



December 5, 2022

Chair: Marilyn Weller

PRESENT: Diane Quadros, Nicolas Jakowiec, Jayme Lesperance, Dan Topp, Mike Tennant, Stephanie Bula, Zoey Azlen, Vanessa Mineau, Liz Brown, Nicholas Long, Cst. Blake Cohoe, Samantha Hudson, Justice Shannon Pollock, Kristen Durham, Melanie Garant, Michelle Rocheleau, Megan Grossett, Colm Holmes, Sarah Yang, Jose Vasquez, Carly Baz, Shelley MacMillian, Jarett Loscher, Sarah Yang, Jose Vasquez

Regrets:

Note Taker: Joanne Brown

Call to order: 1:15pm

1. **Land Acknowledgement**-read by Marilyn
2. **Welcome & Introductions**
3. **Review of Minutes of: September 12, 2022 minutes accepted as written**

Marilyn Weller tendered her resignation date to CMHA for the end of December 2022. She will be retiring.

*Diane Quadros will become the new manager. She has worked in mental health services for over 20 years. She worked with CMHA for a majority of those years in the intensive case management program. She has also worked in private practice, facilitator for ASIST suicide intervention training and as a practice facilitator with WFHT: Team Care Centre.
Welcome Diane.*

Liz Brown shared retirement sentiments on behalf of the HSJCC committee and presented Marilyn with a HSJCC Champion plaque from the committee. She shared that Marilyn has been a calming, stable, anchor for this committee. She will be missed by all. We wish her the very best as she retires with her wife in beautiful Vancouver.

Updates:

Judges

Justice Shannon Pollock

Overview of what the courts are:

672 Court

- It's called 672 in reference to Section 672 of the criminal code
- The code encompasses the realm of mental health issues of those in the criminal justice system
- 672 process does not include out of court meetings
- Non-represented persons meet up with Dan Topp who is: Amicus - (Friend of the Court) who will help assist the court with its decision-making by ensuring that all relevant evidence and arguments are properly presented to the court for that person.

- Amicus position has no financial impact on the community or the court system. Dan Topp has been doing this for many years and does it because he loves it.

Drug Treatment court

- Drug treatment court is considered a therapeutic court and is not available in every province.
- As one of the therapeutic courts in Canada's criminal justice system, Drug Treatment courts aim to help reduce crime and substance abuse and to provide supports and resource tools to the person involved as they move through the justice system.
- A team of people working together with the accused to make things better during and after completion.
- Drug Treatment court meets every 2 weeks/the accused meet with service providers (Ted Baxter Crossroads) at 9:00am outside the courtroom to discuss the process to the accused/he is also updated on the accused's progress since last time they spoke/at 9:30am they proceed into court to provide the updates formally/at that time matters could get adjourned or sentence requirements admissible to the court are discussed.
- If the accused is considered a candidate for drug treatment court program they must be willing to commit to the process. 6-12 months.
- If the accused is willing to take full responsibility of their charges and plead guilty they will be offered a team of supportive professionals to assist them through the active court system/sentencing. That team offers tools and resources to ensure the accused becomes successful and remains out of the justice system moving forward.
- As service providers your role is important by providing information to the court. First stop is not necessarily always the crown. Stop by to share the person's story with Amicus (Dan Topp) or a crown lawyer, Gladue writer, tell the court about FASD and how that affected the accused and how it is portrayed in their criminal activity. This will allow us to provide and maintain stability for those persons passing through the criminal justice system.
- You all have an open invitation to join court virtually to see how it works. Links can be provided.
- If you have any questions for the court please reach out to our seasoned staff: Liz Brown, Jayme Lesperance and Dan Topp they will be more than happy to assist you.
- Educational justice refresher piece needed. Subcommittee will discuss and collaborate with organizations who are willing to offer an educational talk/presentation. Various topics as they relate MH & addictions, FASD, etc. Subcommittee will move these learning pieces forward to the larger HSJCC group. Expecting this education will remind us to consider a client as a candidate for drug treatment court.
- *Action: Justice Pollock to forward 672 and DTC dates to Joanne-completed*
- *Action: Diane add a justice educational piece discussion at the subcommittee level in 2023.*

672 and DTC Dates until March 2023:

Justice Pollock:

January 5, #4-672@9:00AM

January 12, #9-DTC@9:30AM

January 20, #1-672@9:00AM(This is a Friday, neither were sitting on Thursday)

January 26, #1-DTC@9:30AM

February 2, #1-672@9:00AM

February 9, #4-DTC@9:30AM

February 23, #8-DTC@9:30AM

March 2, #8-672@9:00AM

March 9, #8-DTC@9:30AM

March 23, #11-DTC@9:30AM

Justice Murphy:

February 16, #8-672@9:00AM

March 16, #11-672@9:00AM

Amicus

Dan Topp

- 672 process is for the Amicus to triage the accused. Spend some together getting to know them and how to offer the appropriate supports.
- Most recently it seems that the space is filling with people who are not committed to the process /let's get back to grass roots and use the court for accused who are willing to commit to the process.
- Dan has clients at Toledo who connects virtually to his court appearances. This is a great way to keep tabs on the client's mental health issues. It also helps with failures to attend, breaches etc. Being consistent with those people who are struggling with their MH issues. Just a different way of approaching it. And, it helps.
- Drug treatment court is a very big commitment and it was full back in the days. People were actually waiting to get a spot. We were missing the education piece back then. It certainly didn't come from the lawyers. Drug treatment court idea has to come from the outside from organizations who know about the program. If the client approaches the lawyer with the idea it's better. It's not a get out of jail free card. It's a huge commitment for those who are serious about sobriety. Pressure of court being closed due to Covid has been really tough on those actively fighting addiction. I'm pleased things are open and services more accessible for our clients now.

Crown's Office

Liz Brown, Criminal Law Division

- Liz thanked Justice Pollock for her continued commitment towards scheduling/timing of these courts. She keeps things moving ahead.
- After the last meeting and Jose's comments regarding timeslots between 9-10. Liz, Jayme and Dan had a conversation about how to use this timeslot more effectively. Outcomes were to proceed with Dan's triaged court and leave guilty pleas until the end/we can find a date for them later.
- Justice Pollock is usually done in 672 by 9:20AM. Also, no capping on cases anymore/ providing just a general overview.

New Beginnings

Nicholas Jakowiec

- We work with youth who are involved in the criminal justice system. We provide focused post-discharge plan and support system for those youth. This includes creating an individualized plan of care with the focus on primary risk factors. The worker identifies specific needs such as independent living, employment, education and any other related recommendations for referral for support services.
- We then update this information to the court on behalf of the client
- Follow up services are provided.
- New Beginnings is hosting a Christmas gathering December 22, 2022 4pm-7pm for any youth up to the age of 29. Anyone is welcome.

Youth Wellness Hub

Michelle Rocheleau, CMHA-WECB

- Youth Wellness Hub has secured a permanent location. It will be moving to 215 Eugenie Street. Centrally located between Ouellette & Dougal. Should be moving in early February or March depending on contractors etc. This location will be much better for accessibility.
- Counselling services available in Amherstburg in the New Year.

CMHA-Windsor Essex County Branch

Safe Beds Program

Zoey Azlen

- Safebeds now operational 24 hours a day.
- Noticing a big change with the increased hours and some great outcomes.
- Police referrals are picking up
- Still working on getting the programs figured out /looking to hire an addiction specialist which is a key factor /almost all coming in have been through their struggles with addiction
- Having a drug court in our community is so beneficial/good feeling to know the court is in support of these folks.

Aboriginal Legal Services

Gladue Writer

Melanie Garant:

- A group of Indigenous workers in Windsor area have developed a committee to raise Indigenous awareness. The group would like to build upon their portfolio and bring a greater awareness of Indigenous issues into the courtroom.

Comment: Justice Pollock would love the opportunity to discuss this and be part of that committee.

FASD

Samantha Hudson

- Currently involved in developing a FASD justice educational learning presentation and wondered if this HSJCC would be interested as a resource? Samantha & Sarah present the training.

Comment: Excellent topic for a lunch and learn presentation in 2023. Other agencies could join to discuss similar diagnoses and how they affect people involved in the justice system. MH & Addictions is also a good fit.

4. Regional Report:

- Updates from the Regional HSJCC-nothing new to report

5. New Business

- **FY 2022-23 Workplan Review**
- Community partners have been purchasing items for clients (clothing, hats, mitts, scarves, Timmy's cards etc.) Please submit any receipts
- Marilyn has been going over the HSJCC workplan with Diane as she moves it ahead in 2023.
- Change to the workplan with the addition of the RENT Smart program. Our community is still experiencing so much homelessness. This training is a 2- half day session that recently serviced 9 people. Housing strategies were discussed and we were able to pay for refreshments from our lunch and learn budget.
- Updates from 672 Committee-nothing to report
- Covid Related Updates
- Other?

Meeting adjourned: 2:24pm

6. Next Meeting: March 6, 2023@1:15pm

7. Meeting Schedule for 2023

- March 6
- June 5
- September 5 (Note: This is a Tuesday due to the holiday)
- December 4