



Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2022
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; Crystal Davis, JHST; Danuta Rasiewicz, TSDC/SolGen; Elana Glass, Duty Counsel; Sophia Okyere-Oduro, Jean Tweed Centre; Mary Ross-Hendriks, Justice of the Peace; Tina Bell, Salvation Army; Brad Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario; Leann Gallant, CMHA Toronto; Greg Mc Innes, Salvation Army; Rosamma George, Jean Tweed Centre; Laurie Snowden, VWAP; Jessica Adamson, AYSP; Andy Wing Wai Tam (student) CTYS; Kyra Schrader, Métis Nation of Ontario; Jocelyn Moreau, Métis Nation of Ontario

Call-in: None

Regrets: Dana Lee Riley, Elizabeth Fry Society of Toronto; Scott Skinner, Community Network of Specialized Care Toronto Region; Edward J. Kelly, Judiciary; Chelsea Davis, Operation Springboard; Serena Nudel, Toronto Neighbourhood Group

Land Acknowledgement

Patricia 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 March 1, 2022 minutes

The minutes of the March 1, 2022 meeting were approved by Elana Glass, seconded by Debbie Lynch.

Review Action Items:

Were reviewed and completed. It was noted that the Toronto Regional HSJCC approved the WT-HSJCC 2022-2023 workplan and proposed budget.

Presentation: Bradley Scarr, Kyra Schrader and Jocelyn Moreau from the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO)

Presentation slides will be circulated.

- "Métis" means a person who self-identifies as Métis, is distinct from other Aboriginal peoples, is of Historic Métis Nation ancestry, and is accepted by the Métis Nation.
- MNO Secretariat - established a provincewide infrastructure to deliver and manage programs and services for Métis people in Ontario. Directed through eight

branches, the MNO employs 300 + people located in 32 offices across Ontario. Link below:

www.metisnation.org

MNO has Restorative Justice Indigenous Liaison Program – Individual can access the MNO Community Diversion Program as an alternative to traditional sentencing. It promotes conflict resolution and reintegration into communities.

The Justice Council is made up of Métis Elders, community members and professionals. The program can utilize in-house Métis focused support programs. Catchment area: Peel Region, York Region and Durham Region.

Justice Liaison Program: can access legal information, assistance with understanding various court and tribunal processes, general information about the law, information about various court and tribunal forms.

Contact info: 1-800-263-4889 Ext 7 or email at Justice@metisnation.org

Barriers to services were identified. They are:

1. Lack of involvement from courthouse staff
2. Communication Barriers
3. Lack of referrals to MNO Programs
4. Lack of education on who Métis Peoples are
5. Lack of Métis Specific Programs
6. Lack of culturally relevant supports and services
7. Lack of connections/relationships within the human and social services sector
8. Need for additional cultural services (ex: Métis Gladue Writer, Métis-led mediation)
9. Mistrust of colonial systems, including the criminal justice system and court process (including mistrust of lawyers, courthouse staff, law enforcement, etc.)
10. Educational barriers (there is a lack of education and awareness regarding Métis rights in the CJS)

Themes discussed

Why MNO is not serving the Toronto Region? Due to funding restrictions MNO is unable to serve Toronto Region. However, clients can choose who provides services to them i.e. Aboriginal Legal Services or MNO. Currently, they are working with Newmarket courthouse to develop protocols. Please note that there are twenty-eight thousand Métis living in Ontario.

Bradly, Kyra and Joycelyn were thanked for the informative and insightful presentation.

Lunch and Learns

Domenica reported on the upcoming Lunch and Learns.

- The Lunch and Learn on the CAMH Gender Identity Clinic held on March 8th was successful. Two hundred and fifty-one registered and 124 were in attendance.
- The next Lunch and Learn will take place on May 19th on the Sentencing and Parole Project (SPP)
- SPP is a non-profit organization that prepares enhanced pre-sentence reports (EPSRs) for Black people marginalized by poverty and racial inequality. Their work has built upon the use of the reports in Nova Scotia where they are ordered by the judiciary to assist with the sentencing of marginalized Black people. Presenter will be Faisal Mirza.

- The reports give judges and parole boards the information they need to make informed sentencing and release decisions. They include recommendations for culturally appropriate programs to assist with rehabilitation. The SPP also trains justice system participants about racism in the justice system.

Agency/Organization Updates

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

- Debbie noted that CTYS is providing in-person services. Staff are able to see clients in their home environment using mandatory masks.
- Patricia reported on the bail program. She stated that they are functioning at pre-pandemic on-site service. Staff is providing four days per week in person and one day remote. Students and volunteers are back at the courthouse.
- Leann reported that it is unknown when the courthouse will open. Currently, most client contact is over the phone. She noted that when clients are taken from the police station, contact is difficult.
- Danuta reported on the TSDC. She stated that if we have issues connecting with staff at the TSDC that suggestions are welcomed. Danuta agreed to provide contact names at the TSDC. For example, specific Sergeants contact who are assigned to video court. Danuta will send Domenica the contact information for circulation and share with the other local HSJCCs. In the meantime, one can send Danuta an email re: client concerns. Danuta was thanked for providing the opportunity to enhance communication lines with the TSDC.

Updates from T-HSJCC and Provincial HSJCC:

Patricia reported that the Toronto Regional committee has established an Anti-Racism Ad Hoc committee. Its membership includes all local HSJCC Co-chairs. The main goal is to develop an Anti-Racism educational series for the HSJCC target population. The main focus is education, increase awareness, identify issues and collaboration.

Next T-HSJCC meeting is taking place on October 13th.

Domenica reported on the Provincial HSJCC. Planning for the next conference began.

Action Items:

- Domenica will report on the Lunch and Learn sessions at the next meeting
- Domenica will circulate the PowerPoint presentation slide deck.
- Danuta will send TSDC contact information to Domenica for circulation.
- Leann will contact the project manager for the Northwest Community Crisis Service to find out if she is available to present at the next meeting.

Presenter for next meeting: Archana Lingendran, Northwest Community Crisis Service

Next Meeting: Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting taking place on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 from 12 pm to -1:00 pm.