

GTA LEGAL CLINICS' TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

METRO HALL, 7TH FLOOR

PRESENT: Noland Merrick (Jane Finch), Haris Blentic (NLS), Vanessa Grey (WSCLS), Isabella Meltz (KBCLS), Stuart Cruikshank (ETCLS), Jack Fleming (NPD-CLS), Joe Myers (WCLS), Luis Mayorga (ETCLS), Trevor Howard (SECLS), Nancy Henderson (PCLS), Liz Klassen (SCLS), Sean Rehaal (PCLS), Joel Levine (NPD-CLS), Brook Physick (FCLS), Julius Mlynarski (SECLS), Leslie Anderson (WTCLS), Christine McQuarrie (WSCLS), Sharon Majik (SECLS), Julie Northrup (SECLS), Yodit Edemariam (RCLC), Dennis Barley (CLCYR), Norma English (NPD-CLS), Matt Benson (ETCLS), Leila Sarangi (PI), Sean Meagher (PI), Emma Dickson (PI)

SUMMARY OF TASKS

Agenda Items	Discussion/Information	Outcome	Action/Discussion Points
1 Welcome/introductions			
2 Review of meeting materials	Information	Approval	
3 Review of January 27 minutes and feedback from Clinics	Discussion	Approval	
4 Working Group Report	Information	Received	
5 Communications Strategy	Discussion	Received	Renewed commitment to strategy For March 29, send docs out much earlier Discussion question have been added to newsletter to guide discussions
6 Literature Review Presentation	Information	Received	Qualitative data supplement now has more robust coverage of legal education. Guiding questions for lit review discussion: What was most striking/greatest interest? Good news? Bad news?
7 Strike Literature Review Subcommittee	Discussion	Approval	No sub-committee because no further meeting to discuss literature specifically
8 Adjournment and next meeting	Discussion	Approval	Next meeting is Mon Feb 24 at North York Memorial Community Hall, 5110 Yonge Street

MINUTES

1. Welcome/Introductions

2. Review of meeting materials

The meeting materials were reviewed and approved.

3. Review of minutes from January 27th meeting, and feedback from clinics

The minutes from the January 27th meeting were approved. Feedback from clinics was discussed. Committee members will report back to SC on the discussions they have at their clinics.

4. Working Group Report

The Working Group Report was circulated and received.

5. Communications Strategy

The Steering Committee renewed its commitment to the communications strategy in place. It was resolved that materials required for the March 29th meeting would be circulated earlier than they have been for previous meetings.

Discussion questions about the Qualitative Data Summary have been added to the January newsletter to help guide discussions among clinic staff.

The Working Group commits to releasing the SC meeting minutes within 7 days of each meeting to help facilitate discussions at individual clinics with staff and board members.

6. Literature Review Presentation

Sean presented the Literature review. Overview and highlights are outlined in the attached power point presentation.

It was suggested to conduct further reading of the literature to look for how successful have the mergers been and what benchmarks were used to measure success?

7. Strike Literature Review Subcommittee

The item was discussed, and the Steering Committee decided not to strike a subcommittee for the Literature Review because no upcoming meetings to further discuss the Review are planned.

SC members broke out into small groups and discussed the literature based on the following three guiding questions:

- a. What was most striking/interesting about the literature?
- b. What was the good news?
- c. What was the bad news?

The following is a summary of the group discussions:

What was most striking/interesting about the literature?

- Looking at the models coming out of the literature, there is room for our clinics to make more use of volunteers/pro bono/students, and learn from Parkdale how they train their students, on idea to encourage pro bono work included giving pro bono lawyers some sort of accreditation or incentive. Clinics could have a volunteer coordinator position to oversee this area.
- Some noted that there are a lot of negative connotations associated with the word 'hotline', when it really is more of a triage system. The hotline debate continued with many still not liking the idea of having one for clients. Any hotline system must be embedded within community
- A centralized intake system could be useful, but need to deal with eligibility requirements which may differ from service to service, as well as confidentiality. The IT requirements that such a system would depend on needs to be carefully considered, especially in terms of client confidentiality and information sharing.
- With regards to teams, there was debate around lawyers specializing, where time is saved because

lawyers do not have to go researching all the time, but acknowledgement that it could get boring for staff, restrictive for clients (lawyer only available at certain time/day). There needs to be a balance between staff and client needs.

- How do community development staff fit into teams, do they work within or is there a team dedicated specifically to CD which works across all areas of law and across all teams?

What was the good news?

- There are many models and experiences to learn from.
- There are many opportunities to work more collaboratively and holistically with integrating social services, mental health services, etc.
- Resources will be freed up with consolidation of management positions and re-allocated.

What was the bad news?

- Literature could explore more of the evaluation component. What does success mean, how do you measure it? What makes a successful merger? Regarding the mergers discussed in the literature, were they successful, what were the outcomes (i.e. Of the CAS merger).
- Need to be cautious of drawing too much on models from other jurisdictions that have different priorities, funding and landscapes.
- How to communicate changes to the client who has a long-standing relationship with their local clinic?

8. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned 8:05pm

Next meeting at the North York Memorial Community Hall, 5110 Yonge Street