



WECOSS Harm Reduction Working Group Meeting

Thursday, December 5, 2024 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre Shelter), Michael Brennan (Positive Pathways), Jennifer Cline (WE-Community Housing), Alexis Erickson (WECHU), Heather Johnson-Dobransky (Hiatus House), Melissa Little (Essex-Windsor EMS – VPN/MHART Department), Avri MacFarlane (Positive Pathways), Stacey Shepley (Essex-Windsor EMS – VPN/MHART Department), Nicole Wilson (LAW).

Regrets: John Antoniwi (Essex-Windsor EMS – VPN/MHART Department), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Meg Gregoire (Student – University of Windsor), Dr. Adrian Guta (University of Windsor), Emily Kydd (University of Windsor), Ashley Lavin (Downtown Mission of Windsor), Laura Liebrock (CMHA Health Centre), Dr. Katherine Rudzinski (University of Windsor), Jordan Urquhart (St. Leonard’s House), Amy Visser (weCHC).

Chair: Anastasia Adams

Recorder: Theresa Sarkis (WECHU)

		Action Required
1.0	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to new Chair, Anastasia Adams. 	
2.0	Approval of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added “Auditor General Annual Report” under “Project Updates”. Agenda approved. 	
3.0	Review of Action Items and Approval of Previous Minutes from October 3, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alexis Erickson to forward roles and responsibilities of Co-Chairs to Anastasia Adams. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete. Co-Chair role accepted by Anastasia. Anyone who may be interested in taking on the HRWG Co-Chair role, please contact Michael Brennan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second HRWG Co-Chair role remains open. Members can contact Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson if interested in learning more about the role. Review HRWG membership to ensure appropriate stakeholder representation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggestions for 2025 membership to be discussed under the “2025 HRWG Membership” agenda item. Formal annual membership review process will commence in early 2025. Review HRWG goals for appropriateness. 	Contact Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson if interested in the second Co-Chair position (All).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete. New tentative goals for 2025 to be presented during the “Draft 2025 Goals and Project Proposal” agenda item. ● Draft a 2025 project proposal for review at next meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete and to be presented to the group during the “Draft 2025 Goals and Project Proposal” agenda item. <p>Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Minutes approved. 	
4.0	<p>Meeting Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review next steps and progress of ongoing projects. 2. Present WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation results. 3. Review draft 2025 goals and project proposal. 4. Discuss HRWG membership for 2025. 	
5.0	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>Community Overdose Prevention Trainings (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nine community overdose prevention training events offered in 2024 to date. ● Originally planned to hold four 2024 events, but this increased to nine due to the high level of need and interest in overdose prevention training. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 22nd, 2024 – New Song Church Event ○ April 24th, 2024 – Windsor International Aquatic Centre Event ○ July 2nd, 2024 – Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative Bruce Park Event ○ July 25th, 2024 – Glengarry Community Housing Event ○ August 16th, 2024 – Legal Assistance of Windsor Event ○ August 21st, 2024 – St. Clair Centre for the Arts Event ○ November 14th, 2024 – Glengarry Community Care Fair ○ November 15th, 2024 – Glengarry Community Care Fair ○ November 19th – Safety Village Event with Construction Industry ● Events were held with the public/residents, staff at community agencies, downtown businesses/agencies, and the construction industry. ● At events, community members were provided with naloxone kits and training, as well as other overdose response/prevention education and resources. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 100 naloxone kits were distributed and over 100 individuals were trained on naloxone administration through the events. • Evaluation report is being generated and will be shared once available. <p>Auditor General Annual Report (M. Brennan)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 Auditor General Annual Report released in early December at the following link: https://www.auditor.on.ca/en/content/annualreports/arbyyear/ar2024.html • 2024 report includes performance audit on implementation and oversight of the provincial opioid strategy. • Through the audit (Office of the Auditor General, 2024), it was concluded that the Ministry did not: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Have effective processes in place to meet the challenging and changing nature of the opioid crisis in Ontario.” ○ “Effectively implement Ontario’s 2016 Opioid Strategy and initiatives that are responsive to the needs of Ontarians.” ○ “Effectively oversee and coordinate the delivery of evidence-based services for people who require opioid related-services in an equitable, integrated and timely manner and in accordance with applicable legislation, policies and agreements.” ○ “Adequately and proactively monitor and enable appropriate prescribing and dispensing practices in accordance with applicable legislation, policies and standards.” ○ “Adequately measure and publicly report on the performance of publicly-funded services for people who require opioid-related services.” ○ “Provide a thorough, evidence-based business case analysis for the 2024 new model, Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hubs, to ensure that they are responsive to the needs of Ontarians.” • First step is to re-engage with municipal representatives to bring forward the concerns of this report. • Report can also be shared with the WECOSS Leadership Committee and other Working Groups for future planning and discussion. • Advocacy link for anyone that wants to sign in support: https://www.change.org/p/oppose-the-use-of-the-notwithstanding-clause-to-clear-encampments/u/33087550 • Other related resources shared with the group: 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervised Consumption Services in Ontario: Evidence and Recommendations - CDPE ○ Chief Medical Officer of Health 2023 Annual Report ontario.ca 	
6.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation Results (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Background on partnership evaluation provided – survey distributed to the Working Groups in the Summer of 2024 to gather input from members on the effectiveness of Working Group partnerships and opportunities to improve the strategy moving forward. ● Survey examined three dimensions of the Working Groups – process and structure, group functioning, and membership participation. ● Evaluation results were shared – 11 complete responses across the four Working Groups. ● Most assessment items related to the partnerships scored as satisfactory, per the scoring method used for the analysis. ● Items that scored below satisfactory and were coined as areas for improvement were role clarity, active participation, fair assignment of work, productivity of meetings, and decision-making. ● Looking for input from the group on actions that can be taken to improve these aspects of the partnership or other aspects. ● Group Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed recommendations around peer engagement/representation – Need to ensure that appropriate supports and training are available for peers who may be supporting the strategy. Recruitment strategies for peers must also be appropriate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CMHA, HDGH, Welcome Centre, and Positive Pathways also have peer engagement strategies. ○ Discussed need for education about the strategy to increase public awareness of the work done. ○ Capacity of frontline Working Group members is a challenge due to the nature of their work. Discussed the importance of engaging with and including frontline worker perspectives. This could mean moving roundtable updates to the beginning of meetings for those who may not be able to stay for full meetings. 	

	<p>integrating harm reduction into their organizational practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRWG was supportive of moving ahead with the proposal and presenting it to the Leadership Committee for approval. If approved, a project charter will be developed in 2025 with specific activities and outputs. • Any other feedback or ideas on project work for 2025 can be forwarded to Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson. <p>2025 HRWG Membership (A. Adams/A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HRWG was asked to bring forward any suggestions for group membership in 2025. • The group suggested that membership from the following agencies be explored: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ontario Health Team ○ Salvation Army ○ HDGH Withdrawal Management • Outreach to these agencies will occur in early 2025 through the annual membership review process. 	<p>Present the 2025 project proposal to the WECOSS Leadership Committee at next meeting for approval (A. Adams).</p> <p>Forward any other feedback or ideas on 2025 project work to Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson (All).</p> <p>Forward any other feedback on HRWG membership to Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson (All).</p> <p>Complete the annual membership review for the HRWG in early 2025 (A. Adams & A. Erickson).</p>
7.0	<p>Community Agency Roundtable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Windsor-Essex Community Housing Corporation – Glengarry community event scheduled for December 18th, which will include naloxone distribution and training. If anyone is interested in attending, please contact Jennifer Cline. • Pozitive Pathways is pausing on community work to take time to reflect on their agency’s response to changing legislation. 	<p>Contact Jennifer Cline if interested in attending the Glengarry community event on December 18th (All).</p>
8.0	<p>WECOSS Pillar Update (A. Erickson)</p>	

	<p>Enforcement & Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024 project focused on delivering substance use in corrections workshops. Workshops were targeted to service providers and provided education on reintegrating individuals who are justice involved and use/d substances back into their communities following release from custody. • Delivered four workshops in 2024: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South-Essex Community Council ○ Southwest Detention Centre ○ Police Foundations Students at St. Clair College ○ School of Social Work Students at the University of Windsor • Good feedback received at the events. An evaluation report will follow. <p>Treatment and Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officially launched the WEC Connect program and service inventory on WECOSS.ca, an online directory of substance use, mental health, and behavioural addiction services, both publicly and privately funded. • The launch was in collaboration with the Windsor-Essex Ontario Health Team (WEOHT) and 211 at a 211 training event in October. • Large increases in website usage and access were observed after the launch. • Moving forward, partnering with the WEOHT and 211 for data-sharing and sustainability purposes to ensure the inventory is kept up to date. • Promotional resources have been created. Print versions can be provided to organizations upon request. Please contact Theresa Sarkis if interested. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Addendum:</i> New contact for print promotional resources is Kelly Barill. Please contact Kelly at kbarill@wechu.org if interested. <p>Prevention and Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing with work on the WECOSS continuous communication strategy – communication channels have included social media, bus ads, and Google ads. • To date, content on social media has focused on educating the community about the WECOSS and substance use issues. Transit bus ads and Google ads 	
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Contact Kelly Barill (kbarill@wechu.org) if interested in promotional resources for WEC Connect (All).

	<p>have encouraged community members to subscribe to opioid alerts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance data for all marketing activities is forthcoming and will be reflected in an evaluation report. 	
9.0	<p>Next Steps & Recap of Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson if interested in the second Co-Chair position (All). • Forward any other feedback on the WECOSS partnership evaluation to Anastasia Adams (All). • Map 2025 HRWG goals onto the Auditor General’s performance audit to ensure that identified gaps are addressed (A. Adams & A. Erickson). • Present the 2025 project proposal to the WECOSS Leadership Committee at next meeting for approval (A. Adams). • Forward any other feedback or ideas on 2025 project work to Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson (All). • Forward any other feedback on HRWG membership to Anastasia Adams or Alexis Erickson (All). • Complete the annual membership review for the HRWG in early 2025 (A. Adams & A. Erickson). • Contact Jennifer Cline if interested in attending the Glengarry community event on December 18th (All). • Contact Kelly Barill (kbarill@wechu.org) if interested in promotional resources for WEC Connect (All). 	
10.0	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up and Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m. 	
11.0	<p>Next Meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 Meeting Schedule TBD 	