

## Housing & Homeless Services Network

# Agenda

Wednesday, February 8, 2012  
519 Church Street Community Centre

9:00 – 9:15 a.m. Coffee and Networking

9:15 – 11:00 a.m.

- 1. Toronto Aboriginal Research Project (TARP) – Don McCaskill**
- 2. 2012 Welcome Home Guide, Seniors Edition – Sonia Zyvatkaukas, SSHA**
- 3. Report: *Forty is too young to die* - Kate Francombe, Houselink**
- 4. Opioid Overdose Pilot Program - Chantel Marshall, Toronto Public Health**
- 5. Energy Assistance Program - Gladys Wong, Neighbourhood Information Post**
- 6. New Business/Announcements**

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**Future agenda items:**

Meeley Chan, 416-392-0058/ [mchan1@toronto.ca](mailto:mchan1@toronto.ca), Michele Connell, 416-397-4164/ [mconnel@toronto.ca](mailto:mconnel@toronto.ca) or Sandra Vaughan, 416-397-4192/ [svaugh@toronto.ca](mailto:svaugh@toronto.ca)

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# Housing & Homeless Services Network

## Minutes

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Metro Hall, Room 308/309

**Attending:** Al-Jawhary Amjad, Gemma Gisessar, Alice Broughton, Georgia Bogle, Luis Carrillos, Meeley Chan, Cindy Chalaris, Catherine Chowen, Michelle Connell, Caroline Crawford, Alan Cristales, Purnima Dalal, Megan Desjardines, Jennie Emewein, Janet Fairfield, Azar Farahani, Anna Fleming, Alexandra Gunn, Gaye Hainsworth, Jorge Hidalgo, Victor Lopez, Linsey MacPhee, Rachelle McAlister, Brian Miron, Tzorgneu Paloco, Fanny Paz, Heath Priston, David Raponi-Monk, KC Santo, Renee Shentow, Cherisa Shicharran, Tracey Smith, Mariana Troya, Sandra Vaughan, John Waites, Wendim Yodit, Katherine White, Sebrina Wright.

1. Janet Fairfield assumed the Chair and called the seventh session of the 2011 Housing and Homeless Services Network meeting to order. Minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2011 were approved as circulated.
2. **Toronto Drug Treatment Court – Robin Cuff, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health**

Robin provided an overview of the Toronto Drug Treatment Court (TDTC) program, which began 13 years ago and has been providing alternatives to incarceration for people who face criminal charges related to drug addictions. This voluntary program is a joint partnership between a number of constituencies including the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Ontario Court of Justice, Federal Department of Justice, Legal Aid Ontario, Ministry of the Attorney General, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services, Public Prosecution Service of Canada, Toronto Bail Program and other community agencies.

The Crown Attorney decides eligibility for the program based on public safety issues. People with addiction who have been charged with possession or trafficking of small quantities of crack, cocaine, opiates or heroin, minor property crimes or prostitution are generally able to participate. Addictions treatment and regular court supervision are the focus of the program which includes group sessions three times per week at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), court attendance two times weekly and case conferences between the court and CAMH. The program has the ability to work with about 50-60 individuals at a time and utilizes the whole system of addiction treatment services.

TDTC takes a supervised harm reduction approach towards abstinence support. The number of court appearances decrease as the client progresses through treatment. Individuals "graduate" after about a year, with success defined as the client being abstinent from the drug for three months, residing in housing and participating in employment, volunteer work or school. Although the program does not have a high graduation rate of individuals able to maintain all three standards, TDTC has identified positive impacts through both improved quality of life and housing situations for program participants as well as a very low recidivism rate.

Developing housing partnerships is an important component of the TDTC. One of the key service partnerships is with the John Howard Society (JHS), where the JHS housing worker takes clients directly from the court house and places them into housing. JHS has eight units of housing for TDTC clients and a recent study showed that through this program 64% of men have stayed in housing.

Other housing partnerships are in place with Ecuhome, Nazareth House, Toronto Christian Resource Centre Self-Help Inc., WoodGreen Community Services and Salvation Army Harbourlight. For women, TDTC has fewer housing options. The Woman's Own Withdrawal Management Program allows for crisis and supportive stays as the clients are released from custody; however, this is not a long-term stable housing option. TDTC is currently exploring relationships with Heyworth House and YWCA. These partnerships are critical to supporting clients in housing.

For more information about the Toronto Drug Treatment Court, please visit: <http://www.tdtk.ca/>

### **3. Toronto Drug Strategy (Revised) – Jayne Caldwell, Toronto Public Health**

The Toronto Drug Strategy (TDS) was passed by City Council in December 2005, and is being implemented by Toronto Public Health. The TDS includes 68 recommendations for action to improve the lives of individuals, families, and communities. These recommendations were informed by a series of public consultations as the strategy was developed, including participation from several City Councillors. The TDS balances both public health and public order concerns, with a 'four pillar' approach to problematic substance use: prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement.

The TDS has two main purposes, a) to inform policy, program and funding decisions, and b) to facilitate collaboration between various sectors and levels of government. Many partners work together to implement the TDS, including several working groups. The Drug Strategy Implementation Panel is a Committee of the Board of Health, chaired by Councillor Gord Perks. Highlights of work to date include:

- Expanding overdose prevention and CPR training (Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force, The Works: Toronto Public Health)
- Initiated peer-based naloxone program (The Works: Toronto Public Health)
- Initiated safer crack use kit program (The Works: Toronto Public Health)
- Developed model for a 24-hour crisis service, with the Gerstein Crisis Centre to implement key elements of this model
- Expanded delivery of Strengthening Families for the Future (ages 7-11) and Strengthening Families for Parents and Youth (ages 12-16), (Parent Action on Drugs)
- Successful pilot of Youth Worker Training Initiative (Canadian Training Institute)
- Supporting various community initiatives
- Developed and delivered workshops on various subjects, including Methadone Maintenance Therapy, Building Youth Resiliency, Safer Nightlife Forum for youth and bar owners, Alcohol liability workshops for bar owners, Non-palatable alcohol use (Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force)
- Alcohol and Other Drug Use in Toronto research bulletins, with the first issue on youth substance use, and the second to focus on drug-related deaths
- Advocacy with other governments, including the need for expanded substance use treatment services, a comprehensive provincial drug strategy, strong alcohol controls, urging the

federal government to adopt a balanced, four-pillar National Anti-Drug Strategy, and to avoid mandatory minimum sentences for drug-related crimes.

The Toronto Drug Strategy website is at [www.toronto.ca/health/drugstrategy](http://www.toronto.ca/health/drugstrategy), or for more information, contact Jayne Caldwell at 416-338-0625/ [jcaldwe@toronto.ca](mailto:jcaldwe@toronto.ca).

#### **4. Measuring Success Framework – Linsey McPhee, Toronto Drop-In Network**

Linsey provided an overview of the work of the Toronto Drop-In Network and components of their Measuring Success Framework using a tree diagram. This diagram is intended to show how the ideas in Measuring Success grew out of the work of the Drop-in Review and have provided the Network with a strong, stable approach to services.

"The Rootlets" – Basic activities of all drop-ins through to common activities of larger, well supported drop-ins which often include:

- meals, washrooms, telephones, information and referral, informal counselling and individualised support
- showers, laundry facilities, Internet/email access, mailing address, storage, etc., and
- housing access and follow-up supports, help with obtaining basic identification, assistance with income support programs, health services, employment, recreation, case management, legal services, trusteeships, family reunification, arts programs, food and clothing banks, etc.

"The Roots" – Service Standards that include required services and supports that participants can expect of all drop-ins:

- place of safety
- access to basic services
- posting of available services
- talking and listening to individuals
- providing referrals to appropriate services
- communicating rights and responsibilities
- providing assistance during extreme weather
- managing conflict, and
- ensuring open access to all.

"The Ground" – Literature Review of reports and studies conducted laying the ground work for policy and service development. TDIN looked at handbooks and best practices reviews, evaluations models, performance measures and outcomes research from the following jurisdictions:

- Europe – England, Scotland and Ireland
- United States – New York, San Francisco, San Diego, Santa Monica, Chicago, Bloomington and the State of Florida, and
- Canada – Toronto and Ottawa.

"The Trunk" – Core capacities/skills of drop-ins illuminated by the literature review and extensive surveys and focus groups with drop-ins, participants and funders include:

- personal health and safety
- identity/sense of self, and
- social connection.

"The Branches" – Best practices defined as the ways that drop-ins best support the core capacities:

- safe, accepting and comfortable environments
- opportunities for social networking
- repeated, frequent, consistent long-term relationships
- active support for identifying and addressing challenges
- participation in independent, responsible activities that are valued
- a focus on needs and priorities identified by participants
- ongoing support for systematic and intentional progress
- an integrated network of services accessible to participants, and
- active support for service access for participants.

"The Leaves" – Paired Measures as a set of common reporting tools allowing drop-ins to assess their success at achieving best practices. They:

- are obtainable indicators
- correspond to best practices
- applicable sector-wide, and
- can be used by all drop-ins.

For more information or to join the Drop-in Network, contact Linsey McPhee at 416-824-4172 or email [tdin@ststephenshouse.com](mailto:tdin@ststephenshouse.com)

#### **5. *Don't Need Saving: Aboriginal Women and Access to Justice* Film – Crystal Melin, Native Women's Resource Centre**

Native Women's Resource Centre (NWRC) provides services and supports to Native Women and their children in Toronto. They provide housing help services, clothing, counselling, help with accessing income supports, advocacy programs to help Aboriginal women leave abusive situations, literacy and education through storytelling. NWRC also provides parenting programs through the Healthy Babies program as well as parenting for women with children age 0-12. They run volunteer programs, the Investing in Women's Futures program and training programs through Miziwe Biik.

Currently NWRC is working on a new funding strategy to help increase donations to the centre. Part of this strategy includes showing the film *Don't Need Saving*. The film outlines the key issues facing Native Women including:

- access to affordable housing,
- need for culturally appropriate programming that incorporates Aboriginal spirituality and rituals,
- understanding colonization which bred increased rates of violence, homelessness and racism, and
- embracing Indigenous knowledge - visioning a better future for themselves and their children.

For more information on Native Women's Resource Centre, contact Crystal Melin at 416-963-9963 or email [ed@nwrct.ca](mailto:ed@nwrct.ca)

#### **6. New Business/Announcements**

**RENT – Landlordconnect.ca's 2011 Winter Networking Lunch**  
Thursday, December 15, 2011

11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Holy Name Parish

71 Gough Avenue

To register contact Thania Valle at [support@housingworkers.ca](mailto:support@housingworkers.ca) or 647.258.9981

**Next Meeting:**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012**

**9:15 am**

**The 519 Church Street Community Centre**

**519 Church Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Auditorium**