



WECOSS Leadership Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 23, 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), Dr. Mehdi Aloosh (WECHU), Karen Trotter (CSC Providence), Michelle Oake (City of Windsor), Jason Woods (LPS), Judy Lear-Zylstra (HDGH), Patrick Kolowicz (HDGH), Amy Visser (weCHC), Dana Paladino (City of Windsor), Jean LaForge (MHC), Ciara Holmes (FSWE), Ron Sheppard (WFHT), Nicole Sbrocca (CMHA-WECB), Joe Rafuse (WPS), Kelly Barill (WECHU), Alison Malott (Peer Rep.), Karen Waddell (House of Sophrosyne), Kristen Stockford (RE:ACT), Lori Kempe (Children First), Erica Bassakos (WEOHT), Kayla Leckonby (Social Worker), Sonja Grbevski (Brentwood Recovery Home), Jennifer Cline (WEC-Housing Corporation), Michael Brennan (Positive Pathways), Jennifer Vale (Ontario Health)

Regrets: Kim Willis (CMHA-WECB), Amy Lofaso (WECDSB), Dr. Ayodeji Akinlaja (WRH), Michael Akpata (Town of LaSalle), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Sebastien Di Pietro (Di Pietro Drugs), Slav Pulcer (Essex-Windsor EMS), Wita Cross (SOAHAC), Yves Mainville (CSC Providence), Superintendent Paolo DiCarlo (WPS), Kuljeet Kalsi (WRH), Stephen Lynn (City of Windsor).

Recorder: Kelly Barill

Agenda Item		Action Items
1.0	Welcome and Introductions (Co-Chairs) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welcome to all. 	
2.0	Review of Action Items from March 31st, 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share the March 31st meeting presentation with the minutes (WECHU) – Complete. 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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The TRWG Co-Chair position has been filled by Kayla Leckonby, Social Worker. Staff Sergeant Joe Rafuse is transitioning out of the EJWG Co-Chair role and Sergeant David Connor from the WPS will be taking his place. Second Co-Chair roles remain vacant for the EJWG and the HRWG. Please contact Eric and Patrick with interest or to submit nominations. Bring forward any additional edits or changes for the WECOSS Terms of Reference by April 4th, 2025; otherwise, the Terms will be finalized as is (All). 	Contact Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz with interest in or to submit nominations for the vacant EJWG and HRWG Co-Chair roles (All).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No additional change requests were brought forward and therefore, the Terms of Reference were finalized as is and reattached to this meeting invite. <p>Approval of Minutes from March 31st, 2025 (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved. 	
3.0	<p>Meeting Goals (Co-Chairs)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide updates on 2025 Working Group projects. 2. Present the WECOSS Annual Report for 2024. 3. Review consultation plan for the 2025 strategic planning cycle. 4. Discuss new document storage system for the WECOSS. 	
4.0	<p>Standing Items</p> <p>Opioids and Substances Data Review (M. Aloosh)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data presentation reviewed by Dr. Mehdi Aloosh. • Windsor has one of the highest opioid-related death rates per capita in Ontario (2023 & 2024). • 519 ED visits in 2024, more than double from 2019. • 127 opioid-related deaths in 2023, with steady increases over the years. • 175 (2023) & 134 (2024) suspected drug-related deaths. • <i>Eric Nadalin</i> – There is a WECHU Board of Health meeting on Thursday, June 26th. The WECHU is bringing a resolution to the Board to advocate to all levels of government for increased investment in prevention and harm reduction services for people who use substances. • <i>Alison Malott/Karen Waddell</i> – Some people who use substances from Leamington are moving to Windsor for easier access, potentially increasing housing issues. There are not enough bed-based addiction treatment options. • Discussion on the primary substances being used: Alcohol, tobacco/nicotine, opiates, stimulants, cocaine, cannabis: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ https://odprn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Substance-Toxicity-Report-Final.pdf ○ Substance Use and Harms Tool Public Health Ontario • <i>Ron Sheppard</i>: Mentioned the correlation between blue collar industrial type areas like Windsor, Hamilton, and Sudbury. May be something to work with the province/municipalities to address this issue. • Clarification given that majority of deaths by overdose were in private dwellings. <p>Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub Update (K. Waddell/P. Kolowicz)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Karen Waddell</i>: Meeting with Ontario Health bi-weekly. Budget is close to being approved. Ontario Health is starting 	

	<p>a Community of Practice to learn from Ontario West to find out what works.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jennifer Vale</i> – There will also be a Community of Practice across the province (28 hubs) and a collaboration with the 8 hubs in the west region to support each other. • Target launch is September, pending funding. <p>Mental Health and Addictions Sector Table (MHAST) Update (K. Waddell)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Karen Waddell</i> – Met with Tammy Koytk and Eric Nadalin to go through the MHAST workplan. Changes will be sent to the MHAST table first. There are 27 items listed on the work plan. • <i>Key Points</i> – Service mapping of addiction providers is completed. Will support OH’s Home First initiative per operational direction, specifically the role of mental health and addictions providers. Also mentions securing annualized funding for the EIDAR and submitting a joint HART Hub application. • <i>Erica Bassakos</i> – Work plan focuses on system changes, which takes time to complete and measure. More to come. • <i>Karen Waddell</i> – Changing the format of the meetings so that system change will be at the beginning of the agenda. Any ideas or initiatives that are being worked on can be discussed and then the group can decide whether there are other partners that should be included. <p>WECOSS Working Group Updates Harm Reduction (A. Adams)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 project focuses on developing an anti-stigma organizational policy template, workshop opportunities, and social media campaign. • An assessment survey was issued to community partners to understand policy and practice needs across organizations as it relates to anti-stigma (31 participants total). • Anti-stigma policy template and workshop content were drafted based on results. Material is universal so it can be applied and adapted to meet the needs of organizations. • Next steps include reviewing/finalizing the policy template and workshop content with the HRWG (Summer 2025), scheduling/delivering the policy template and workshops to community organizations (Fall 2025), and developing/implementing the anti-stigma social media campaign (Fall 2025). WECHU’s Substance Use Peer Advisory Committee to assist with messaging. 	<p>Reach out to Anastasia Adams if your agency is interested in receiving support with anti-stigma policy development (All).</p> <p>Amplify future anti-stigma campaign messaging on your channels</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Prevention and Education (K. Willis/J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 project focuses on youth and family engagement and outreach for substance use prevention. • Have attended 6 community events to date to educate youth, parents, caregivers, families, and educators about youth substance use prevention. 90% of evaluation participants reported improved awareness of substance use prevention, harm reduction, and treatment services. • Developed workshop presentations for parents/caregivers on “navigating youth substance use” to deliver at future events and to clients of community organizations. • Newsletter with information on a 5-part webinar series through SMHO was issued to local schools. • Social media campaign on youth substance use prevention is running – 6 campaign messages issued to date. • Next steps include delivering in-person workshops for parents/caregivers of community organizations, supporting policy development at local schools, continuously updating the WECHU’s school health web page with substance use prevention information, and continuing with the social media campaign. • Lori Kempe – Mentioned a handbook for parents made by parents on related topics. May be an opportunity to collaborate with the WECOSS to update it and use it as a resource. Lori to share with Jenny for further discussion. <p>Treatment and Recovery (J. Lear-Zylstra/K. Leckonby)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 project focuses on training frontline service providers on opioid agonist therapy (OAT). • Have defined the overarching delivery model for future OAT trainings: Universal training for all frontline service providers working with/supporting people who use opioids. Training will provide baseline information about OAT. In-person and virtual options will be offered. • Confirming a list of TRWG members who will help facilitate future OAT trainings. • Developed a needs assessment survey to assess learning needs of frontline providers as it relates to OAT. Findings will be used to develop training content and confirm training methods. Survey will be issued by end of day on June 23rd. Analysis and reporting will occur over the Summer. • Will also be supporting improved referral pathways to OAT by increasing availability of information and search filters for OAT on WEC Connect. These supports will be reviewed at the upcoming OAT trainings. • Goal is to confirm speakers/facilitators and schedule trainings starting in the Fall. 	<p>(release dates to follow) (All).</p> <p>Contact Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis if your agency serves parents/caregivers of youth and are interested in coordinating a workshop on navigating youth substance use (All).</p> <p>Advise Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis of any upcoming community events that the PEWG can support to share youth substance use prevention information (All).</p> <p>Share parent handbook resource with Jenny Bradt for further discussion (L. Kempe).</p> <p>Encourage frontline providers at your organization and within your network to complete the OAT training needs assessment survey (All).</p> <p>Contact Judy Lear-Zylstra and Kayla Leckonby if you or anyone in your network</p>
--	---	--

	<p>Enforcement and Justice (J. Rafuse/D. Connor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 project focuses on sustaining and expanding the neighbourhood safety planning project initiated by the Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP) team. • Education is being provided to residents on the existing safety plans for Windsor and new safety plans are being developed for Essex-County areas, starting with Leamington. • Have attended 6 community housing events to date to educate residents on the existing neighbourhood safety plans. • Collaborated with the OPP and the City of Windsor to apply for a second Community Safety and Policing Grant (originally funded SSNAPP) to support the development and implementation of the safety plans for Essex County. The application awaits approval. • Have finalized consultation materials for the Leamington safety plan, including a survey and a focus group guide. These will be used to gather input from those who live, work, or spend time in Leamington on the safety plan. Also compiled a list of key stakeholders to engage in the Leamington safety plan consultation. • The goal is to launch the consultation over the Summer and use the findings to develop the Leamington safety plan in the Fall. The group will also continue to attend community housing events to distribute the existing safety plans. <p>Peer Advisory Committee Update (J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WECHU is starting a Substance Use Peer Advisory Committee to help guide future substance use initiatives. • A call for applications was sent out. 26 individuals applied. • Currently going through interviews and onboarding meetings. • Goal is to hold committee meetings every other month, starting in July or August. • <i>Alison Malott:</i> Asked if partner agencies have spaces available to hold these meetings while the WECHU is being renovated. • <i>Jenny Bradt:</i> The first meeting will be held at the WECHU. Will need to explore other locations for meetings beyond that for the foreseeable future. • Brentwood, WEC Housing, and United Way may have space. Jenny to reach out as needed. • The WECHU also setup a process to compensate peers involved in the WECOSS committees. 	<p>specializes in the delivery of OAT and can help to facilitate future OAT trainings (All).</p> <p>Encourage your staff who work in Leamington to participate in the upcoming safety plan consultation (All).</p> <p>Continue to encourage use and distribution of the existing safety plans amongst your staff, clients, and networks (All).</p>
5.0	New Business	

	<p>WECOSS 2024 Annual Report (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexis Erickson reviewed highlights from the 2024 Annual Report with the group. The report was attached to the meeting invite. The presentation with key highlights will be disseminated with the minutes. • Report will be published to WECOSS.ca on the Annual Reports page: https://wecoss.ca/annual-reports. A message will be sent out to the group once the report is out. Everyone will be asked to amplify the WECHU’s social media messages about the report on their organizations’ channels. <p>WECOSS Strategic Planning Consultation (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A presentation on the 2025 strategic planning cycle for the WECOSS was provided, which will be disseminated with the minutes. • The WECHU will be supporting an update to the WECOSS’ action plan this year. It has been four years since the action plan has been updated. • This process will be guided by a consultation with the community, starting over the Summer and concluding in the Fall. • The consultation will involve a public survey, key informant interviews with the WECOSS-LC, focus groups with the four Working Groups, focus groups with peers, and a scan of community drug strategies across Ontario. Together, results will be used to create a new action plan for the WECOSS, with updated goals and actions to achieve over the next several years. • The goal is to review the consultation results with the WECOSS-LC at our next meeting in October. Draft recommendations for the action plan will be reviewed at that time and votes will be taken for key decision-making items. • At the last WECOSS-LC meeting in December, a draft action plan will be reviewed and an implementation plan will be discussed. <p>WECOSS Document Storage (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transitioning away from Sync as the document storage system for the WECOSS. • Created a new storage system on the WECOSS website that is easier to access and maintain. • The portal can be accessed in the bottom navigation tab on the main page of the WECOSS website by clicking on “WECOSS Member Portal”. The password to the portal is “W3coss@018”. • Meeting documents and other committee materials from 2024 and 2025 are currently saved to the portal for 	<p>Disseminate meeting presentation with the minutes (WECHU).</p> <p>Publish the 2024 Annual Report to WECOSS.ca and send the web report and accompanying promotional material to the WECOSS-LC (A. Erickson).</p>
--	---	--

	<p>members to access on an ongoing basis. There are dedicated sections for each WECOSS committee (WECOSS-LC and four Working Groups). All WECOSS members have access to materials from each committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The portal will be updated continually as new materials are developed. <p>In-Person Fall Meeting (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Looking for space to hold the next WECOSS-LC meeting on October 27th in-person. 	<p>Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if your agency has space to host the next WECOSS-LC meeting in-person (All).</p>
6.0	<p>Community Agency Roundtable (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Karen Waddell (House of Sophrosyne [HOS]): Requested a letter of support from the WECOSS and the WECHU to endorse the HOS' capital infrastructure request to the province to expand programs and services at the HOS. Ciara Holmes (Family Services Windsor-Essex [FSWE]): New partnership with the Windsor-Essex Community Health Centre (weCHC). FSWE's Outreach Team is going out into the community twice per week with the weCHC's Addiction Support Workers to support a stronger pathway into treatment and recovery options. Nicole Sbrocca (Canadian Mental Health Association – Windsor-Essex County Branch [CMHA-WECB]): Presented the work of the Windsor-Essex County Suicide Prevention Coalition to the MHA. Requested endorsement of the nature of the coalition and its approach (adoption of the Roots of Hope framework). MHA supported the motion. Those who put their name forward for the sub-committees of the coalition will meet and plan to ensure that our community uses a zero-suicide approach across the life span. Also preparing for Suicide Prevention Month in September. Patrick Kolowicz (Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare [HDGH]): Reforming and developing policies and procedures around naloxone and substance use test kit distribution so all HDGH programs and services have access to naloxone and test kits. 	<p>Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if you object to the WECOSS submitting a letter of support for the House of Sophrosyne's capital infrastructure request to the province; if there are no objections, a letter will be prepared on behalf of the WECOSS and signed by Eric and Patrick (All).</p>
7.0	<p>Summary of Action Items and Next Steps (Co-Chairs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz with interest in or to submit nominations for the vacant EJWG and HRWG Co-Chair roles (All). Harm Reduction Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reach out to Anastasia Adams if your agency is interested in receiving support with anti-stigma policy development (All). Amplify future anti-stigma campaign messaging on your channels (release dates to follow) (All). 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevention and Education Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Contact Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis if your agency serves parents/caregivers of youth and are interested in coordinating a workshop on navigating youth substance use (All). ○ Advise Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis of any upcoming community events that the PEWG can support to share youth substance use prevention information (All). ○ Share parent handbook resource with Jenny Bradt for further discussion (L. Kempe). • Treatment and Recovery Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage frontline providers at your organization and within your network to complete the OAT training needs assessment survey (All). ○ Contact Judy Lear-Zylstra and Kayla Leckonby if you or anyone in your network specializes in the delivery of OAT and can help to facilitate future OAT trainings (All). • Enforcement and Justice Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage your staff who work in Leamington to participate in the upcoming safety plan consultation (All). ○ Continue to encourage use and distribution of the existing safety plans amongst your staff, clients, and networks (All). • Disseminate meeting presentation with the minutes (WECHU). • Publish the 2024 Annual Report to WECOSS.ca and send the web report and accompanying promotional material to the WECOSS-LC (A. Erickson). • Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if your agency has space to host the next WECOSS-LC meeting in-person (All). • Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if you object to the WECOSS submitting a letter of support for the House of Sophrosyne’s capital infrastructure request to the province; if there are no objections, a letter will be prepared on behalf of the WECOSS and signed by Eric and Patrick (All). 	
8.0	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up (Co-Chairs)</p> <p>Adjourned: 2:52 p.m.</p>	

Next Meetings:

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