Blog week 1 – Fanny Cléroux

Monday April 14, 2025: Today was the first day of my stage, it was incredibly interesting to see how a typical day working in this field looked like. I met some colleagues, was able to attend a group discussion about political parties with some patients, got to assist a team meeting between colleagues to discuss upcoming cases, and more. My supervisor started with an overview of important terms and concepts for me to be a little less lost throughout the day. I was able to gather important information to start my project since it was a big insight on how things worked when we mix the judicial and healthcare system. All and all, this day was a very good start of my project, and I am happy with what I observed.

Tuesday April 15, 2025: Today was a less charged day, but still very good for my learning. The day started with a reading of a case for a psychiatric evaluation that will take place tomorrow and that I can assist to. Once I had finished reading the file, the police reports and learned about this patient, I went to the community group which takes place once a week here. It is a moment for the patients to talk about their concerns living in community (please be careful with the trash, by hygienic, no computers during this and that time, etc.). It was a moment to dot the I’s and cross the T’s regarding the living situation. Then I did a lot of reading on past cases and how to use each evaluation tool like the DUNDRUM or the HCR-20. At 1:30pm I joined a painting activity with the patients and got to talk to some volunteer that have been coming since around 5 years to engage the creativity of the patients.

Wednesday April 16, 2025: Today was very interesting because I got to assist to a psychiatric evaluation to examine if the patient is NCR (not criminally responsible). The evaluation took place at the Douglas Institute and was conducted by Doctor Perreault, a forensic psychiatrist who was accompanied by Sandrine, a criminologist. That experience was really enriching in the pursuit of answers for my project and to determine if clinical psychology is what interests me the most (more details to come in the final project). Also, the team went out to lunch to celebrate the end of an internship, so I got to join them. My supervisor had to go down to the archive room to print relevant documents for a case that she is building for the psychiatrist, so it was interesting to see how it worked and all the rules that come with this type of medical documents and past cases.

Thursday April 17, 2025: Today started with the participation of a group game during the slot reserved for community activities. The purpose of the game was to reflect on unfair moments in the patient’s life and their coping mechanisms to these types of situations. Their reflection was thought out and very mature, although the game was fun, it also had an educational purpose, as most of the things in this unit. This morning and afternoon, while waiting for group time and other activities with patients, I started the base of my paper (abstract and introduction) to kind of be able to write the core whenever I feel like I have enough data.

Friday April 18, 2025: After this long yet interesting week, I have decided to only refine what I wrote yesterday and enjoyed this Good Friday, without starting the next section.