



Meeting Minutes
November 2, 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; Dana Lee Riley, Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto; Edward J. Kelly, Judiciary; Genieve Chin, Toronto Bail Program; Crystal, JHST; Mary Ross-Hendriks, Justice of the Peace

Call-in: None

Regrets: Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Barry Sharp, Salvation Army; Elana Glass, Duty Counsel; Chelsea Davis, Operation Springboard; Leann Gallant, CMHA

Land Acknowledgement

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

Welcome and Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review of September 14, 2021 minutes

The minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting were approved.

Review Action Items:

Were reviewed and completed

Presentation: Dana Riley from the Elizabeth Fry Toronto on *Supporting Individuals Impacted by the Criminal Justice System from an Intersectional Lens*

- PowerPoint slides will be circulated with the minutes.
- Learning Objectives reviewed: highlight systems core values and missions that should be implemented while supporting black individuals impacted by the criminal system using intersectional lens; explore and share insights on the barriers & challenges that impact Black individuals; share my experience to further our understanding on the impact of the criminal justice system; identify tools and practices that support Black individuals; explore how systems and organizations can collaborate
- Intersectionality definition: the acknowledgement that everyone has their own unique experience of discrimination and oppression

- Identified systems core values and mission and the impact of systems and social network
- Dana shared her own lived experience as a Black woman going through the criminal justice system. This included; loss of identity, feelings of shame, separation from loved ones and isolation
- Tools and practices to support were discussed: holistic approach, give people a voice, be trauma informed, non-judgmental, active listening, root causes, restorative justice and continued support
- Takeaways: What does innocent until proven guilty look like? What does serve and protect look like? What does successful reintegration look like? What does harm reduction look like to you? What does community support look like to you?

Dana was thanked for the informative and interactive presentation.

Themes discussed: How to refer people to E Fry? E Fry worker can help clients to link them with services/ or use their devices assisting individuals with accessing technology for court purposed. It was acknowledged the importance of sharing lived experience through the lens of a Black woman to raise awareness on the impact of the justice system on Black individuals and family members going through it.

Lunch and Learns

Domenica reported that she was unable to get confirmation as of yet for a presenter on the topic of domestic/partner violence. Update will be provided at the next meeting.

Priority Setting Exercise:

Patricia provided the context for the Priority Setting Exercise. The Provincial HSJCC is gathering input from all the Locals and Regional to develop a work plan for the next three years. To guide our input the following questions will be addressed to identify priorities:

- 1) What new initiatives are occurring in our environment that are impacting the work of our HSJCC.
- 2) How are these initiatives changing or shaping the HSJCC's role in our community? (Please consider the impact of the COVID-19)
- 3) What are the **top three issues** or challenges in human services and justice coordination in our community?
- 4) What are the top three priority areas that WT-HSJCC will be leading over the next year?
- 5) What support would the WT-HSJCC like to receive from the Provincial HSJCC to achieve our mandate?
- 6) What should the P-HSJCC start, stop or continue doing?

<p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSJCC has become a leading source for information sharing for many agencies • HSJCC is an established voice/advocacy role • HSJCC is great for networking 	<p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of access to phones/ computers to connect to the Court • Virtual care challenges- with respect to assessments in clinical settings and establishing rapport in case management • The New Toronto Courthouse – The geographical distance to attend will be a challenge for many.
<p>Opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSJCC has an advocacy role • Virtual care advantage, one can access service by providing virtual hubs for clients using technology and a safe space • The Downtown East Justice Centre for Adults and The Toronto Northwest Justice Centre for Youth will provide a meeting place where individuals involved in the criminal justice system will be able to access many services in one place. The WT-HSJCC can follow the progress of the current pilots and construction of the brick and mortar buildings and share with committee members. • We need the Provincial HSJCC to advocate for funds to support technology hubs for people who have no access to technology, Wi-Fi and/or how to use it • To increase our ability to operate with virtual technology • As 2201 Finch will become the Regional Bail Centre, all of the releases on Bail will be facilitated through our local. The WT-HSJCC can look into ways to improve the communication between the Toronto South Detention Centre and Vanier to facilitate meaningful release/Bail plans. 	<p>Threats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment & Retention in the sector has been challenging • Virtual care or justice, not everyone has access to technology, internet or how to use it • The percentage of people who can't access technology • MH clients were flagged in the in-person courthouse, but will not be flagged for mental health support in the remote world • The New Toronto Courthouse – the distance from the westend to get there • Individuals released from the jail late in the day, when service providers may not be available. How do newly released individuals connect with services and get to where they need to go?

The top 3 issues and challenges:

1. COVID restrictions have impacted access to the court system for the most vulnerable involved in the criminal justice system
2. Recruitment of committee members and encouraging attendance to regular meetings – Domenica will send out two meeting reminders, one day in advance and one the day before
3. Access to immediate and affordable/supportive housing

The top 3 priority: areas that WT-HSJCC will be leading over the next year?

1. To address the impact of COVID-19 on services specific to accessing technology and justice
2. Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism education and engagement
3. Preparing for the Regional Bail Centre and how to increase communication between jail and courthouse to assist with release planning

What new initiatives are occurring in our environments that are impacting the work of our HSJCC.

- New Toronto Courthouse and Regional Bail Centre. Both are opportunities and challenges.
- Toronto Northwest Justice Centre for Youth and Downtown East Justice Centre for Adults – Both are opportunities to connect Clients to needed services.

What support to receive from the Provincial HSJCC: strong advocacy by making statements to inform policy. To engage with more people with lived experience and ensure meaningful participation as defined by people with lived experience as well Anti-Racism strategies and educational tools.

- Provincial HSJCC conducted an Anti-Racism survey. Findings to be presented.
- Provincial HSJCC people with lived experience advisory committee has developed guidelines for enhancing *the Engagement of People with Lived Experience Across the HSJCC Network*. It will be circulated with the HSJCC network.

Themes discussed: Ways to assist individuals to successfully connect to virtual court, self-care for staff, addressing Anti-Indigenous and Anti-Black Racism, services for both adults and youth involved in the criminal justice system. The benefits to remind members of the meeting on the day of the meeting due to the unpredictable justice sector scheduling. Lack of police representation on the committee. How can we facilitate the connection for people going through the court system? It was suggested that having an in-person set date court for vulnerable individuals might be beneficial to them.

Agency/Organization updates

Deferred to next meeting.

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

Deferred to next meeting

Legal Aid barriers and challenges?

Deferred to next meeting

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC

Domenica reported on the following:

-Next T-HSJCC will be on December 9, 2021

-P-HSJCC virtual conference will be on November 16-17 titled "Community Justice: Transforming practices in a new world"

Action Items

- Domenica will send a meeting invite for the next meeting after this meeting, reminder and one the day of the meeting.
- Domenica will follow up on the next Lunch and Learn

Presenter for next meeting -TBD

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.