



Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee Quarterly Newsletter September 2013

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Provincial HSJCC News 

Provincial HSJCC Co-Chairs Update

In keeping with our tradition of being incredibly busy no matter what time of the year, the Provincial HSJCC has been hard at work with the ongoing development of historical projects and the advent of new ones.

Following the enthusiastic response to the release and webinar of *Strategies for Implementing Effective Police-Emergency Department Protocols in Ontario*, we were asked to produce an additional, more prescriptive document that details “what works” in jurisdictions where the police and hospitals have worked to reduce the amount of time police officers spend in emergency rooms. As a result, we established a working group that comprised some of the participants who were involved in the initial “Police-ER” project. We hope to have this second report completed by October of this year.

Although it has been more than a year since the Provincial HSJCC decided to restructure the committee and form a “Secretariat”, our proposal for funding has undergone several necessary revisions, and will be submitted to the Inter-Ministerial Mental Health and Justice Director’s group for consideration in October.

Earlier this year, we met with some of the staff at the Attorney General’s *Justice on Target* project. They were exploring issues

related to the bail process and had asked for our input. After sharing feedback from the HSJCC network, we have been asked to continue consulting with them, and will be meeting in September.

The “Communities of Interest” (CoI) funding that we received in 2012 allowed us to create and conduct webinars and information guides in partnership with the Evidence Exchange Network for Mental Health and Addictions (EENet). In light of the overwhelmingly positive response to these projects, we have applied for CoI ‘renewal’ funding. This would enable us to develop additional webinars and improve our capacity to more effectively communicate with the HSJCC network.

The Provincial HSJCC has been also been actively involved in community consultations for the four service collaboratives that will focus on the justice system. There has been an excellent response to the consultations, with attendance by literally hundreds of representatives from service providers and government organizations. This work is supported by a team from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

We would like to welcome Dorina Simeonov, who was hired in July as a Planning and Policy Analyst at the Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario. Dorina has hit the ground running, so to speak, and has done a wonderful job of addressing the many demands and needs of the Provincial HSJCC. In addition, we would also like to thank Jenna Hitchcox, who has provided the Provincial HSJCC with administrative and organizational assistance. We are very grateful for the continued support of CMHA Ontario, without which we would be unable to accomplish many of the tasks that must be completed to meet our mandate.

The Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee submitted our Annual Report to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care in June 2013. You can read it at <http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/PHSJCC%20Annual%20Report%202012%20-%20Final.docx>

And last, but not least... registration is now open for our biennial conference, which is being held in Toronto from November 25 to 27, 2013. This year’s theme is “*The Changing World from Youth to Elderly in Human Services and Justice*”.

To register, please visit:

<http://www.innovative4you.com/hsjcctoronto/conference.htm>

Katie Almond

Co-Chair, Provincial HSJCC

 **Update from the Communications and Knowledge Transfer Committee (CKT) Chair**

Registration for the provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee's biennial conference is now open. The conference is November 25-27 in Toronto. You can register online at

<http://www.innovative4you.com/hsjcctoronto/conference.htm>

Hope to see you there!

On a personal note, I'm in the middle of moving from Elliot Lake to Welland. Due to my relocation, I have had to leave the local and regional HSJCC's that I've been involved with. I joined the Sudbury-Manitoulin Local HSJCC in 2000, and the Algoma Local HSJCC several years ago. When the regional committees were formed, I joined the Northeast Regional HSJCC, and have served as chair and co-chair of the committee for the past two years. I want to thank everyone, past and present, on all three committees, for their commitment to having a consumer representative. I've always felt both welcome and valued by my fellow committee members in the northeast. Although I am no longer a regional representative on the provincial HSJCC, I will continue my involvement through chairing the Communications and Knowledge Transfer Committee.

Trevor Tymchuk

Chair

Communications and Knowledge Transfer Committee

trevor@afewthings.ca

 **Legal Aid Ontario kicks off multi-year strategy to support clients with mental illness**

Legal Aid Ontario (LAO) is collaborating with experts in both the mental health and justice systems in the

development of its new multi-year strategy to improve and expand legal aid services for clients with mental illness.

Currently, LAO provides criminal lawyers whose legal aid clients have mental health issues with extra funding to support their clients' specialized needs, funds legal clinics which assist many clients who have mental health issues, and provides duty counsel support to clients in court, including in all of Ontario's Mental Health Courts. In addition, LAO funds mental health related test cases, and provides certificates to lawyers representing clients before the Consent and Capacity Board and Ontario Review Board.

The goal of the Mental Health Strategy is to expand on existing initiatives while strengthening the capacity of other service providers, including clinics and private bar lawyers, in proactively supporting clients' legal needs through early access and holistic practice models. This includes a review of how mental health can be better supported across LAO's entire mandate, including criminal law, refugee and immigration law, family law, Aboriginal law, and in legal aid clinics where practice is focused on access to social entitlements and housing issues.

Stakeholder consultation has already played a major part in the development of the Strategy. Over 80 consultations taken place to date, including several community brainstorm sessions. These ideas and insights are directly contributing to the creation of a province-wide consultation paper to be released in the Fall 2013. A community advisory committee, comprised of experts currently working in the field of mental health, will further provide advice on the development of tailored services, partnership opportunities and projects.

LAO is also partnering with the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) in piloting a training program set to begin later this year. The MHCC will be working with LAO to train all legal aid lawyers and staff to identify the signs of mental illness, to understand the stigma attached to mental health, and develop better responses to serving the legal needs of Canadians with mental health issues. This pilot training program is the first such comprehensive collaboration between the MHCC and a major Canadian legal services provider.

This is the third corporate-wide strategy LAO has implemented in the past five years. The first two – LAO's Aboriginal Justice and French Language Services strategies – are well underway.

Anyone interested in contributing to the Strategy is welcome to contact Ryan Fritsch, Policy Counsel at LAO for the Mental Health Strategy, at fritschr@lao.on.ca.

Ryan Fritsch

Policy Counsel for the Mental Health Strategy, Legal Aid Ontario

News Media

 **Toronto police officer charged with second degree murder in streetcar shooting death of Sammy Yatim. National Post. August 19, 2013.**

Ontario's Special Investigations Unit has charged a Toronto police officer with second degree murder in the streetcar shooting death of 18-year-old Sammy Yatim in late July.

The SIU said an arrest warrant was issued for Toronto Police Officer Const. James Forcillo Monday morning. An arrangement was made through Forcillo's lawyer, Peter Brauti, for the police officer to turn himself in to the custody of the SIU Tuesday morning before a court appearance at Old City Hall.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Toronto%20police%20officer%20charged%20with%20second%20degree%20murder%20in%20streetcar%20shooting%20death%20of%20Sammy%20Yatim.pdf>

 **Thunder Bay, Kenora jail statistics 'misleading'. CBC News. August 1, 2013.**

Lawyers and prison reform advocates say government statistics paint an inaccurate picture of jail conditions in northwestern Ontario.

Figures from the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services show that on average, both the Thunder Bay District Jail and the Kenora District Jail had

slightly fewer inmates than the number of available beds last year. But Liisa Leskowski, executive director of the Thunder Bay John Howard Society, said it would be a mistake to assume that those numbers mean local jails aren't overcrowded.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Thunder%20Bay,%20Kenora%20jail%20statistics%20misleading.pdf>

 **Mental health chief explores more collaboration, training with police. The Canadian Press. August 15, 2013.**

Government spending on courts, prisons and policing has increased significantly in Canada over the past decade, squeezing provincial budgets at a time Canada's crime rate is falling, a report by the Parliamentary Budget Office has found.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Mental-health%20chief%20explores%20more%20collaboration,%20training%20with%20police.pdf>

 **Ghosts of police shootings past haunt us all. NOW. August 15, 2013.**

Bill Blair press conferences have a familiar choreography. They begin without fail at the prescribed time. With the clapping of camera shutters. But there was something off about the chief's Monday's presser – his second in recent weeks – to announce that he's asked Justice Dennis O'Connor to look into the police shooting death of Sammy Yatim.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Ghosts%20of%20police%20shootings%20past%20haunt%20us%20still.pdf>

 **Investments in housing are investments in health: Ontario's doctors. Canada NewsWire. August 14, 2013.**

Ontario's doctors call for greater investments in housing programs and comprehensive housing policies to improve the health of our patients. Unsafe and unaffordable housing is tied to poor health outcomes, and current programs that provide housing assistance are simply not sufficient to protect health.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Investments%20in%20housing%20are%20investments%20in%20health%20-%20Ontario%27s%20Doctors.pdf>

 **Roy McMurtry Youth Centre not living up to its promise, says advocate. Toronto Star. August 7, 2013.**

Canada's largest superjail for youth, a state-of-the-art facility built in 2009, is on the brink of a crisis, according to a new report by Ontario's advocate for children and youth. "I would say it has gotten better, but it's at a tipping point," provincial advocate Irwin Elman said of the Roy McMurtry Youth Centre in Brampton. "And this centre can move towards its potential and promise, or it can go the other way," he said. "It's a critical mass where they're at."

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Roy%20McMurtry%20Youth%20Centre%20not%20living%20up%20to%20its%20promise.pdf>

Journal Articles, Research and Presentations

 **The paradox of mental health: Over-treatment and under-recognition. PLOS Medicine. 2013.**

Among all the conditions in the world of health, mental health occupies a unique and paradoxical place. On the one hand is over-treatment and over-medicalization of mental health issues, often fueled by a pharmaceutical industry interested in the broadening of the boundaries of "illness" and in the creation of more and wider diagnostic categories and thus markets for "selling sickness." On the other hand exists profound under-recognition of the suffering and breadth of mental health issues affecting millions of people across geographies, which is a global problem.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/The%20Paradox%20of%20Mental%20Health%20-%20Over-Treatment%20and%20Under-Recognition.pdf>

 **Mental Illness, Criminal Offences and Deportation – Tips for front-line workers. Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (SSO) & Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO).**

This publication is for front-line workers and advocates working with people who:

- are not Canadian citizens,
- have been charged with or convicted of a crime in Canada,
- have or may have a mental illness.

<http://hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/mentill.pdf>

 **Crisis intervention training for corrections employees working with mentally ill offenders. July 3, 2013. Pennsylvania Department of Corrections.**

Department of Corrections officials have trained more than 100 employees in the area of crisis intervention since December 2012, with a goal of eventually providing training to all employees who have day-to-day contact with inmates with mental health issues.

http://csgjusticecenter.org/mental-health/media-clips/crisis-intervention-training-for-corrections-employees-working-with-mentally-ill-offenders/?utm_source=CSG+Justice+Center+Primary+List&utm_campaign=228f513551-7_12_13_CP_Newsletter7_9_2013&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_db9d88bcfb-228f513551-42272805

Events

 **2013 Provincial Human Services & Justice Coordinating Committee Conference. November 25 -27, 2013. Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre.**

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Call%20for%20Abstracts%20JAN26.pdf>

 **Community Networks of Specialized Care (CNSC) Videoconference Education Sessions – September 2013 through June 2014. (Free)**

To Access VC Handouts and the Event Calendar: Go to www.community-networks.ca. Click on the

Videoconferencing tab and then select VC Handouts, at left, for a full roster of session materials.

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/CNSC%20Videoconference%20Session%20Training%20Calendar%20-%202013-14.pdf>

📌 8th Educational Conference on Mental Health: Mental Illness, Offending Behaviours and Criminal Justice Services. October 17, 2013. Toronto Don Valley Hotel, Toronto.

Keynote Address – Dead Man Walking: Continuing the Journey of Justice, Love and Healing. Dr. Sr. Helen Prejean.

For more information:

<http://www.careconferences.com/>

📌 Health and Wellbeing in Developmental Disabilities. November 12-13, 2013. Delta Chelsea Hotel, Toronto, Ontario.

This two-day conference will engage health care providers and students from a variety of disciplines in professional knowledge transfer and discussion in order to improve the health and wellbeing across the life span for persons with a developmental disability.

For more information:

<http://www.healthandwellbeingindd.ca/http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Call%20for%20Abstracts%20JAN26.pdf>



Links

Provincial HSJCC

→ <http://www.hsjcc.on.ca>

→ Canadian Mental Health Association - Sudbury/Manitoulin Branch

<http://www.cmha-sm.on.ca/>

→ Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario

<http://www.bisno.org/>