



TORONTO HUMAN SERVICES AND JUSTICE COORDINATING COMMITTEE (T-HSJCC)

Background and Overview

The Ontario government's policy framework for people with clinical needs who come in conflict with the law, *A Provincial Strategy to Coordinate Human Services and Criminal Justice Systems in Ontario*, was approved in June 1997. Within the province, Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees have been established in response to a recognized need to coordinate services and plan more effectively for this client population.

The Regional Committees include representatives from the Ministries involved in this initiative: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Ministry of the Attorney General and Ministry of Public Infrastructure and Renewal. The goal is to develop an integrated, coordinated and seamless service delivery system that meets the needs of this client population and supports community safety. These committees reflect a partnership, collaboration and engagement among justice and human service provider.

Regional committees are established to coordinate communication and service integration planning between health, criminal justice and developmental service organizations within specific regions.

The Toronto Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (THSJCC)

The Toronto Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (THSJCC) is a Regional Committee.

Objectives

1. Facilitate communication through effective linkages among health, criminal justice and social service sectors, and between local committees.
2. Identify issues from local tables with respect to service delivery and capacity.
3. Address issues such as access to and duplication of services.
4. Consult with local committees to determine predominant issues.
5. Coordinate regional training opportunities for all sectors involved in serving the target population.
6. Provide informed input and advice concerning research, system design, planning, program implementation, and resource allocation to the partner ministries and the Provincial HSJCC.

Membership

The Toronto Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee is comprised of one representative from each Local HSJCC committee and: 1 chair; 1 vice chair; 6 reps chosen by the Toronto Mental Health and Justice Network, representing service types (i.e., housing, safe beds, crisis prevention, court support, case management & discharge planners); 1 rep from the Law and Mental Health program; 1 rep from the dual diagnosis sector; 2 reps from consumer/survivor organizations who have experience with the justice system; 1 family rep; 1 rep from the Psychiatric Patient Advocate Office (PPAO); 1 rep from ARCH Disability Law Centre; 1 rep from Toronto Police Service - Senior Officer designated by Toronto Police; 1 rep from Toronto Police Service - officer responsible for mental health issues from the Community Mobilization Unit; 1 rep from the ABI network; 1 rep from the Concurrent Disorder network; 1 rep from CSC; 1 rep from each community corrections – Elizabeth Fry Society and John Howard Society.

In addition, the THSJCC includes representatives from the ministries involved in this initiative: Toronto area LHINS, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. Representatives from other networks are invited as working relationships are established.

Local Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees (Local HSJCC)

The THSJCC regional committee determined the need for Local Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees (Local HSJCC) in four areas: Scarborough (already existed), West Toronto, North York and Downtown Toronto. Four local committees were established in response to a recognized need to coordinate resources and services, and plan more effectively for persons with a serious mental illness, developmental disability, acquired brain injury and/or fetal alcohol syndrome who are in conflict with the law or who are at significant risk of coming into conflict with the law.

The four Local HSJCCs identify local priorities for coordinated services and establish a process for planning and joint problem solving. Each Local HSJCC is responsible for working to address local needs and reporting to the THSJCC to help inform systems planning at a regional level. The geographic scope of the work of these Committees is defined to include all of the people and services interacting with the local courts. The target population is individuals, 16 years of age or older, with a mental illness who are currently involved or at significant risk of being involved with the criminal justice system. Individuals may have co-occurring issues such as homelessness, substance use and a developmental disability.

Objectives and Goals

- Develop and maintain an accessible and well-functioning system of mental health, justice and related services that work together to connect and move the members of the Committee's target population to and through the services and supports that they need when they need them.
- Improve the quality of services for individuals with mental health issues who are involved with the criminal justice system, including the specific matches made between clients and services both initially and through clients' individual recoveries over time.
- Minimize the amount of time people spend in correctional facilities waiting for the assessments (e.g., fitness, Form 6) and/or services they need to support their safe, successful release and re-integration back into the community
- Prevent/reduce recidivism
- Identify and address barriers to achievement of any of the above objectives, with particular focus on identifying and addressing barriers at the interfaces between the mental health, criminal justice and related systems

Functions and Activities

- *Information-sharing*: Share information about the mental health, criminal justice and related services that are available to this target population
- *System-building*: Develop effective linkages among the services in downtown Toronto so as to increase their accessibility and capacity to effectively meet the needs of the target population and support community safety
- *Issue identification*: Work together to identify issues and barriers to achievement of the goals identified above and determine where (i.e., at which forums or tables) identified issues should be addressed
- *Problem-solving*: Work together to discuss and develop solutions to local operational and systemic issues and barriers, particularly those at the interfaces of the mental health, criminal justice and related service systems
- *Communication*: Provide a forum through which to coordinate and facilitate communication between and among service providers in downtown Toronto
- *Education*: Provide education on relevant topics to mental health, criminal justice and related service providers and to the public, including consumers and families
- *Performance monitoring*: Collect, analyze, monitor and share data and information on the performance of Toronto's mental health, criminal justice and related services through a variety of approaches and mechanisms so as to continuously improve the system's ability to meet the needs of its target population.

- *Work planning and budgeting:* Develop and submit an annual workplan and budget for approval to the Toronto Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee

Local Committees may involve representatives from the following representative groups and may have additional associate memberships and/or ad hoc committees to assist with specific projects:

- Community mental health and agencies;
- Acquired Brain Injury organizations and Addictions services;
- Police;
- Crown attorney's office;
- Local jail(s)/detention centre(s);
- Probation and parole office;
- Community service providers from the developmental services system;
- Consumer, family and community stakeholders;
- Mental health program of the public hospital(s);
- Forensic Program of a designated facility;
- Representatives from health, developmental services, and justice ministries.
- Bail Program;
- Duty Counsel;
- Correctional facilities;
- Developmental services agencies;
- Local community criminal justice service organizations;
- Ethnoracial/ethnocultural-specific organizations

In addition, linkages are established with Legal Aid Ontario, Victim's Services and other relevant agencies to meet the varied needs of individuals with mental health issues who come into contact with the criminal justice system.

Toronto-HSJCC (T-HSJCC) – Complex Sub-Committee

In fall 2009, the T- HSJCC made a focused effort to broaden its reach to address service access issues for individuals with more complex needs who are currently involved with the criminal justice system and who are at risk of coming into contact with the law. To support this mandate, a subcommittee, the T-HSJCC Complex Committee, was established.

The mandate of this committee includes a broader focus on individuals with cognitive and/or physical disabilities and a mental health need in which the service system is not able to adequately support their needs. To address this broader mandate, participants in the sub-committee may include representatives from ABI, Dual Diagnosis, Developmental Disabilities (including autism & FASD) and Mental Health sectors. As a sub-committee of the Toronto HSJCC, the committee also has access to consultation from the members of the larger Toronto HSJCC

Objectives and Goals

Through cross-sectorial representation, the Complex Sub-Committee seeks to:

- Understand how the cross-sectorial systems involved with the target populations work or do not work together
- Create capacity to provide services based on individual needs, and disseminate outcomes and learnings
- Monitor system developments and address barriers pertaining to the communication, coordination and accessing of services for the target population across sectors.
- Explore opportunities to liaise/consult with other sectors regarding prevention strategies to avert involvement (or re-involvement) with the criminal justice system for those at risk among the target population.
- Share information across sectors about mental health, criminal justice, acquired brain injury, developmental disabilities and dual diagnoses and the related services that are available to this target population (e.g., through forums, trainings)