



WINDSOR-ESSEX
COMMUNITY
**OPIOID &
SUBSTANCE**
STRATEGY

WECOSS Enforcement and Justice Working Group Meeting

**Thursday, November 26th from
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation Results

Background

- ❖ In the Summer of 2024, a **partnership evaluation survey** was distributed to each of the four WECOSS Working Groups.
- ❖ The purpose of the survey was to gather input from Working Group members on the **effectiveness of the WECOSS partnership** and to identify **opportunities to improve** the strategy moving forward.
- ❖ The survey was **adapted from previous evaluations** conducted with the WECOSS, the last survey occurring with the Working Groups in **2019**.
- ❖ The survey examined three dimensions of the WECOSS Working Group partnership – **Process & Structure, Group Functioning, and Membership Participation**.

Partnership Evaluation

Method, Scoring, and Analysis

Method

- The survey examined member agreement with 20 items related to the three dimensions of the WECOSS partnership.
- Open-ended questions were also included to capture additional comments.

Scoring

- Levels of agreement with the 20 items were assessed using Likert-scaled response options ranging from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree”.
- For scoring, responses were converted to a Likert-scaled scoring system ranging from 1-5, with 1 equaling “Strongly Disagree” and 5 equaling “Strongly Agree”.

Analysis

- Using the numeric scoring system, average scores for each dimension were computed.
- Average scores at 3.5 or above were considered satisfactory and those below 3.5 were considered areas for improvement.
- Open-ended responses were also summarized for discussion.

Partnership Evaluation

Results

2024 WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation Results

*Total Responses = 11**

Partnership Dimension	Average Score
Process and Structure	3.79
Group Functioning	3.63
Membership Participation	3.62

***Incomplete responses were excluded from the analysis.**

Partnership Evaluation

Results

Partnership Dimension: *Process & Structure*

Assessment Item	Average Score
The working group has a clearly defined goal or purpose.	4
The WECOSS is adding value (rather than duplicating services) for my clients, the community, or the agencies involved.	3.82
The actions of the working group are effectively addressing community needs.	3.7
The roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the working group members are clearly defined and understood.	3.36
The structure of the partnership (i.e., Leadership committee and pillar-based working groups) is effective for accomplishing the work of the WECOSS.	3.82
I am comfortable with the level of responsibility of the backbone agency (WECHU).	4.09
The group has the right stakeholder representation (the right organizations involved and/or the right makeup of people).	3.73

Partnership Evaluation

Results

Partnership Dimension: *Group Functioning*

Assessment Item	Average Score
The communication from the backbone agency is timely, efficient, and the methods of communication are effective.	4.18
All members have the opportunity to contribute to goal and action planning.	3.91
All members actively participate in the working group's projects and activities.	2.91
The group's tasks and responsibilities are assigned and distributed fairly to members.	3.27
The group's leaders (Co-Chairs, Coordinators) effectively support members in completing tasks and activities.	3.91
The group monitors and evaluates progress toward goal attainment effectively.	3.64
Conflicts between members and/or their respective organizations are addressed effectively.	3.63

Partnership Evaluation

Results

Partnership Dimension: *Membership Participation*

Assessment Item	Average Score
I am satisfied with my current role in the WECOSS.	3.5
I am comfortable with my level of participation in the working group.	3.78
The working group meetings are a productive use of my time.	3.4
I feel that I am part of the decision-making process of the WECOSS.	3.22
I am satisfied with the current plans that the working group has in place for achieving its goals.	3.7
My participation in the WECOSS means that I can have a greater impact than I could on my own.	4.1

Partnership Evaluation

Results

Open-Ended Questions

Recommendations to Improve Process & Structure

- Build additional capacity to reduce barriers to action
- Review mandate and expectations for new members
- Incorporate more task-focused work
- Encourage leaders to verbalize value of the strategy and promote and support involvement

Membership Recommendations

- Increase representation from priority groups and people with lived experience
- Bridge gaps as it relates to serving youth and transitional-aged youth
- Continue to build relationships with other community groups/tables
- Support linkages to post-secondary institutions and research
- Continue to focus on multi-sectoral partnerships (e.g., justice and social services)
- Have representation from all local policing services

Benefits to Participating in the WECOSS

- Connection, coordination, and collaboration across multiple sectors
- Working together to achieve common goals and to demonstrate responsiveness as a system
- Knowledge and information-sharing
- Involvement in changing attitudes, values, and perceptions about substance use and mental health

Discussion

The following items scored as areas for improvement:



What actions are needed or can help improve these aspects of the partnership?

Are there other areas missing from this list that require further attention?

WECOSS Enforcement and Justice Working Group 2025 Project Proposal

Strengthening Community Safety and Well-Being

Background

- ❖ In 2024, the **Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP)** team released a set of **neighbourhood safety plans** targeted to high-risk areas for opioid overdose in the City of Windsor – the N9A, N8X, N8Y, and N8W postal code areas.
- ❖ The safety plans were informed through community engagement and provide guidance to support community members in responding to various scenarios, including substance use and mental health crises.
- ❖ To date, the plans have been distributed to business improvement associations, City Councillors, and direct to impacted settings (e.g., businesses).
- ❖ Mass marketing also occurred through a media launch, social media messaging, and transit advertisements.

Background

Early Safety Plan Evaluation Results

(As of November 20th, 2024)

- **1,000+** downloads online
- **22** responses to online evaluation
- Results suggest that further engagement with the target neighbourhoods would be beneficial to ensure that strategies are well-understood by community members and can be practically integrated into their lives
- Expansion to other neighbourhoods also cited as an area to improve for the future

Given that the SSNAPP grant is set to end in March of 2025, locally-resourced efforts are needed to support continuity and sustainability of this work.

Project Purpose and Goals

Purpose:

Support implementation and expansion of neighbourhood safety plans developed through SSNAPP.

Goals:



Strengthen community safety and well-being.



Address opioid and substance use-related crime in the community.



Strategic Alignment

Modernization Priority #6

- Build a shared understanding of community safety and well-being by strengthening public safety and public health partnerships that support vulnerable and marginalized populations.

Priority Groups and Settings for Engagement

Priority groups and settings to explore for additional engagement in 2025:

Community Housing Units in Target Areas

- Emerging opportunity to partner with the **Windsor-Essex Community Housing Corporation** to bring **additional training and supports/resources to community housing** that can assist residents in adopting safety plan recommendations.

Businesses in Target Areas

- Historical community consultations spoke to **regular challenges** that local businesses encounter as it relates to **substance use and community safety**.
- Opportunity to resume **business engagement work** started by SafePoint through neighbourhood safety planning project.

High-Risk Areas in the County

- Locally available data demonstrates that NOR (**Harrow, Cottam, Maidstone**) and N8H (**Leamington**) postal code areas also continue to be impacted by opioid overdose deaths (**11-20 deaths** each from 2020-2023).
- **Gaps in available supports** for residents living in **Essex-County**.

Project Activities

City of Windsor Implementation

Collaborate with partners to identify key stakeholders to engage with in priority settings across the City of Windsor.

Consult with key stakeholders in priority settings to gather an understanding of needs and supports required to implement the safety plans.

Develop and deliver the necessary supports to priority settings/groups to assist with implementation.

Continue to evaluate the effectiveness of the plans and the usefulness of the direct supports provided in strengthening perceived community safety and responding to substance use-related crime.

Project Activities

Essex-County Expansion

Engage with and gather endorsement from the municipalities, policing, and other key stakeholders to develop safety plans for high-risk areas in the County.

Consult with key stakeholders in selected neighbourhoods to understand needs, gaps, and issues regarding community safety and substance use-related crime in these areas.

Develop and distribute neighbourhood safety plans for the selected areas using results gathered through the consultations.

Evaluate the effectiveness of the safety plans in strengthening perceived community safety and responding to substance use-related crime in County neighbourhoods.

Discussion

1. Is the 2025 project proposal reflective of community needs/capacities? Are the appropriate project activities proposed to address these needs?
2. Are the identified priority settings/groups appropriate? Are there others that need to be explored? How should engagement be prioritized?

References

Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP). (2024). Neighbourhood Safety Plans Presentation – WECOSS-LC Meeting on September 23rd, 2024.

Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP). (2024). SSNAPP Neighbourhood Safety Plans Feedback Summary Report – As of November 20th, 2024.

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU). (2024). Opioid Surveillance Dashboard for Windsor and Essex County. Accessed on November 14th, 2024. Retrieved from <https://wecoss.ca/statistics>.

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU). (2019). Supervised Injection Services Community Consultations Report.

Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU). (2021). Consumption and Treatment Services Site-Specific Community Consultations Report.

Windsor Police Service. (2024). Opening Remarks at Glengarry Community Care Fair. November 14th, 2024.