



**Meeting Minutes**  
**May 4, 2021**  
**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Patricia Pagnani (Co-chair), Toronto Bail Program; Debbie Lynch (Co-chair), CTYS, Domenica Dileo HSJCC; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Julia Coparco (student) Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Edward J. Kelly, Judiciary; Chelsea Davis, Operation Springboard;; Elana Glass, Duty Counsel; Jessica Adamson, Youth Justice Committee(AYSP); Sean Charles, City of Toronto; Nicole Giles, Canadian Mental Health Organization-Toronto(CMHA); Mark Linton, John Howard Society of Toronto; Jin Chien, Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic..

**Call-in:** None

**Regrets:**

Genieve Chin, Toronto Bail Program; Dana Lee Riley, Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto

**Land Acknowledgement**

Debbie noted the Land Acknowledgement recognizing the history of the indigenous people & their contribution to the land we stand on.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Review of March 2, 2021 minutes**

The minutes of March 2, 2021 meeting were approved.

**Review Action Items:**

Reviewed and completed

**Presentation:** Jin Chien, staff lawyer at the Chinese & Southeast Asian Clinic  
PowerPoint slides will be circulated.

- Established in 1987 with a staff of 9: 4 lawyers, including CD; 4 community legal workers; and office manager
- Funded by LAO but not LAO staff
- Provide free services to low income, non- English-speaking and members of the Chinese, Vietnamese, Laotian and Cambodian Communities in Ontario
- Office location is 123 Edward Street, Suite 505, Toronto
- Satellite offices in Scarborough and Mississauga

- **What we Do** – intake (phone and in-person) referrals and summary advice, public legal education with community partners e.g., CCNCTO, Butterfly, annual frontline workers’ training
- **Direct representation:** Courts, administrative tribunals, CBSA, etc....
- **Law Reform:** Test case litigation, advocacy campaigns, submissions to all levels of government and to UN bodies
- **Areas of Law:** housing and tenants rights; social assistance and income maintenance
- **Recent Activities:** Webinars on Federal and Provincial Supports, continue phone intake and select in-person appointments; technical support for virtual hearings
- **Anti-Asian Racism:** Joint report with CCNCSJ and CCNCTO on incidents of racists attacks across Canada, March 2021: <https://www.covidr racism.ca/>
- **Media:** Newspaper interviews, TV and radio news programs

**Themes discussed:** Do you assist clients with technology? Do not have the capacity only if one is their counsel. Triage people with criminal lawyers if needed.

Jin Chien was thanked for her informative and insightful presentation.

### **Lunch and Learns**

Patricia reported on the April 29<sup>th</sup> Lunch and Learn on Suicide Risk and the COVID-19 Pandemic: Transforming threat to skills for safer living, 100% evaluated the session every good to excellent. Ninety-two people attended the session. The next Lunch and Learn will be on Domestic Violence /Partner Abuse.

**2021/22 Workplan new objectives’ outcome measurements? Section VI** To improve the experience of equity seeking and racialized groups; recognize, support and engage with Black and Indigenous communities within the efforts of the West Toronto HSJCC OR in accordance with the mandate of the West Toronto HSJCC.

**Discussion ensued:** How will we measure the objectives to address equity issues? To be mindful in the effort of the education to ask presenters about critically consider how issues of inclusion are addressed and comment. These new objectives are relating to the committee’s values. It was suggested that we look at intentional reflection of our values. A couple of ways we can do it; checking ourselves or have a group check at the end of the agenda such as a quick self-evaluation if we accomplished the new objectives. Are we as a group following these values?

It was noted that everyone at bail hearing need to adhere to code section 493.2 that addresses the notion of disadvantage and inclusion.

The committee agreed to have a Lunch and Learn on Code Section 493.2. Justice Edward J. Kelly will explore a potential presenter for this.

The committee agreed to ask presenters to comment on equity and anti-racism issues and/or ask for resources that address them.

Mark noted that he will forward for circulation to Domenica an Anti-Racism statement of the Land Acknowledgment.

### **Agency/Organization updates**

Elana Glass reported that she will join the Provincial HSJCC Specialized Courts Forum. Congratulations!

**How is COVID-19 affecting service delivery in your organization, sector and/or community?**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**Legal Aid barriers and challenges?**

Deferred to next meeting

**Update on Video Bail**

Patricia reported that video bail is up and going. Agencies can access video bail for the accused person. The Scarborough courthouse will be the next courthouse getting video bail technology followed by North York.

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

Domenica reported that planning has started for the virtual Provincial HSJCC 2021 conference. The Toronto Regional HSJCC meeting is scheduled to meet on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Action Items**

The committee agreed to have a Lunch and Learn on Code Section 493.2. Suggestion for presenter(s)?

Domenica will circulate the Anti-Racism Land Acknowledgement from Mark.

**Next Meeting:** Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Tuesday, September 14, 2021 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm. There is a holiday during the first week of the month so we are having it during the second week.