



WECOSS Leadership Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 31, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

Co-Chairs:

Eric Nadalin – Director of Public Health Programs, WECHU

Patrick Kolowicz – Director of Bed-Based Mental Health and Addictions, HDGH

Present: Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre), Jenny Bradt (WECHU), Alexis Erickson (WECHU), Eric Nadalin (WECHU), Karen Trotter (CSC Providence), Kim Willis (CMHA-WECB), Natasha Sheeler (Ontario Health), Michelle Oake (City of Windsor), Jason Woods (LPS), Judy Lear-Zylstra (HDGH), Patrick Kolowicz (HDGH), Amy Visser (weCHC), Jean LaForge (MHC), Superintendent Paolo DiCarlo (WPS), Ciara Holmes (FSWE), Kuljeet Kalsi (WRH), Ron Sheppard (WFHT), Stephen Lynn (City of Windsor), Kristen Stockford (RE:ACT), Nicole Sbrocca (CMHA-WECB), Joe Rafuse (WPS), Natalie Lewoc (WECHU), Kelly Barill (WECHU).

Regrets: Alison Malott (Peer Rep.), Amy Lofaso (WECDSB), Andrew Daher (City of Windsor), Dr. Ayodeji Akinlaja (WRH), Dr. Mehdi Aloosh (WECHU), Elizabeth Dulmage (Brentwood), Erica Bassakos (WEOHT), Jennifer Cline (WEC-Housing Corporation), Karen Waddell (House of Sophrosyne), Lori Kempe (Children First), Michael Akpata (Town of LaSalle), Michael Brennan (Positive Pathways), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Sebastien Di Pietro (Di Pietro Drugs), Slav Pulcer (Essex-Windsor EMS), Wita Cross (SOAHAC), Yves Mainville (CSC Providence)

Recorder: Kelly Barill

		<i>Action Required</i>
1.0	<p>Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to New Members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Amy Visser, Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre ○ Ciara Holmes, Family Services Windsor-Essex ○ Dr. Ayodeji Akinlaja, Windsor Regional Hospital ○ Kuljeet Kalsi, Windsor Regional Hospital ○ Kristen Stockford, RE:ACT ○ Superintendent Paolo DiCarlo, Windsor Police Service ○ Stephen Lynn, City of Windsor 	
2.0	<p>Approval of Agenda (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda approved. 	
3.0	<p>Review of Action Items from December 9th, 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring the approved 2025 project proposals to the Working Groups for additional planning and implementation (Co-Chairs). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete and ongoing. • Review the master attendance list for the WECOSS committees and connect with the Co-Chairs to advise of any changes in membership 	

	<p>from your organization (All):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete – Contact lists for the WECOSS committees were shared with the Leadership Committee for review and any requested changes in representation were made to the lists. • Investigate opportunities to access and share data on opioid-related EMS calls where refusal for care was made and specific locations of overdoses (J. Bradt). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete – Data to be shared under the “Opioid and Substances Data Review” agenda item. • Use the 2024 partnership evaluation results to inform future strategy recommendations (A. Erickson). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates to be shared during the “2025 WECOSS Modernization” agenda item. • Review proposed additions to the Terms of Reference with the Co-Chairs (A. Erickson). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete – Final changes to the Terms of Reference to be reviewed during the “Review and Approval of 2025 Terms of Reference” agenda item. • Reach out to the WECHU if interested in WEC Connect promotional materials (All). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing – Members are welcome to reach out to Kelly Barill (kbarill@wechu.org) if interested in WEC Connect promotional materials. <p>Approval of Minutes from December 9th, 2024 (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved. 	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Meeting Goals (Co-Chairs)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide updates on ongoing local initiatives. 2. Discuss launch of 2025 Working Group projects. 3. Review the Auditor General’s Performance Audit on the Implementation and Oversight of Ontario’s Opioid Strategy. 4. Discuss plans for a 2025 strategy modernization process. 5. Review and approve the 2025 Terms of Reference. 	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Standing Items & Status Updates</p> <p>5.1 Opioids and Substances Data Review (WECHU)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalie Lewoc, Epidemiologist in the WECHU’s Epidemiology and Data Department, delivered a presentation with local data on opioid and substance use. The presentation will be circulated with the minutes. • The WECOSS’ updated data dashboard can be found at https://www.wecoss.ca/statistics. • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eric Nadalin (WECHU): The WECHU supports the strategy with data collection/sharing. The WECHU is always looking to collect additional data sources and build our repository so that we can share that information with this group for collective planning. ○ Patrick Kolowicz (HDGH): Rates of overdose seem to be trending downward across the province, but this is still a problem. ○ Natalie Lewoc (WECHU): We need a better way of measuring opioid and substance use in the community, as the data may not always translate into overdoses. 	<p>Share the meeting presentation with the minutes (WECHU).</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre): There are data points that would be good to know, such as why some clients are declining emergency care. Is it due to easy access to naloxone? Other causes? ○ Eric Nadalin (WECHU): Windsor-Essex is still one of the top overdose areas in Ontario. <p>5.2 Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub Update (K. Waddell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The province is investing \$552,000,000 over 4 years to support 28 HART Hubs. ● Timeline for completing engagement with providers, budget templates, and operational readiness is April 2025. ● Revised agreements to be completed by April-May 2025. ● Flow of funding starts in May 2025 with phased implementation from May onward. <p>5.3 Mental Health and Addictions Sector Table (MHAST) Update (K. Waddell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The MHAST did not meet in March. No updates to provide. <p>5.4 Emergency Treatment Fund (ETF) Update (E. Nadalin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A grant application for the ETF was put forward by the City of Windsor, with some involvement from the WECHU and additional outreach teams. ● The grant application was not approved. Future applications may be explored if/when new opportunities arise. <p>5.5 WECOSS Working Group Co-Chair Nominations (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Currently, there are vacant Co-Chair positions on the Harm Reduction, Enforcement and Justice, and Treatment and Recovery Working Groups. ● Members are encouraged to submit nominations for these roles or connect with the LC Co-Chairs if interested. <p>5.6 WECOSS Working Group Updates Harm Reduction (A. Adams)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The 2025 project for the HRWG will implement policy solutions and community education interventions to dispel harmful ideologies, improve knowledge/attitudes, and reduce barriers to accessing harm reduction. ● Key activities and outputs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Development and distribution of an organizational policy template, guided by the principles of trauma-informed care and harm reduction, to promote non-judgmental and inclusive service environments for people who use substances. ○ Anti-stigma training and workshops for organizations who adopt the policy to support implementation within their organization. ○ An anti-stigma social media and public education campaign to promote understanding of harm reduction strategies. ● Next steps for project kick-off include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issue an assessment survey to community partners to examine local understanding and attitudes towards harm reduction, priority 	<p>Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if interested in or have nominations to bring forward for the vacant TRWG, EJWG, and HRWG Co-Chair positions (All).</p> <p>Action items for the Leadership Committee relating to 2025 Working Group projects are summarized in “Summary of Action Items and Next Steps” below.</p>
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settings for intervention, policy needs, and training opportunities.

- Confirm priority settings for intervention and prepare policy template using results from the survey.
- Prepare social media and public education messages.

Prevention and Education (K. Willis/J. Bradt)

- The 2025 project for the PEWG will educate and build community capacity for substance use prevention among youth and families.
- Key activities and outputs include:
 1. Partnering with CMHA-WECB to implement the Icelandic Prevention Model, Planet Youth, within Windsor-Essex County, pending grant approval.
 2. Hosting in-person and virtual education sessions for parents, caregivers, and high-priority families.
 3. Collaborating with school boards to provide resources and lesson plans to support schools.
 4. Launching a mass communication campaign aimed at parents/caregivers and families with messages focused on improving the family environment for youth substance use prevention.
 5. Participating as guest speakers at community events, such as youth symposiums.
- Next steps for project kick-off are as follows:
 - A Youth Mental Health Grant application for Planet Youth interventions has been submitted by CMHA-WECB and is awaiting approval.
 - A social media campaign schedule has been developed and will be shared with the WECOSS-LC following the meeting.
 - Content and resource development for education sessions and community events will be finalized by mid-May, for delivery in late May to December.
 - Upcoming community events are planned to share substance use prevention information with youth and families.

Treatment and Recovery (J. Lear-Zylstra/E. Dulmage)

- The 2025 project for the TRWG aims to support improved access to opioid agonist therapy (OAT) for individuals living with opioid use disorder in the community.
- To achieve this, training will be provided for frontline service providers within community health, substance use, and mental health agencies on OAT. The goal is to improve understanding, reduce stigma, and increase connections to this service.
- Key activities and outputs are as follows:
 - Development of an online e-learning module on OAT for frontline providers.
 - Creation of a resource with a list of local OAT experts that can be contacted for in-person training opportunities upon request.
 - Improving navigability of OAT on WEC Connect and developing other tools for service providers to support referral pathways for OAT.
- Next steps for project kick-off include:
 - Comprise a list of key community partners to consult with about existing local capacities, education needs, and knowledge

gaps regarding OAT.

- Consult with identified community partners to inform the development of training material.
- WEC Connect Updates:
 - The WEC Connect online program and service inventory was launched on WECOSS.ca on October 23rd, 2024: https://wecoss.ca/wec_connect.
 - From the launch date to January 17th, 2025, there were a total of 4,579 web visits to WEC Connect.
 - Promotion is ongoing and includes social media messaging, Google and in-transit bus advertisements, and print resource materials.
 - The inventory is updated every six months through a data-sharing agreement with 2-1-1. Services that are not listed on 2-1-1 are contacted directly to update their inventory listing.
 - Next steps include:
 - Completing a bi-annual inventory update in April of 2025.
 - Delivering promotional resources and educational materials to additional target centers, including schools, libraries, community centers, and pharmacies.
 - Evaluating WEC Connect through the development of an end-user experience survey on the inventory.
 - Creating a survey on the inventory that organizations can use regularly to submit updates to their program and service information.
- The TRWG's WECOSS Wallet Card has also been updated. The new version will be circulated with the minutes.

Enforcement and Justice (J. Rafuse)

- The 2025 project for the EJWG aims to sustain and expand the neighbourhood safety planning project initiated by the Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP) team.
- Key outputs and activities include:
 - Educating and training community housing residents and staff on the existing neighbourhood safety plans developed by SSNAPP (N9A, N8W, N8Y, N8X). This will be completed at community housing events coordinated over the course of the year by CMHA-WECB, the WEC Housing Corporation, the WPS, and other community partners.
 - Consulting with key stakeholders to develop an additional neighbourhood safety plan targeted to the Municipality of Leamington.
- Three community housing events have been attended in 2025 thus far – 920 Ouellette Community Care Fair (January 30th), Chateau Masson Health Fair (March 11th), and the Sandwich Teen Action Group Event (March 13th).
- Next steps include the following:
 - Continue to attend scheduled community housing events to offer training and education on the existing safety plans.
 - Identify key stakeholders to consult with and update existing consultation materials and data collection tools to support the

	<p>development of the Leamington safety plan.</p> <p>SSNAPP Update (C. Damphouse)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A closing presentation on the SSNAPP initiative was presented. The meeting slide deck with this presentation will be shared with the minutes. • SSNAPP was implemented through a three-year grant (April 2022 to March 2025) obtained by the Windsor Police Service, the City of Windsor, and the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit. • The goal was to address gaps in support and responses to mental health and substance use crises in high priority areas through engagement, education, and training. • Key outputs included the development of four neighbourhood safety plans, 25 workshops for local service providers on relevant topics, nine community park events in collaboration with the Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative, and overdose prevention training sessions. • A call for applications for another Community Safety and Policing Grant has been released. The WECHU is meeting with partners to discuss an application. Further updates will be provided as they become available. <p>5.7 WECOSS/MHAST Indicators (E. Nadalin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is mutual membership between the WECOSS and the MHAST. • MHAST focuses primarily on treatment-oriented interventions. The interventions undertaken by the Treatment and Recovery Working Group will complement many of their initiatives. • Considerable effort is being made to ensure that there is no duplication of work between these tables. The goal is to ensure that the WECOSS' objectives align with those of the MHAST. • Current WECOSS objectives were presented to the group. These objectives will be shared with the MHAST, and MHAST objectives will be shared with the WECOSS to ensure alignment. 	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>6.1 Drug Checking Service (E. Nadalin)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WECHU's SUPHR department is in the process of being onboarded into a drug checking research project led by Western University and Scatr Inc. • By participating in the project, the WECHU will be granted a Scatr Series One device to use locally. The device can take a small quantity of a substance and analyze it. The compounds identified are then generated and uploaded to a laptop. This information can be used to provide real-time data on what's leading to overdose or what substances are being consumed. It also provides an opportunity to educate clients about what they are consuming compared to what they think they are consuming. • Still in discussion phase on a potential location for the device. • Need to acquire an exemption to Section 56.1 of the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act to offer drug checking services. The exemption application is in-progress. 	

	<p>6.2 2025 WECOSS Modernization (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's been about 4 years since the WECOSS has been modernized. • Plan to complete another refresh of the strategy this year, with the end output being the development of a new multi-year action plan for the WECOSS. This will involve defining new short- and long-term goals to achieve. • The process will be informed by community consultation. The first phase of consultation was completed last year through the partnership evaluation conducted with WECOSS members. The second phase will be targeted to various community stakeholders and focus on identifying current community needs and priorities, which will be initiated in late Spring. An overview of the consultation plan will be reviewed at the next meeting in June. • One goal of the modernization will be to support more meaningful engagement with people with lived and living experience in the strategy. <p>6.3 Peer Engagement Strategy (J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WECHU is currently developing procedures for the recruitment and compensation of peers for a peer advisory group. • A recruitment and compensation procedure for peer involvement in the WECOSS Working Groups is also underway. • Over the next few months, the WECHU will be reaching out to other agencies to recruit individuals. <p>6.4 Review and Approval of 2025 Terms of Reference (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed revisions to the Terms of Reference were reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Added MHASt updates as a standing item at all WECOSS-LC meetings, and WECOSS Updates as a standing item at all MHASt meetings. ○ Added harm reduction services to the list of sectors that we aim to have represented across the strategy. ○ Removed the Data and Program Evaluation Sub-Committee as a standalone committee for the WECOSS and added the responsibilities of this committee to the WECHU's regular backbone responsibilities. This includes developing shared measurement systems, leading data strategies (including the alert system and data dashboards), conducting ongoing monitoring and surveillance, and supporting data sharing efforts. ○ Removed OneDrive as the shared document storage system for the WECOSS. A new storage system is being explored. Updates will be provided at the next meeting. 	<p>Bring forward any additional edits or changes for the Terms of Reference by April 4th, 2025; otherwise, the Terms will be finalized as is (All).</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Community Agency Roundtable (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrick Kolowicz (HDGH): The Mental Health and Addictions Urgent Crisis Center has recently started operating 24/7 for police and EMS. Working with Ontario Health on repurposing some funding to help support this effort. A number of patients have been dropped off there, instead of going to the emergency room for care in specialized services. • Ron Sheppard (WFHT): Have two group programs starting up in April. The first is a four-week program targeted to friends and family 	

	<p>members that is educational and provides group support. The second is a five-week recovery program (One Team Recovery) that meets twice per week. Details will be shared with the minutes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Oake (City of Windsor): Working on wrapping up the four-year Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and creating a revised plan for the future. If anyone is interested in being a part of that, there will be community consultations held and a public survey issued to help restructure goals and priorities. • Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre): The Welcome Center has been hosting an overnight warming center (8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.) for women. March 31st is the last night that this is being offered. 	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Summary of Action Items and Next Steps (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the meeting presentation with the minutes (WECHU). • Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if interested in or have nominations to bring forward for the vacant TRWG, EJWG, and HRWG Co-Chair positions (All). • HRWG 2025 Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share and encourage participation in the HRWG’s upcoming assessment survey for the anti-stigma policy intervention amongst your staff, organizations, and networks (All). ○ If your organization does not have existing anti-stigma policies on substance use and harm reduction and would be interested in receiving support with policy development and training, please contact Anastasia Adams (a.adams@welcomecentreshelter.com) (All). ○ If your organization has existing anti-stigma policies or training materials that you would be willing to share to support this project, please contact Anastasia (All). • PEWG 2025 Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Share the youth substance use prevention social media schedule with the WECOSS-LC membership (WECHU). ○ Contact Kim Willis (kwillis@cmha-wecb.on.ca) and Jenny Bradt (jbradt@wechu.org) if your agency serves marginalized youth and/or families and would be interested in partnering to offer education sessions to your clients (All). ○ Use the campaign’s social media calendar to amplify WECHU campaign messaging on your organization’s social media channels (All). ○ Contact Kim and Jenny if you are organizing or aware of any upcoming events targeted to youth or families that the PEWG can support (All). ○ Contact Kim and Jenny if your organization has any relevant resources targeted to youth or families that can be shared at upcoming events (All). • TRWG 2025 Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Circulate the updated WECOSS Wallet card with the minutes (WECHU). ○ Connect with Judy Lear-Zylstra (judy.lear-zylstra@hdgh.org) if anyone from your agency is experienced in the delivery of OAT and would be willing to inform/support the development of training material (All). ○ Connect with Judy if your agency is interested in receiving OAT education and training (All). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage the use of WEC Connect (https://wecoss.ca/wec_connect) and the WECOSS wallet card (attached) amongst your clients, staff, and organizational networks (All). ○ Reach out to Kelly Barill (kbarill@wechu.org) to request print WEC Connect promotional materials or WECOSS wallet cards to distribute at your organization (All). • EJWG 2025 Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact Joe Rafuse (jrafuse@windsorpolice.ca) if your agency services the Leamington area and would be interested in participating in the consultation for the Leamington safety plan (All). ○ Contact Joe if you have any other recommendations on key stakeholders to engage with through the consultation (All). • Bring forward any additional edits or changes for the Terms of Reference by April 4th, 2025; otherwise, the Terms will be finalized as is (All). 	
9.0	Meeting Wrap-Up (Co-Chairs) Adjournment: 2:26 p.m.	

Next Meetings:

- Monday, June 23rd from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, October 27th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 8th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

