in support of the Reintegration Centre.
- They have applied for grants and aim to open in April 2014.

Updates From the T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

- The P-HSJCC conference *The Changing World from Youth to Elderly in Human Services and Justice* will take place at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre, November 25-27, 2013.

Lunch and Munch

- The next Lunch and Munch will be on personality disorders, if a speaker can be located. If anybody has ideas about a guest speaker, please contact Elana Glass.

Actions

- Mike Burgess will take concerns to 12 Division about
 - the new e-disclosure initiative
 - the importance of offenders having access to their cell phones
 - refresher training for officers on dealing with the medication issue
- Committee members can bring hypothetical or real client issues to the meetings for discussion.
- Send names of speakers on the topic of personality disorders to Elana Glass.

Next Meeting

January 14, 2014 at Reconnect

Presentation: Debbie Lynch, CTYS, New Outlook