



Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee of Guelph-Wellington

Terms of Reference

Preamble

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.

Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committees were established in response to a recognized need to coordinate resources and services, and plan more effectively for people who are in conflict with the law. Priority consideration will be made for people with a serious mental illness, which may include individuals with developmental disability, acquired brain injury, drug and alcohol addictions, and/or fetal alcohol syndrome. The committees are a cooperative effort of the Ministries of the Attorney General, Community and Social Services, Children and Youth Services, Health and Long-term Care, and Community Safety and Correctional Services.

The two primary areas of emphasis for this committee are to:

1. Provide a planning table to bring together stakeholders to find solutions to the problem of the criminalization of people with the above-defined unique needs in the Guelph - Wellington regions, and;
2. Develop a model of shared responsibility and accountability in dealing with this group of offenders at points of intersection with the justice system.

Goal: To develop an integrated, coordinated and seamless service delivery system that meets the needs of this client population and supports community safety in Guelph - Wellington.

Mission: To work proactively to develop and implement collaborative strategies and protocols that serve the needs of individuals who experience mental health issues or developmental challenges and are in contact with the criminal justice system in Guelph Wellington region.

Objectives

- Facilitate communication through effective linkages among health, criminal justice and social service sectors, and between local committees, as outlined in the work plan.
- Identifying, prioritizing, and addressing issues with respect to capacity and seamless service design & delivery; making recommendations regarding Guelph and Wellington priorities to the Regional HSJCC W-W committee.
- Sharing information between participating members regarding what their services are and how they can be accessed and utilized effectively.
- Reviewing and providing feedback on difficult situations and effective use of community intervention strategies
- Creation of a work plan and budget for submission to the Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee
- Planning and developing protocols for pre-diversion activities in order to assist individuals access appropriate services prior to entering the criminal justice system.
- Planning and developing protocols for increasing supports and services, and decreasing stigma following involvement with the criminal justice system in order to assist individuals with re-integration into the community, including case management and crisis plans.

Membership: To include, but not limited to, representatives from:

- Canadian Mental Health Association WWD
- Guelph Hospital
- Homewood
- Justice Services
- Maplehurst Correctional Center
- Other Community Agencies as appropriate
- Probation and Parole – Adults and Youth
- Social Services Agencies
- Wellington and Guelph Regional Police

Meetings: To be held every 3 months or more often as deemed necessary by the chair or active members. Initially, the committee will meet monthly until a direction and structure are in place. Focus at the meetings will be around pertinent interagency issues or initiatives.

Chair: The chairperson will be chair of the Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee-Waterloo-Wellington in order to facilitate communication between the two committees. The chair will be responsible for setting the agenda, and ensuring clear communication occurs regarding committee work and between the Regional Committee.

Reporting Mechanism: Reports to the Regional Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee: Waterloo-Wellington. Minutes will be circulated to the chair of the Regional Coordinating Committee. Issues will be brought to the Regional Coordinating Committee for discussion and feedback as deemed necessary by the chair. Work plans and budgets will be submitted to the Regional HSJCC-WW for approval.

Location: locations will vary as decided by Committee

Sharing of Information: The committee will offer support and advice on the management of high-risk situation; suggesting ways that the presenting agency can use community resources to manage the situation.

Participating agencies can offer advice on how their services may be accessed and identify the need to develop protocols to ensure ease of access for services.