



Harm Reduction Working Group Meeting

Thursday, March 14, 2024 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre Shelter), Michael Brennan (Positive Pathways), Kristen Dwyer (Positive Pathways), Theresa Sarkis (WECHU Recorder), Selena Scebbba (WECHU), Mack Park (Lancers Recover), Laura Liebrock (CMHA Health Centre)

Regrets: Rio Anzolin (WRH), MHART Representative (EMS/HDGH), Jordan Urquhart (St. Leonard’s House), Adrian Guta (University of Windsor), Emily Kydd (University of Windsor), Ashley Lavin (Downtown Mission), Dr. Katherine Rudzinski (University of Windsor), Meg Gregoire (University of Windsor), Heather Johnson-Dobranksy (Hiatus House), Amy Visser (weCHC)

Co-Chairs: Michael Brennan & Kristen Dwyer

Recorder: Theresa Sarkis

		<i>Action Required</i>
1.0	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 1:03p.m. 	
2.0	Approval of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda approved. 	
3.0	Review of Action Items and Approval of Previous Minutes from November 16, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize Position Statement and webpage content regarding decriminalization. Approval of Minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved 	
4.0	Meeting Goals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Review and discuss the 2024 Project Proposal. Review and discuss the WECOSS 2023 Annual Report. 	
5.0	Project Updates Decriminalization Advocacy – 2023 Annual Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publication of deliverables on pause – need to present to other working groups regarding Decriminalization Key and social messages for Harm Reduction shared and discussed. Discussion of language evolvement in terms of ‘drug poisoning’ instead of ‘overdose,’ decision is to begin using poisoning instead keeping in mind that the hospital may still use ‘overdose’ in medical terms. SafePoint Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently had advocacy movement with panel of community representatives. No communication from the ministry has been received regarding updates for SafePoint. 	Investigate further if Coroner’s report details toxins with cause of death.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now coordinating as a coalition across the province to advocate for supervised consumption sites. Response has been received from Anthony Leardi, but not from others yet. • Letter has gone out from the coalition for advocacy efforts – 51 organizations have signed on with support. Advocacy letters can still be submitted even if deadline has passed as these can still be collected and used later. • Next steps- looking to have conversation with MOH 	
6.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>2024 Project Proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Overdose Prevention Trainings. • First one scheduled for Wednesday April 24th at Aquatic Centre 6-8pm, including speakers, lived experience, naloxone/test strip training. • Note: Although test strips are an effective tool, they are only one component of a comprehensive harm reduction approach. • Discussion on exemptions for providers to assist clients in testing substances - Some are comfortable helping clients test their substances, but that would need further discussion in terms of training. • Ontario Harm Reduction Distribution Program has one time funding for test strips, they will have limited quantities of kits including strips and accessories needed for proper testing. More details to follow on availability of these. • In response to overdose response including Belleville, conversations have been started regarding what a mass poisoning response would look like in Windsor Essex. • Toronto drug checking service test substances for other drugs and provides alert: https://drugchecking.community/ <p>2023 Annual Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of annual report shared. <p>New Members recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some coordinators from CTS advocacy group have expressed interest in being on WECOSS HR working group. • Group agreed they would be a good addition to this group 	<p>If anyone is interested in hosting a resource table for this event, please let Selena know.</p> <p>If you want more information on the efficacy of strips, contact Selena.</p> <p>Selena to look into the potential for campus police to be ONP partner.</p> <p><i>Addendum: campus police are ineligible to become ONP partners are they are employed by an educational institution.</i></p>

7.0	<p>Community Agency Roundtable (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Centre: Health Box is coming along, more updates to come around launch. Historically average one poisoning per month, but in February had zero poisonings. • CMHA: Grief works program, seeing increased number of clients dealing with loss through overdose – causing an effect on staff. 	Micheal to keep group apprised of any support that can be provided in terms of coordinated provincial strategy in advocacy.
8.0	<p>WECOSS Pillar Update (S. Scebba)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and Education: 2024 project is to implement the communication campaign with shared messages and expand to polysubstance messaging. • Enforcement and Justice: 2024 project is to deliver substance use workshops to corrections officers, social workers, and post-secondary students pursuing these professions. • Treatment and Recovery: 2024 project will continue with service inventory. Working with patient and family advocacy for tools for people to access and navigate. 	
9.0	<p>Next Steps & Recap of Action Items (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and approve the 2024 Project Proposal with the WECOSS LC 	
10.0	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up and Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. 	
11.0	<p>Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, June 6, 2024, 1:00pm – 3:00pm • Thursday, October 3, 2024, 1:00pm – 3:00pm • Thursday, December 5, 2024, 1:00pm – 3:00pm 	