



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

WECOSS Harm Reduction Working Group Meeting

*Thursday, December 5th, 2024
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.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 partnerships** 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 partnerships.
- 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/living experience
- Bridge gaps as it relates to serving youth and transitional-aged youth
- Continue to build relationships with other community groups
- Support linkages to post-secondary institutions and research
- Continue to focus on multi-sectoral partnerships

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?

2025 Working Group Planning

2025 HRWG Goals

Current Goals

- Reduce the health, social, and economic harms associated with substance use
- Increase awareness of lower-risk use methods
- Reduce the spread of communicable diseases
- Prevent overdose harms and deaths
- Reduce consumption of substances in unsafe settings

Draft 2025 Goals

- Reduce the health, social, and economic harms associated with substance use
- Increase awareness and use of lower-risk use methods
- Prevent overdose harms and deaths
- Reduce stigma towards substance use and harm reduction
- Increase community understanding of harm reduction
- Improve use of harm reduction models within community service settings

2025 Project Proposal

Building Community for Harm Reduction

Background

- ❖ The **Windsor-Essex County** area has been **disproportionately affected by opioid toxicity events and related harms**, surpassing provincial opioid mortality rates for six consecutive years from 2018-2023.
- ❖ The growing need for harm reduction services is more evident now than ever before.
- ❖ **Local action is needed** to continue to educate the community about the importance of harm reduction practices, dispel harmful ideologies surrounding harm reduction, and advocate for use of harm reduction models within applicable community settings.

Purpose and Goals

Purpose: Implement a comprehensive community education/anti-stigma campaign on harm reduction as a valued and evidence-based practice to support people who use drugs and the community.

Goals:



Improve community knowledge and awareness about harm reduction, lower-risk use methods, and overdose response/prevention strategies.



Dispel harmful ideologies and reduce stigma towards harm reduction practices.



Increase use of harm reduction models within community service settings.



Strategic Alignment

Modernization Priority #4

- Augment harm reduction services and supplies through coordinated agency involvement and policy supports

Target Populations

Primary Target Audience

- Residents of Windsor-Essex County
- People who use drugs and their loved ones
- Community service organizations
- Policy makers and key decision-makers

Project Activities



Discussion

1. Is the 2025 project proposal reflective of community needs? Are the appropriate project activities proposed to address these needs?
2. Are there other project activities that the HRWG should consider to help meet our goals as a group?
3. What kinds of stakeholders might we engage in this work?