

# Provincial HSJCC Quarterly Newsletter

## January 2012

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Provincial HSJCC News 

### Provincial HSJCC Co-Chairs Update

The last few months have seen busy agendas and full tables of participants at the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordination meetings.

The regional representatives have instituted a new feature in the meetings with an hour long in-camera session prior to the general meeting of the committee. This allows for a frank discussion of issues that pertain to the voting members of the group. Topics have included the need for funding for all local and regional groups and the membership representation of the committee, including the voice of people with lived experience/consumer survivors.

There have been several products that have come from the work of the committee including a provincial guide for communication with correctional facilities and a Police and Mental Health Educational Directory. Please watch our website for more information on these tools. We also sent a letter to the Prime Minister regarding our concerns on the Safer Streets and Communities Act (Bill C-10).

Our coordinator, Linda Montgomery has informed us that she has decided to take a change in her career journey and we wish her the very best in her return to front-line work. Reconnect is indeed fortunate! With her departure, there will be discussions at the provincial table regarding possible opportunities for ensuring that the committee has the required administrative support.

I would like to thank Mark Graham for his work during the past year as the interim co-chair and I welcome Katie Almond in her new position as co-Chair.

I also need to thank all those involved with the highly successful conference held in November. There is no doubt that there is incredible enthusiasm for our efforts. Keep up the great work!

Vic Huehn  
Co-Chair  
Provincial HSJCC

## **The 3<sup>rd</sup> Biannual Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) Conference a Resounding Success!**

As Chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biannual Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) Conference, and on behalf of the Planning Committee, I am very pleased to report that the conference, “HSJCC: Accomplishments, Changes and Opportunities”, which took place on November 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in Toronto, at the Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre, was an unmitigated success based on the evaluation feedback we received from the attendees.

The program reflected a range of themes while showcasing various HSJCCs’ achievements, the changes taking place in human services and justice throughout the province, and the opportunities for the future. Individuals and agencies from across Ontario contributed their knowledge and shared their expertise and best practices. It brought together members from across the province for education, mutual support, and inspiration.

Overall, approximately 75% of the attendees reported that they were “Very Satisfied” and approximately 24% were “Satisfied” with the conference. Comments such as “This was an excellent conference!” and “Well done, very impressive, great experience and great learning opportunities.” are representative of the feedback received. The participants were particularly impressed with the quality and range of keynote speakers who presented on a variety of topics. Comments like “All keynote speakers were excellent, inspirational and educational, thought provoking.” and “Excellent quality of keynote speakers overall” exemplify the feedback received. For a complete review of the feedback received from the participants, please refer to the “2011 HSJCC Conference Evaluation Report” posted on the HSJCC website ( <http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/> ).

Although the success of the conference was primarily attributable to all who attended and presented, the support received by a number of sponsors also made a significant contribution to the conference achieving its overall objective. The support provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Ministry of Community and Social Services, Ministry of the Attorney General, Connex Ontario, Borden Ladner Gervais LLP, Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., and the HSJCC Provincial Committee, is very much appreciated!

I personally want to thank all members of the Planning Committee who volunteered their time and expertise over the past year, Sherry Sim who did an excellent job as Event Manager, Chris Higgins and Sheri Weisberg who provided unyielding support and to all members of the Provincial HSJCC.

We all look forward to another exciting conference in 2013!!

Jim Cyr  
Conference Chair

## Provincial HSJCC responds to the omnibus crime bill

In September 2011, the Government of Canada introduced the Safe Streets and Communities Act (Bill C-10). According to a press release by the Department of Justice Canada, this Bill proposes various amendments to the *Criminal Code of Canada*, including provisions to “increase the mandatory minimum penalties for nine existing offences to better reflect the serious nature of these offences, as well as to bring greater consistency in sentencing in these cases.” This Bill passed the House of Commons on December 5th, and had the First Reading in the Senate on December 6th.

The Provincial HSJCC responded to Bill C-10 with a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Justice Minister and Attorney General of Canada Robert Nicholson, and Public Safety Minister Vic Toews. The letter raised concerns that the proposed changes in legislation will have a negative impact on individuals with mental health disabilities, specifically, the provisions under Bill C-10 that propose mandatory minimum sentences for offenders. The Provincial HSJCC stated that, when determining penalties, persons with mental health disabilities should be assessed individually and their life circumstances be taken into consideration.

The letter notes the mental health diversion programs in effect in Ontario that provide specialized court support services to individuals with mental health disabilities to ensure that these individuals are receiving the one-on-one support they require to navigate through the complex criminal justice process. The letter stated that the mandatory minimum sentences for offenders would undermine the tremendous efforts underway to direct individuals with mental health disabilities into appropriate care within the community. As a result, the Provincial HSJCC recommended that Bill C-10 be amended so that the individual circumstances of persons with mental health disabilities and other human service needs, including those with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, acquired brain injuries, drug and alcohol addictions, and fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, are taken into consideration when determining penalties.

The letter also noted that research studies have indicated that investing in mental health and addictions is more cost effective than incarceration. Therefore, the Provincial HSJCC recommended that the Government of Canada increase investments and resources into the community mental health and addictions sector to better meet the needs of Canadians with mental health disabilities.

To access the Provincial HSJCC letter regarding Bill C-10, visit [http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/PHSJCC\\_Letter\\_re\\_Crime\\_Bill\\_December132011.pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/PHSJCC_Letter_re_Crime_Bill_December132011.pdf)

For more information about Bill C-10, see backgrounder “Safe Streets and Communities Act,” Department of Justice Canada, September 2011 at [http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/news-nouv/nr-cp/2011/doc\\_32637.html](http://www.justice.gc.ca/eng/news-nouv/nr-cp/2011/doc_32637.html)

Uppala Chandrasekera,  
Planning and Policy Analyst,  
CMHA Ontario and resource to Provincial HSJCC

## **New Police & Mental Health Education Directory in Development**

In January 2011, the Provincial HSJCC released a new report *Police & Mental Health: A Critical Review of Joint Police/Mental Health Collaborations in Ontario*. This report offered a provincial examination of issues related to police/mental health collaboration, and highlighted successes and challenges of collaboration.

One of the main findings of the Police & Mental Health report was the importance of promoting education on police and mental health issues. To help facilitate sector-wide education, the Provincial HSJCC is currently developing a repository of police/mental health education programs from across Canada. This new web-based Police & Mental Health Education Directory will include a listing of police/mental health education resources, along with a summary of each resource including outlines, videos, exercises and any other training related materials.

To help inform the new Police & Mental Health Education Directory, the Provincial HSJCC is calling on all individuals, organizations and HSJCCs who are engaged in police/mental health education to provide information about the police/mental health education programs and resources in your organization and/or region. The information collected will be used to help develop the education directory and each program will be profiled.

For more information about the project and to submit a program profile, please contact Uppala Chandrasekera by email at [uchandrasekera@ontario.cmha.ca](mailto:uchandrasekera@ontario.cmha.ca) or by phone at 416-977-5580 ext. 4145.

Uppala Chandrasekera,  
Planning and Policy Analyst,  
CMHA Ontario and resource to Provincial HSJCC

## **Provincial List of Court Support and Diversion Programs Now Available on HSJCC Website**

A list of provincial Court Support Workers will be posted on HSJCC Provincial Website-- [hsjcc.on.ca](http://hsjcc.on.ca). This list is compiled of workers employed in mental health/social service organizations and that offer services in the areas of court support/diversion, release from custody planning, mental health courts, dual diagnosis, and youth mental health court. We are hopeful that this will make contact information more accessible, creating a better continuum of care for the people we serve. As with all contact lists compiling it and keeping it accurate is an enormous task. Kim McBride, CMHA-Sault Ste. Marie is currently maintaining the list and has agreed to update it at least twice a year. Please forward any changes or additions to [kim@cmhassm.com](mailto:kim@cmhassm.com).

Sandie Leith, MSW, RSW  
Director of Clinical Services  
Canadian Mental Health Association--Sault Ste. Marie Branch

-  **Turning the Key: Assessing housing and related supports for persons living with mental health problems and illnesses.**  
**Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and the Canadian Council on Social Development.**

The report provides a national scan of the current housing and community support needs of people living with mental health problems or mental illness in Canada.

[http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/service%20systems/Turning\\_the\\_Key\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/SiteCollectionDocuments/service%20systems/Turning_the_Key_FINAL.pdf)

-  **Court strives to treat the addiction behind the crime; Drug court offers treatment for those who stick with the program**  
**Waterloo Region Record. December 12, 2011**

This news article provides a detailed description of the recently developed Drug Treatment Court in Kitchener.

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/11-12-10%20Radically%20different%20court%20strives%20to%20treat%20the%20addiction%20behind%20the%20crime%20%20%28The%20Record%29.pdf>

-  **Creating Connections: Alberta's Addiction and Mental Health Strategy.**  
**September 2011.**

The Alberta government released its much anticipated five year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy on September 12. The goal of the strategy is to create a system to ensure the best assessment, treatment and support services are available to those in the province. The strategy outlines five key directions:

- Build healthy communities by focusing on health promotion and improving access to primary health care;
- Foster the development of healthy children and families by improving access to services;
- Enhance community-based services to provide Albertans with quality health care;
- Address complex needs so Albertans requiring specialized care have access to health services and supports;
- Enhance assurance in the system by developing oversight policies, structures and initiatives.

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Creating-Connections-Alberta's%20Addiction%20and%20Mental%20Health%20Strategy%202011.pdf>

 **Youth Services Bureau receives crucial funding. *EMC News.***  
**October 20, 2011.**

The Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa (YSB) is expanding the Youth Mental Health Walk-in Clinic, a counselling clinic providing services and support for young people 12 to 20 years of age struggling with a range of mental health issues.

[http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/11-10-20%20Youth%20Services%20Bureau%20receives%20crucial%20funding%20\(EMC%20News\).pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/11-10-20%20Youth%20Services%20Bureau%20receives%20crucial%20funding%20(EMC%20News).pdf)

 **40 Too Young to Die: A Call for Action from Toronto's Early Onset Illness and Mortality Working Group**

On Monday December 5, 2011, the above noted report was released. It is the result of the collaborative efforts of collaborative efforts of community-based agencies across the health care spectrum who came together as the Early Onset illness and Mortality Working Group. The report identified a disturbing trend: many individuals with mental health and addictions issues were dying far before their time. The report confirms with evidence and the voices of people with lived experience, the hurdles these persons face and provides a way forward to improve their odds in having a longer life.

<http://mainstayhousing.ca/PDF/40isTooYoungtoDiepaper.pdf>

## Events

 **Mental Health in Corrections: Best Practices and the Secure Treatment Unit Model. May 3 - 4, 2012. Royal Ottawa Mental Health Centre.**

Presenters will describe the essential and effective working relationship between corrections and mental health staff which has been fundamental to the success of the Secure Treatment Unit (STU).

**Target Audience:** Mental health professionals within the community, in-hospital and correctional facilities, as well as police, probation and parole officers, legal professionals, and correctional officers.

To register, please click on the following link:

<http://www.regonline.com/mentalhealthincorrectionsthesecuretreatmentunit>

See following link to poster for more information:

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Mental%20Health%20in%20Corrections%20May%203%20-4%202012.pdf>



## Links

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca>