

GTA LEGAL CLINICS' TRANSFORMATION PROJECT

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2014

6:00PM-8:00PM

NORTH YORK MEMORIAL COMMUNITY CENTRE, GOLD ROOM, 5110 YONGE STREET

PRESENT: Vinay Jain (Unison), Kanji Jain (WCLS), Stewart Cruikshank (ETCLS), Norma English (NP+DCLS), Marjorie Hiley (FCLS), Luis Mayorga (ETCLS), Christie McQuarrie (WSCLS), Charinee De Silva (DCLS), Vanessa Emery (WSCLS), Sharon Majik (SECLS), Kier Munn (WTCLS), Steven McMahon (Rexdale), Haris Blentic (NLS), Mervis White (SCLS), Brook Physick (FCLS), Jack Fleming (NP+DCLS), Dennis Timbrell (FCLS), Pamela Courtot (CLCYR), Julie Northrup (SECLS), Liz Klassen (SCLS), Nicholas Francis (KBCLS), Matt Benson (ETCLS), Sean Rehaag (PCLS), Nancy Henderson (PCLS), Dennis Baily (YRCLS), Noland Merrik (JFCLS)

SUMMARY OF TASKS

Agenda Items	Discussion/ Information	Outcome	Action/Discussion Points
1 Welcome/introductions			
2 Review of meeting materials	Information	Approval	
3 Review of minutes of February 24 meeting and feedback from clinics	Discussion	Approval	
4 Working Group Report	Information	Received	
5 Principles drawn from our findings: Plenary discussion and small group discussions of principles	Discussion	Received	The Working Group to draft a model based on approved principles, distributed to SC. SC members are asked to arrange time to discuss the draft model with your staff and boards prior to all day retreat.
6 Adjournment and next meeting	Discussion	Approval	March 29 9am – 4pm at the Novotel Hotel. Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be provided

MINUTES

1. Welcome/introductions

Received

2. Review of meeting materials

Received

3. Review of minutes of

One amendment: March 29th meeting ends at 4pm not 4:30. Received and approved.

4. Feedback from clinics

FCLS has been having good discussions about the project.

SECLS reported that staff are concerned of assumptions being made in the data analysis, and that clinic

staff are being left out of the decision-making processes. They are concerned about their clinic not existing post-transformation. Others reported that staff feel overloaded with information.

5. Working Group Report

2 inter-clinics have been held to date the last 2 have been scheduled and both have had good turnouts. There were much productive discussions about job opportunities in the transformed system, what happens with salaries and seniority, as well as issues on service delivery models.

SC members are encouraged to review materials, including principles, with staff/board and make comments on website or in these meetings.

6. Principles drawn from our findings: Plenary discussion and small group discussions of principles

The principles were reviewed and clarified in the large group. Small group discussions then focused on which principles to keep, which ones needed further discussion, and which, if any, folks do not agree with. Report back and discussions resulted in the following changes:

Principle #3 will be three separate principles (commitment to community development; commitment to law reform; and commitment to PLE). The descriptions will include that the emphasis is on protecting current resources and not re-aligning them to service delivery, in addition to growing those resources although, not necessarily to the scale of Parkdale.

In addition to Principle #5, another Principle will be added to support staff through transition.

Principle #8 will be written to include rotational staffing models with staff predominantly specializing in an area of law and the ability to work in other areas as well.

Principle #13 will include the need to preserve legal clinic identity and avoid confusion and conflation with partner agency.

Principle #15 will include the importance of the quality of work, unpaid labour, mentoring as return for contribution, and will include community board work.

Principle #18 will note that LAO will re-invest *at least* the current amount of funds into the new system and a new Principle will be added that states the need for ongoing enhancement of capacity to serve those in need as well as one which commits to the clinic system being an effective advocate.

Principle #21 will be clear that resource allocation is not a simple process.

Principle #23 will be amended to read "Harmonized intake bears consideration".

The Working Group will draft a model based on these principles. It will be circulated to the Steering Committee one week before the all-day retreat and SC members are asked to arrange time to discuss the draft model with your staff and boards.

7. Adjournment and next meeting

Full Day Retreat on March 29 at the Novotel Hotel. Breakfast, lunch, and snack will be provided.

Adjournment 8:25pm