



February 26 2015

**Update Report****TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice**

This report provides a brief overview of TAG’s evolving structure and an update of recent TAG activities.

**TAG Structure**

TAG’s main focus is to foster collaboration on access to justice issues by providing an infrastructure through which organizations and individuals can share resources and connect with others working toward similar goals.

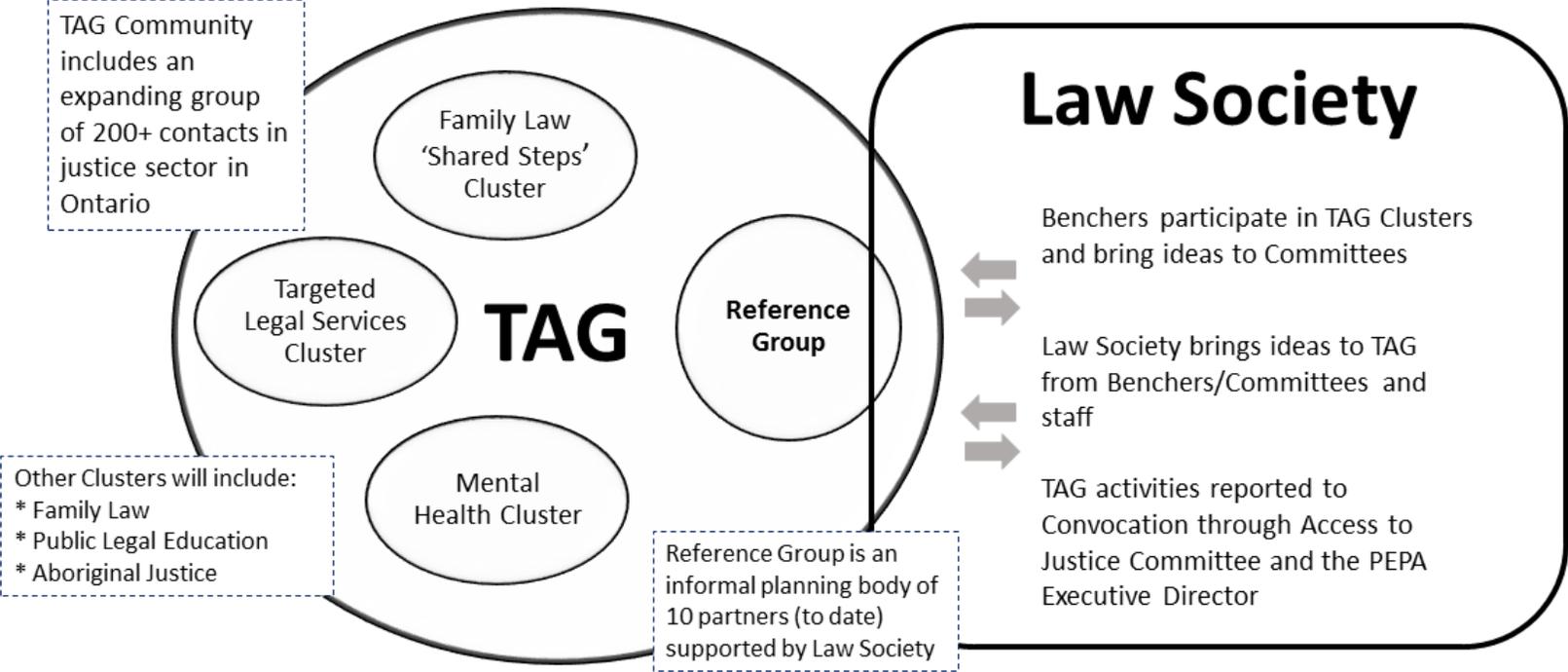
To accommodate a wide range of activities and participants, TAG’s structure is deliberately informal. As the attached diagram indicates, it consists of a Reference Group acting as a planning body, and a series of Clusters, or smaller groups convened to focus on specific access to justice challenges.

The Law Society has a dual role as both member and facilitator of TAG. As the facilitator – or backbone organization to TAG – the Law Society provides support such as convening of meetings, event management and communication services, primarily through the Policy, Equity and Public Affairs (PEPA) division. The Law Society’s administrative role also includes providing a technical platform to support communications and information exchange, and other facilitative functions.

As a member of TAG, the Law Society participates in TAG Clusters and the Reference Group. Interested benchers may represent the Law Society on Clusters to inform the Cluster of Law Society perspectives as well bring ideas and information from the Cluster back to the Law Society.

TAG activities are reported to Convocation through the Access to Justice Committee and through the Executive Director, PEPA.

# TAG structure and relation to Law Society



Feb. 25, 2015

## **TAG Activities**

### **Targeted Legal Services and Access to Justice: We Are All Pieces of the Puzzle –**

On February 3, with 70 participants in the Lamont Centre and close to 240 via webcast, TAG, Social Justice Tribunals Ontario and the Law Society held the first of three sessions on limited scope retainers or “unbundled” legal services. George Thomson opened the event as keynote speaker, followed by a panel including The Honourable Alison Harvison Young, Janet Whitehead, Mary Marrone and Kathy Laird. The audience then broke into small groups for a discussion facilitated by Lorne Sossin, Dean of Osgoode Hall Law School. Participant feedback was very positive. The next sessions, which will build on the content of the February 3 event, are scheduled for May 12 and September 16.

### **On-line Family Law “Shared Steps” Resource Cluster –**

Community Legal Education Ontario, Legal Aid Ontario, the Ontario Court of Justice, the Superior Court of Justice, the Ministry of the Attorney General and others are progressing on building better on-line tools for finding information about and navigating through family law issues. The group is working towards the launch of a pilot resource in late spring.

### **Better Justice Together Event Follow-up –**

The Ministry of the Attorney General is committed to reporting back to partners with information on its next steps regarding innovation in court services and business processes. The Ministry and TAG co-hosted the Better Justice Together event on November 18, 2014 bringing justice partners together to discuss and collaborate on the ministry’s vision for innovation in the justice sector.

**Formation of Additional Clusters –** TAG is looking at bringing people together to collaborate on identifying and building solutions in, among other areas, Public Legal Education, Mental Health, Aboriginal Justice and Family Law.

**TAG Reference Group –** The Reference Group, which acts as the TAG planning committee, met on January 20, 2015 and is working on how to achieve concrete results through the collective impact of the coordinated efforts of partners in the justice field. The group’s next meeting is scheduled for March 3.

**TAG Manager –** The Law Society has hired Sabreena Delhon as TAG Manager to coordinate and help administer TAG activities. Sabreena will be starting in the new position, which is supported by funding from the Law Foundation of Ontario, on March 9, 2015.