

Provincial HSJCC Quarterly Newsletter

April 2012

Please set your email to **html** to view the newsletter

Provincial HSJCC News 

Provincial HSJCC Co-Chairs Update

As you are all aware, the “Drummond Report” (or “Commission on the Reform of Ontario’s Public Services”) was released on February 15th, and resulted in a great deal of conjecture and concern among those who provide services to clients in the health, social, and justice sectors. The potential impact of the report and the subsequent Provincial budget of March 27th were the subject of many discussions among the members of our Steering Committee. Mindful of the need to maximize limited (and possibly reduced) resources, we agreed that there was a need to re-visit the structure of the P-HSJCC. In effect, we were striving to create a structure that would increase the capacity of our committee and enhance its effectiveness. During the course of our discussions, we created “proposed” organizational re-structuring options, which were accompanied by explanations of each area’s functions and responsibilities. These options provide greater opportunities for collaboration and communication with both community and government partners.

In light of these discussions, it was decided to make this the sole focus of our March 21st Provincial meeting. We decided to conduct it entirely by teleconference, for a one-hour period. Our meeting was greatly enhanced by the use of “Webinar” technology. All participants were able to access a link that provided them with the technological opportunity to view slides of the proposed structure, offer feedback, ask questions, and express their views. At the end of the meeting, we asked that each Regional and Local HSJCC chair discuss the proposed restructuring with their HSJCC membership. This feedback will be brought to the Provincial HSJCC meeting on May 14, 2012. At that meeting, the committee will address the feedback and make a motion to accept in principle a restructured Provincial HSJCC.

I would like to thank Uppala Chandrasekera and Michelle Gold of CMHA Ontario for their guidance, creativity and perspective during this process; and also committee member Chris Higgins for the Webinar experience. He uploaded the documents, explained the process, and then guided us through the meeting.

The Webinar technology was very well-received and is an excellent example of a format that allows us to meet and communicate with little cost and substantial benefit.

Despite the somewhat sobering impact of our current economy, I believe that we can provide improved services to our clients. The Provincial Committee is looking forward to hearing feedback from Local and Regional committees, so that we can begin the process of restructuring.

Katie Almond
Co-Chair
Provincial HSJCC

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

As a member of the Provincial Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee, I recently joined the Communications and Knowledge Transfer Committee, and have found myself chair of the committee. At this time, the CKT Committee has two main responsibilities - the HSJCC quarterly newsletter and the HSJCC website.

The newsletter highlights both the activities of the HSJCC (provincially, regionally, and locally), as well as news items related to human services and justice. We're always looking for submissions. If there's anything going on in your area that others may find interesting, we'd love to have it in the newsletter. It does not have to be long. Even just a couple paragraphs would be welcome. It could be a program in your area that you're proud of. It could be an issue that challenged a program, and how it was handled. Anyone involved with the HSJCC or relevant programs and agencies are welcome to submit items.

The website is at <http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/> and I'm hoping you'll check it out. The site includes many news and journal articles which may be useful. We're also asking that the Regional and Local committees submit items for their 'mini-site' that's included on the site. Many regions have no content online. We would love to add any materials you have about your committee, such as work plans, terms of reference, membership lists, events, and news items.

Of course, should anyone have anything related to human services and justice they'd like included on the website, please forward it to me.

Finally, I'm also asking that you consider joining the CKT committee. Meetings are held by teleconference, and last less than an hour. The frequency varies, but meetings are generally held monthly.

Thanks!

Trevor Tymchuk
altstuff@gmail.com
Co-Chair, Northeast HSJCC

Announcement regarding the Halton Community Treatment Court

The Ontario Court of Justice in Halton Region is opening a Community Treatment Court (CTC) on May 4, 2012.

This Court is designed to be a therapeutic Court. The emphasis will be on providing people suffering from mental illness and/or drug addictions with a venue to address the issues that brought them into conflict with the law. The Court will unite and focus the resources that exist in Halton Region into a dedicated Court.

For additional background information, including information on referrals, CTC services and steering committee members, see link below.

<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Halton%20Community%20Treatment%20Court%20Announcement.pdf>

News Media

 **Fixing the time in youth crime: Long, harsh sentences not seen as a way to rehabilitate. Deseret News. February 20, 2012.**

When it comes to dealing with wayward youth, the United States is the toughest in the world.

[http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/12-02-20%20Fixing%20the%20time%20in%20youth%20crime%20\(Deseret%20News\).pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/12-02-20%20Fixing%20the%20time%20in%20youth%20crime%20(Deseret%20News).pdf)

Journal Articles and Research

 **Provincial correctional response to individuals with mental illnesses in Ontario – A review of literature. Schizophrenia Society of Ontario (SSO). March 2012.**

To increase understanding about correctional response to people with mental illnesses in Ontario and to initiate a dialogue on how the system can be improved, the Schizophrenia Society of Ontario performed a thorough review of available academic, gray and policy literature. As part of this review, the report identifies key issues in the way that the current system responds to mental illness.
<http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/SSO%20Provincial%20Corrections%20Literature%20Review%202012.pdf>

 **Which comes first: Depression or risk behaviours? Journal Watch Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, March 7, 2012.**

Determining whether adolescent depression leads to risk behaviors (the self-medication hypothesis) or whether engaging in such behaviors leads to depressive symptoms (the failure hypothesis, stemming from negative judgments from peers and a sense of personal failure) is important for prevention and treatment of both outcomes.
[http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/12-03-07%20Which%20Comes%20First%20-%20Depression%20or%20Risk%20Behaviours%20\(Journal%20Watch\).pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/12-03-07%20Which%20Comes%20First%20-%20Depression%20or%20Risk%20Behaviours%20(Journal%20Watch).pdf)

 **Conditional release and human rights in Canada: A commentary. Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice. Canadian Criminal Justice Association. January 2012. (Abstract)**

Liberty interests and human rights are at stake when granting, denying, suspending, or revoking conditional releases of prisoners. An evidence-based program of gradual conditional release is the best way of reducing recidivism and enhancing public safety. The “get tough on crime” approach affects the degree to which conditional release is used and relied upon by correctional and parole authorities. This commentary reviews key concerns regarding the accountability of both Parole Board Canada

and the Correctional Service of Canada when making decisions about conditional release.

[http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Conditional%20release%20and%20human%20rights%20in%20Canada%20\(CJCCJ%20Jan%202012%20Abstract\).pdf](http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Conditional%20release%20and%20human%20rights%20in%20Canada%20(CJCCJ%20Jan%202012%20Abstract).pdf)

 **Community-based alternatives for justice-involved individuals with severe mental illness. Criminal Justice and Behavior. Vol 39. April 2012. (Abstract)**

Community-based alternatives to conviction and imprisonment for adult offenders with severe mental illness are receiving increasing attention from researchers and policy makers. After discussing the justifications that have been offered in support of community-based alternatives, this article reviews the current empirical evidence relevant to such alternatives. The authors use the sequential intercept model as a guide and summarize the existing research at several points along the criminal justice continuum. They conclude by highlighting the gaps in existing research and discussing the need for further research in several key areas.

[http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Community%20based%20alternatives%20for%20justice%20involved%20individuals%20with%20SMI%20\(April%202012%20abstract\).pdf](http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Community%20based%20alternatives%20for%20justice%20involved%20individuals%20with%20SMI%20(April%202012%20abstract).pdf)

 **Is diversion swift? Comparing mental health court and traditional criminal justice processing. Criminal Justice and Behavior. Vol 39. April 2012. (Abstract)**

Formal diversion programs are increasingly popular options for offenders with mental illness. Diversion is recommended, and often assumed, to be swift in that eligible persons should be quickly identified and enrolled. In this study, the authors examine the length from initial arrest to enrollment into mental health court and compare it to time from arrest to disposition for offenders with and without mental illness traditionally processed. The authors, using medians as the metric and limiting the period to 1 year, found time to mental health court was 70 days, whereas traditional processing for offenders with and without known mental illness was 37 and 76 days, respectively. The authors also found detention status during this period to have a large effect on processing time.

[http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Comparing%20MH%20court%20and%20traditional%20CJ%20processing%20\(April%202012%20abstract\).pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Comparing%20MH%20court%20and%20traditional%20CJ%20processing%20(April%202012%20abstract).pdf)

 **Defendants with intellectual disabilities and mental health diagnoses: Faring in a mental health court. Journal of Intellectual Disability Research. Vol. 56. March 2012. (Abstract)**

Begun in the late 1990s, mental health courts are specialty criminal courts developed to address the needs of persons with mental illness.

As many persons with intellectual disabilities (IDs) may overlap in the mental health court system, we used mental health court records to examine the phenomenology and outcomes of 224 defendants with and without co-occurring IDs in the mental health court.

[http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Defendants%20with%20intellectual%20disabilities%20and%20MH%20diagnoses%20in%20MH%20court%20\(March%202012%20abstract\).pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Defendants%20with%20intellectual%20disabilities%20and%20MH%20diagnoses%20in%20MH%20court%20(March%202012%20abstract).pdf)

 **Lessons from a Canadian province: Examining collaborations between the mental health and justice sectors. International Journal of Public Health. Vol. 57. February 2012. (Abstract)**

The objective of this paper was to identify the factors that program developers perceived as important to the successful collaboration between the mental health and justice sectors in seven Ontario, Canada, post-booking programs.

[http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Lessons%20from%20a%20Canadian%20Province%20-%20examining%20collaborations%20btw%20the%20MH%20and%20J%20sectors%20\(Feb%202012%20abstract\).pdf](http://www.hsjcc.on.ca/Uploads/Lessons%20from%20a%20Canadian%20Province%20-%20examining%20collaborations%20btw%20the%20MH%20and%20J%20sectors%20(Feb%202012%20abstract).pdf)

 **Recidivism outcomes for suburban mental health court defendants. American Journal of Criminal Justice. Vol. 37. 2012. (Abstract)**

Mental health courts have recently emerged as one means to reduce the number of persons with mental illness in the criminal justice system in the US. Using a posttest only comparison group design, this study examined rearrest rates for 1 year post discharge among three groups

meeting admission criteria for a municipal mental health court.

[http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Recidivism%20outcomes%20for%20suburban%20MH%20court%20defendants%20\(2012%20abstract\).pdf](http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Recidivism%20outcomes%20for%20suburban%20MH%20court%20defendants%20(2012%20abstract).pdf)

 **[Evaluation of the Youth Justice Board: impact on alternative-to-detention policy in New York City, 2008-2010](#)**, R Swaner, Center for Court Innovation, New York, 2010 (United States).

The Youth Justice Board is a New York City after-school program where 15-20 teenagers involved in the juvenile justice system come together to study a specific issue affecting youth, devise policy recommendations and advocate for their adoption. This report is a brief evaluation of the Board's work during 2008-2010.

[Click on title for link to article.](#)

 **[Access to justice? The view from the street](#)**, M Stratton, *LawNow*, vol. 35, no. 2, November/December, 2010, pp. 6-10 (Canada).

This article is based on interview data collected as part of the Alberta Legal Services Mapping Project. Interviews with 17 participants who were currently homeless are joined with reports from legal and social service providers across Alberta to illustrate how the many pathways to homelessness entwine with systems of law and legal issues.

[Click on title for link to article.](#)

 **[Australian mental health tribunals: space for fairness, freedom, protection & treatment?](#)** T Carney, et al., Themis Press, Sydney, 2011 (NSW, ACT, Vic).

This monograph provides a comprehensive examination of mental health tribunal hearings in Australia. It looks at theories and concepts and their practical application to the day-to-day operations of the tribunals in NSW, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory. The study is extensive and broad in its approach, going beyond a critical assessment of the individual tribunals to an examination of the supporting mental health services, and of the complex area of human rights as they relate to the care and treatment of people with a mental illness.

[Click on title for link to article.](#)

 **[The NSW Mental Health Review Tribunal: an analysis of clients, matters and determinations](#)**, M Cain, et al., Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, Sydney, 2011 (NSW)

This research study provides a comprehensive description and analysis of the characteristics of a sample of mental health clients and mental health matters that came before the NSW MHRT for determination between 2003 and 2007 under the previous NSW Mental Health Act 1990. It utilised quantitative research methods to describe and analyse trends and patterns in data drawn from the records of persons who were new entrants to the NSW MHRT system in 2003.

[Click on title for link to article.](#)

 **[The State of Sentencing 2011: Developments in Policy and Practice](#)**, National Reentry Resource Center. February 1, 2012.

This Sentencing Project report highlights 55 reforms in 29 states, and documents a growing trend to reform sentencing policies and scale back the use of imprisonment without compromising public safety. The report provides an overview of recent policy reforms in the areas of sentencing, probation and parole, collateral consequences, and juvenile justice. To download the report, click [here](#).

| |
|---------------|
| 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/mentalhealthincorrectionsthesecuretre atmentunit>

See following link to poster for more information:

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

📣 "Closer to Home" Simcoe Muskoka Human Services and Justice Coordinating Committee (HSJCC) Regional Conference. Fern Resort, Orillia. May 17, 2012.

This event will be of interest to mental health and developmental service providers, police, probation officers, social workers, educators, therapists, criminal justice system personnel, consumers, families and municipal/provincial political representatives in Simcoe County and District of Muskoka.

- Learn practical information about the criminal justice system
- Learn about local services
- Interactive Workshops
- Great Networking Opportunity

See links to brochure and registration form for the conference

<http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Brochure%20HSJCC%20Conf% 20%20May%2017th.pdf>

<http://www.hsicc.on.ca/Uploads/Registration%20Form- %20May%2017th.pdf>



Links

→ <http://www.hsicc.on.ca>

→ **The Canadian Harm Reduction Network's** dynamic new website has been launched, and we invite you to check it out at <http://www.canadianharmreduction.com>, to get involved, to give us feedback on the website . . . and to join the Network.