



WECOSS Leadership Committee

Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 27, 2025 | 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

350 City Hall Square West, Room 204

Chair:

Eric Nadalin - Director of Public Health Programs, WECHU

Present: Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre), Jenny Bradt (WECHU), Alexis Erickson (WECHU), Eric Nadalin (WECHU), Michelle Bloomfield (CSC Providence), Michelle Oake (City of Windsor), Nick Goy (LPS), Dana Paladino (City of Windsor), Jean LaForge (MHC), Ciara Holmes (FSWE), Ron Sheppard (WFHT), Nicole Sbrocca (CMHA-WECB), Kristen Stockford (RE:ACT), Lori Kempe (Children First), Erica Bassakos (WEOHT), Michael Brennan (Positive Pathways), Kim Willis (CMHA-WECB), David Connor (WPS), Slav Pulcer (Essex-Windsor EMS).

Regrets: Alison Malott (Peer Representative – WECOSS), Dr. Mehdi Aloosh (WECHU), Amy Visser (weCHC), Jason Woods (LPS), Amy Lofaso (WECDSB), Dr. Ayodeji Akinlaja (WRH), Michael Akpata (Town of LaSalle), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Sebastien Di Pietro (Di Pietro Drugs), Wita Cross (SOAHAC), Yves Mainville (CSC Providence), Superintendent Paolo DiCarlo (WPS), Kuljeet Kalsi (WRH), Stephen Lynn (City of Windsor), Joe Rafuse (WPS), Kelly Barill (WECHU), Karen Waddell (House of Sophrosyne), Kayla Leckonby (Social Worker), Jennifer Cline (WEC-Housing Corporation), Jennifer Vale (Ontario Health).

Recorder: Kelly Barill

Agenda Items		Action Items
1.0	<p>Welcome and Introductions (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to all. • Thank you to Michelle Oake and Stephen Lynn for their assistance in coordinating this meeting in-person at City Hall Square. • Announcement made that Patrick Kolowicz has moved into a new role at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare and therefore, has stepped down as Chair from the WECOSS Leadership Committee. • Thank you to Patrick for his dedication to the strategy since its inception and for taking the lead as Co-Chair of this committee for many years. • A Co-Chair vacancy is now open for this committee. Members are asked to please reach out if interested in the role or to submit nominations. 	<p>Reach out to Eric Nadalin if interested in or to submit nominations for the vacant Co-Chair position for the WECOSS Leadership Committee (All).</p>
2.0	<p>Approval of Agenda (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda approved. 	

3.0	<p>Review of Action Items from June 23rd, 2025 (Chair):</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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Onboarding of new Working Group Co-Chairs is on-hold until the WECOSS action plan renewal process is complete. • Disseminate meeting presentation with the minutes (WECHU). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete. • Publish the 2024 Annual Report to WECOSS.ca and send the web report and accompanying promotional material to the WECOSS-LC (A. Erickson). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete. • Connect with Eric Nadalin and Patrick Kolowicz if your agency has space to host the next WECOSS-LC meeting in-person (All). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete. Thank you again to our City partners for hosting this meeting. • 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). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete – No objections received and therefore, a letter of support was submitted on the WECOSS’ behalf. <p>*Project-based action items from June 23rd, 2025 will be reviewed during “WECOSS Working Group Updates”.</p> <p>Approval of Minutes from June 23rd, 2025 (Chair):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes approved. 	
4.0	<p>Meeting Goals (Chair)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inform members of new substance use data sources and dissemination plans. 2. Provide updates on current WECOSS projects. 3. Review and discuss preliminary results from the WECOSS Action Plan Consultation. 	
5.0	<p>Standing Items</p> <p>Opioids and Substances Data Review (J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation provided on Drug Analysis Services Data (analysis of drugs seized when charges are laid) for Windsor-Essex County. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public drug seizure data by province and across Canada can be found at the following link: https://health-infobase.canada.ca/drug-analysis-service/analyzed-drug-report.html. Overview of updated monthly information bulletin template provided, with new local data sources included. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on how community partners can report drug trends and issues observed to the WECHU. Community partner alert submission form on WECOSS.ca can continue to be used by partners to share what is being seen in the community: Community Submission for WECOSS Alerts Discussion on expanding local data to include alcohol and cocaine, as they were not a part of the historical data efforts performed by WECOSS. Discussion on integrating this data into resources and conversations started with clients. Noted potential fluctuations and changes in data based on external factors, like summer vacation. Group requested operational definitions of the types of substance use-related emergency department visits reported on the information bulletin (e.g., overdose versus non-overdose). <p>Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment (HART) Hub Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soft launch is set for end of September. 10 full beds, waiting for an additional 6 beds to be delivered. MOUs have been executed with partners. <p>Mental Health and Addictions Sector Table (MHASt) Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Established Working Group structure. Created a warm handoff standard operating procedure – referrals are happening, with partners getting the information they need. Use of Ocean e-referral will be an option for partners who submit an expression of interest. Mental health and substance use service integration to start with primary care and youth to follow. Data Working Group is working on understanding service need and service use, as well as referral and wait time data. <p>WECOSS Working Group Updates</p> <p>a. Harm Reduction (A. Adams)</p>	<p>Provide operational definitions for the types of substance use-related emergency department visits reported on the new monthly information bulletins (WECHU).</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project update provided on <i>“Building Community for Harm Reduction – Anti-Stigma Programming”</i>. ○ The anti-stigma policy template for community organizations has been developed using results from the assessment survey issued to partners earlier this year. ○ The policy template will be formally released to community organizations in November, along with two e-learning modules for policy leads at organizations and their staff. ○ An in-person policy implementation workshop will also be offered on Wednesday, November 26th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. This will be co-facilitated by the WECHU and the Welcome Centre Shelter and targeted to policy leads at organizations. Anti-stigma education, an overview of the policy template, and guidance on policy implementation will be provided. Peer speakers will also be present to share their insight on stigma and its impact. ○ The anti-stigma social media campaign has also been launched on the WECHU’s channels and will run until December 16th, 2025. <p>b. Prevention and Education (K. Willis/J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project update provided on <i>“Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach for Substance Use Prevention”</i>. ○ Delivered seven (7) workshops on youth substance use prevention topics from January to October 2025. 88.2% (75/85) reported improved understanding of workshop topics. ○ Attended eleven (11) community events to distribute youth substance use prevention information from January to October 2025. 100% (64/64) reported improved awareness of the topics presented. ○ Created updated policy recommendations for schools and school boards on addressing tobacco, vaping, and nicotine use at school. ○ Developing an e-learning module that can be completed by youth caught smoking/vaping at school as an alternative to punitive measures (progressive enforcement approach). ○ Group Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed that data on youth substance use is limited to what youth are being asked in schools. ○ Maryvale is tracking some youth data, including cannabis use and overdose. <p>Potential to add personnel to this committee.</p>	<p>Participate in the in-person anti-stigma policy implementation workshop or encourage other policy leads from your organization to participate (All).</p> <p>Consider implementing or adapting the anti-stigma policy for use at your agency (All).</p> <p>Amplify the WECHU’s social media messaging about the anti-stigma campaign on your organization’s social media accounts (All).</p> <p>Connect with Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis if interested in coordinating a youth/family substance use prevention workshop with clients or staff at your organization (All).</p> <p>Connect with Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis if your agency is organizing any upcoming events for youth/families that</p>
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<p>a. Treatment and Recovery (A. Erickson/J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project update provided on “<i>Expanding Access of Opioid Agonist Therapy</i>”. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Issued a needs assessment survey to community partners to understand knowledge gaps and learning needs of frontline providers as it relates to OAT. ○ OAT training materials and resources are currently being developed for frontline providers and their clients/patients based on the needs assessment results. ○ OAT training webinar for frontline providers is currently scheduled for Friday, November 28th. The session will be recorded for those who cannot attend the live session. ○ To supplement the training, a list of OAT services is also being integrated onto WEC Connect to support service navigation and access. ○ WEC Connect Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have been 8 new organizations added to the inventory since its launch in October 2024. ○ The most recent update to the listings was completed from April – June 2025. ○ Total active listings is now 116 services. ○ Next update is scheduled to occur from November – December 2025. ○ WEC Connect trainings and live demonstrations of the inventory have been provided to 110+ community members, service providers, and health care professionals, across 12 outreach events and 24 drop-ins to various community locations. ○ 98.2% had a better understanding of where and how to access substance use treatment and prevention services following these sessions. ○ An upcoming media campaign will be launched to continue to raise awareness of WEC Connect, which will include social media posts, radio and bus ads, and engagement with community partners. <p>b. Enforcement and Justice (D. Connor)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project update provided on “<i>Strengthening Community Safety and Well-Being</i>”. ○ Attended 19 community events to educate residents about the existing neighbourhood safety plans developed for the City of Windsor from January to 	<p>the PEWG can support (All).</p> <p>Encourage frontline providers at your community organization to attend the upcoming OAT webinar (All).</p>
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	<p>October 2025. 1,690 safety plans were distributed at events. 98.6% (287/291) of community members indicated that they felt more confident supporting community safety after reviewing the plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Applied for and obtained a second Community Safety and Policing (CSP) Grant (<i>first CSP grant funded SSNAPP</i>) in partnership with the OPP and the Windsor-Essex Community Safety and Well-Being Plan. The second grant will support 1) expansion of the neighbourhood safety plans to Leamington and Essex and 2) mental health and substance use training workshops for first responders and service providers in Essex-County. ○ A community consultation for the Leamington and Essex safety plans has been launched to gather input from those who live, work, or frequent these areas on strategies needed to strengthen community safety. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A public survey has been released and will remain open for participation until October 31st. As of October 27th, 94 responses have been received. ○ Focus groups (4) are also being held with community organizations who service the Leamington and Essex areas. ○ Results from the consultation will be used to inform the development of the safety plans. ○ Six (6) workshops will also be held over late 2025/early 2026. <p>Peer Advisory Committee Update (J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two meetings with the Peer Advisory Committee held to date. ○ First meeting focused on orienting members and getting their feedback on the WECOSS' anti-stigma social media campaign. Adjustments were made to the campaign messages before the launch, based on the feedback received. ○ Second meeting focused on gathering the group's feedback for the WECOSS action plan consultation. Great turnout and feedback received. ○ Looking forward to the next meeting, which will be held before end of year. 	<p>If your organization serves the Leamington and/or Essex areas and you haven't had a chance to participate in the safety plan consultation, we welcome you to participate in the public survey (All).</p> <p>Encourage your staff and clients in Leamington and/or Essex to complete the public safety plan consultation survey (All).</p>
6.0	<p>New Business</p> <p>WECOSS Action Plan Consultation (Preliminary Results & Discussion) (J. Bradt)</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation provided with overview of preliminary results from the WECOSS’ action plan consultation. Thank you again to all members who took the time to participate and provide their input. • Based on preliminary results, four key priority areas were identified for the WECOSS: Harm Reduction, Prevention and Education, Data and Accountability, and Advocacy and Policy. • Discussion on treatment and recovery not being listed as one of the four priorities – still see this being something the WECOSS can support in terms of capacity-building, data-sharing, policy, and advocacy (which fits into the other core priorities identified). • Could not complete planned Mentimeter exercises to continue group discussion due to time limitations at the end of the meeting. Group discussion questions will be sent to members for input in a different format following the meeting. Members will be asked to share their level of agreeance with the four key priority areas identified through the consultation and any other thoughts on items that may have been missed in the preliminary results or require deeper exploration. <p>WECOSS-LC Co-Chair Vacancy (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to reach out to Eric Nadalin if interested in or to submit nominations for the vacant Co-Chair position. 	<p>Share survey with WECOSS-LC members following the meeting to gather input on the action plan consultation results (WECHU).</p>
7.0	<p>Summary of Action Items and Next Steps (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reach out to Eric Nadalin if interested in or to submit nominations for the vacant Co-Chair position for the WECOSS Leadership Committee (All). • Provide operational definitions for the types of substance use-related emergency department visits reported on the new monthly information bulletins (WECHU). • Harm Reduction Working Group Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Participate in the in-person anti-stigma policy implementation workshop or encourage other policy leads from your organization to participate (All). ○ Consider implementing or adapting the anti-stigma policy for use at your agency (All). ○ Amplify the WECHU’s social media messaging about the anti-stigma campaign on your organization’s social media accounts (All). • Prevention and Education Working Group Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect with Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis if interested in coordinating a youth/family 	

	<p>substance use prevention workshop with clients or staff at your organization (All).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Connect with Jenny Bradt and Kim Willis if your agency is organizing any upcoming events for youth/families that the PEWG can support (All). ● Treatment and Recovery Working Group Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Encourage frontline providers at your community organization to attend the upcoming OAT webinar (All). ● Enforcement and Justice Working Group Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If your organization serves the Leamington and/or Essex areas and you haven't had a chance to participate in the safety plan consultation, we welcome you to participate in the public survey (All). ○ Encourage your staff and clients in Leamington and/or Essex to complete the public safety plan consultation survey (All). ● Share survey with WECOSS-LC members following the meeting to gather input on the action plan consultation results (WECHU). 	
8.0	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up (Chair)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. 	

Next Meetings:

Monday, December 8th from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. via Microsoft Teams