

**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 12, 2023**  
**12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Present:** Debbie Lynch (Co-chair), CTYS; Domenica Dileo, HSJCC; Nikita Moriarity, Reconnect; Rosamma George, Jean Tweed Centre; Samantha Johnson, CTYS; Bradley Scarr, Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO); Arielle De Giorgio (student at CTYS); Tina Bell, Salvation Army; Kristina Dobosz, Community Network of Specialized Care, Toronto Region; Elana Glass, Duty Counsel; Tatiana Molina, SolGen; Joyceline Sobers, Fred Victor, Dana Riley, EFry; Laverda Thomas; JHST; Joey Violante, YMCA

**Call-in:** None

**Regrets:** Edward Kelly, Judiciary; Patricia Pagnani (Co-chair), Toronto Bail Program; Danuta Rasiewicz, TSDC/SolGen; Jessica Adamson, AYSO; Leann Gallant, CMHA Toronto; Mary Ross-Hendriks, Justice of the Peace; Barry Sharp, Salvation Army; Laurie Snowden, VWAP; Serena Nudel, Toronto Neighbourhood Group

**Land Acknowledgement**

Debbie provided the land acknowledgment, recognizing the history of the Indigenous People and their contribution to the land we stand on. Members were encouraged to share the Land Acknowledgement among the committee members. Please email Patricia, Debbie, or Domenica if you can provide a Land Acknowledgement before the next meeting.

**Welcome and Introductions**

Everyone introduced themselves.

**Review of May 2, 2023, minutes**

The May 2, 2023, meeting minutes were approved by Debbie and seconded by Laverda.

**Review Action Items:**

-Domenica reported on the member's annual evaluation. She collated the feedback and circulated it. Thank you for completing it. Your feedback helps us with continued improvement. Overall, the feedback was positive. This year, fewer members participated, and six members provided feedback. Members noted the benefits of participating in the HSJCC network and found the information sharing helpful. 100% of participants were well informed of the HSJCC.

Were reviewed and completed.

- It was suggested to have Lunch and Learn topics on mental health disorders.

**Presentation:** Joyceline Sobers, Fred Victor on the Court Support Services at the Ontario Court of Justice - Toronto

- She is the Court Support Services Senior Manager at Fred Victor Centre.

- A team of nine mental health court diversion staff working with CMHA and Cota, they share one space. Two Fred Victor staff are at the TRBC.

- When an individual is released from the TRBC, a mental health court diversion staff will conduct a comprehensive intake, if possible, at the OCJT. Distance from the TRBC to the OCJT is challenging for our clients.
- The MH court support staff moved to the OCJT from College Park in March.
- Service plans are done not only for low-risk offences but for those who are for high-risk offences. For example, human trafficking and murder offences do not go through the Fred Victor mental health diversion program.
- The Crown Attorney has the final say if a person charged is referred to the mental health diversion program. There is no designated Crown Attorney for the MH Court. Thus, there is a gap in Crown's knowledge of MH, TBI, ABI and dual diagnosis. MH staff are doing more mental health education with the legal staff.
- There are two MH courthouses at the OCJT, 806 and 807
- A case manager may work with a client for 6-12 months
- During COVID, bench warrants increased because clients were unwell, disconnected from staff and unable to attend court. We have many homeless clients living in the shelter system we were unable to communicate with.

#### **Themes Discussed:**

- Fred Victor MH court support dealt with low-risk offences, not high-risk ones. Having the MH court diversion program in one space has highlighted that each agency has interpreted the MH policy differently.

Joyceline was thanked for a very informative and compassionate presentation.

#### **Lunch and Learns Update**

Debbie reported on the upcoming Lunch and Learns. Registration information will be circulated. Due to popular demand, the Anti-Racism Series will be repeated with five sessions.

Upcoming Lunch and Learns:

- September 28th Toronto East Reintegration Table (S-HSJCC)
- October 5th Drug Treatment Court (NY-HSJCC)
- Toronto Anti-Racism Series Session 1 on Foundation 101 with Dr. Rai Reece, on October 26,
- Toronto Anti-Racism Series Session 2 on Decentering Whiteness, White Privilege and White Supremacy in Organizational Spaces will take place on November 23
- December 7th East Focus Table (S-HSJCC)

#### **Agency/Organization Updates:**

*How does transitioning to the TRBC and OCJT affect service delivery in your organization, sector, and community?*

*Themes discussed:*

- Travel difficulties for clients to get to OCJT from the TRBC when released can occur late in the day or evening (just before midnight). Evening transportation is slow.
- The police division one is charged will determine which agency to refer Fred Victor, Cota or CMHA.
- The Crown Attorney's Office is changing its divisions, which may impact the referral process.
- See above regarding the identified needs.
- Transfer prisoners' belongings when released at various points, Bail, police station or TSDC, this is challenging for clients to get back home with no keys, phone etc...

#### Service Coordination/ Resolution Issues

Does anyone have any issues to resolve? Are there any issues to bring forth to the Toronto Regional HSJCC? See above.

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

- a. Provincial Conference - November 15-16, 2023
- b. Next T-HSJCC meeting taking place on September 21, 2023
- c. Anti-Racism Ad Hoc Group Updates – see above.
- d. PWLE Honorarium Policy - it was circulated, but there was no comment.
- e. Provincial HSJCC members structure diagram - it was circulated, but there is no comment.

### **Action Items:**

- Contact Domenica if you can provide the Land Acknowledgement at the **meeting on January 9, 2024**.
- Domenica will follow up on the presentation(s) for the January 9, 2024, meeting.
- Domenica will follow up on the meeting time and length poll. Poll results: The WT-HSJCC meetings will be from noon to 1:30 pm.

**The November meeting will be a MEGA meeting with all 4 Local HSJCCs** on Thursday, November 2, 2023, from 8:30 to 10:30 am at the OCJT. It will be a hybrid model, and a light breakfast will be provided.

**Presenter for next meeting on January 9, 2024, from noon to 1:30 pm:** TBD - Laverda Thomas, JHST, on their youth program and/or RAAM Clinic at St. Joseph Hospital.