



**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 14, 2021**  
**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Debbie Lynch (Co-chair) CTYS, Patricia Pagnani (Co-chair) TBP, Blair Mills – Youth Probation, Genieve Chin– TBP, Scott Skinner – Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region, Jessica Adamson – AYSP Youth Justice Committee, Laurie Snowden – VWAP, Leann Gallant – CMHA Toronto

**Call in:** None

**Regrets:** Edward J. Kelly – Judiciary, Danuta Rasiewicz – SOLGEN, Mary Ross-Hendricks – Justice of the Peace

**Land Acknowledgement**

Debbie noted the land acknowledgement recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on.

A new Anti-Racism Land Acknowledgement is being prepared by Mark.

**Review of May 4, 2021 Minutes**

The minutes of the May 4, 2021 meeting were approved.

**Annual Members Evaluation**

Deferred to the November 2, 2021 meeting

**Lunch and Learns**

Domestic violence/partner abuse – Laurie will speak with the Manager of the WomanACT program to see if she would be willing to speak with this group about domestic violence.

Speakers for lunch and Learns about disorders and how best to communicate/assist and Bail Code Section 493.2 were not discussed.

**Agency/Organization Updates**

AYSP – Jessica updated that the agency plan to return to work in person 1x/week has been postponed.

Probation – Blair updated that the agency is working on a gradual return to pre-pandemic work space by November 1/21. Youth are being seen in community probation offices in person when needed.

Victim Witness – Laurie updated that they are an essential service and have been available for in person support throughout the pandemic when a victim is appearing in court in person.

Bail Program – Patricia updated that the bail program staff are on site 2 days/week and working from home 3 days/week. They are working towards a gradual return to pre-pandemic work space. Most communication is still happening over the phone.

Surrey Place – Scott updated that they have started in person assessments again however most work is still being done virtually.

CTYS – Debbie updated that their management staff are working in the office 5 days per week and community workers are meeting clients in person if they can meet outside; if they can't meet outside they are meeting at the office. They are not currently attending at client homes.

CMHA – Leann updated that case managers are meeting more frequently with people face to face in the community; outside if at all possible. Court workers will meet with people in the parking lot of the court if necessary.

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

CMHA court case managers are assisting people in accessing court appearances through the use of their laptops/phones.

Through the Justice Centre, Lumenus and Rexdale Women's centre have provided space for people to access courts for their court appearances.

### **Legal Aid Barriers and Challenges**

Patricia is working with Legal Aid Ontario to put a process in place to assist vulnerable clients (homeless, mental illness, cognitive difficulties, substance use) in accessing supports to deal with their court matters. Not having access to technology is a barrier for many clients in accessing courts for their appearances.

Laurie advised the Brain Injury Society of Toronto has services to support people in the community with making appointments, accompanying people to appointments, etc.

### **Update on video bail**

Video bails are happening across the city from the detention centres and the police divisions. It seems to be working well.

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

Difficulty around assisting clients in accessing court for virtual appearances was discussed (lack of technology, technology glitches in court, long wait times on the phone,).

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

Next T-HSJCC meeting is September 27, 2021. Update will be provided at November's meeting.

P-HSJCC virtual conference is scheduled for Nov. 16-17. If anyone did not receive the information about the conference please email Debbie or Patricia for the information.

### **Choose presenter for virtual meeting on November 2, 2021**

Debbie updated that Domenica has reached out to an elder from a local Indigenous group to speak with the committee. She is trying to schedule the person to attend at the next virtual HSJCC meeting on November 2, 2021.