



WINDSOR-ESSEX
COMMUNITY
**OPIOID &
SUBSTANCE**
STRATEGY

WECOSS Prevention and Education Working Group Meeting

**Thursday, September 11th from
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

Background

- ❖ For the past four years, the WECOSS has been guided by an action plan from 2021 (2021 Modernization Report).
- ❖ From 2021-2025, the partnership has implemented numerous strategies to address each of the Modernization recommendations and action areas, which have been summarized and shared with the community yearly through our Annual Reports.
- ❖ Now, in 2025, the WECOSS is ready to reposition itself to identify new priorities and areas of focus for the years ahead.
- ❖ A new action plan is being created for the WECOSS, which will include fresh goals and actions for the partnership to achieve over the years to come.
- ❖ The new plan will be informed by a comprehensive community consultation conducted with WECOSS partners and other key stakeholders.

WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

Purpose:

Gather input from the community that will inform the development of a renewed, community-informed action plan for the WECOSS.

Goals:

Identify the most pressing issues and concerns impacting the WEC community as it relates to various forms of substance use.

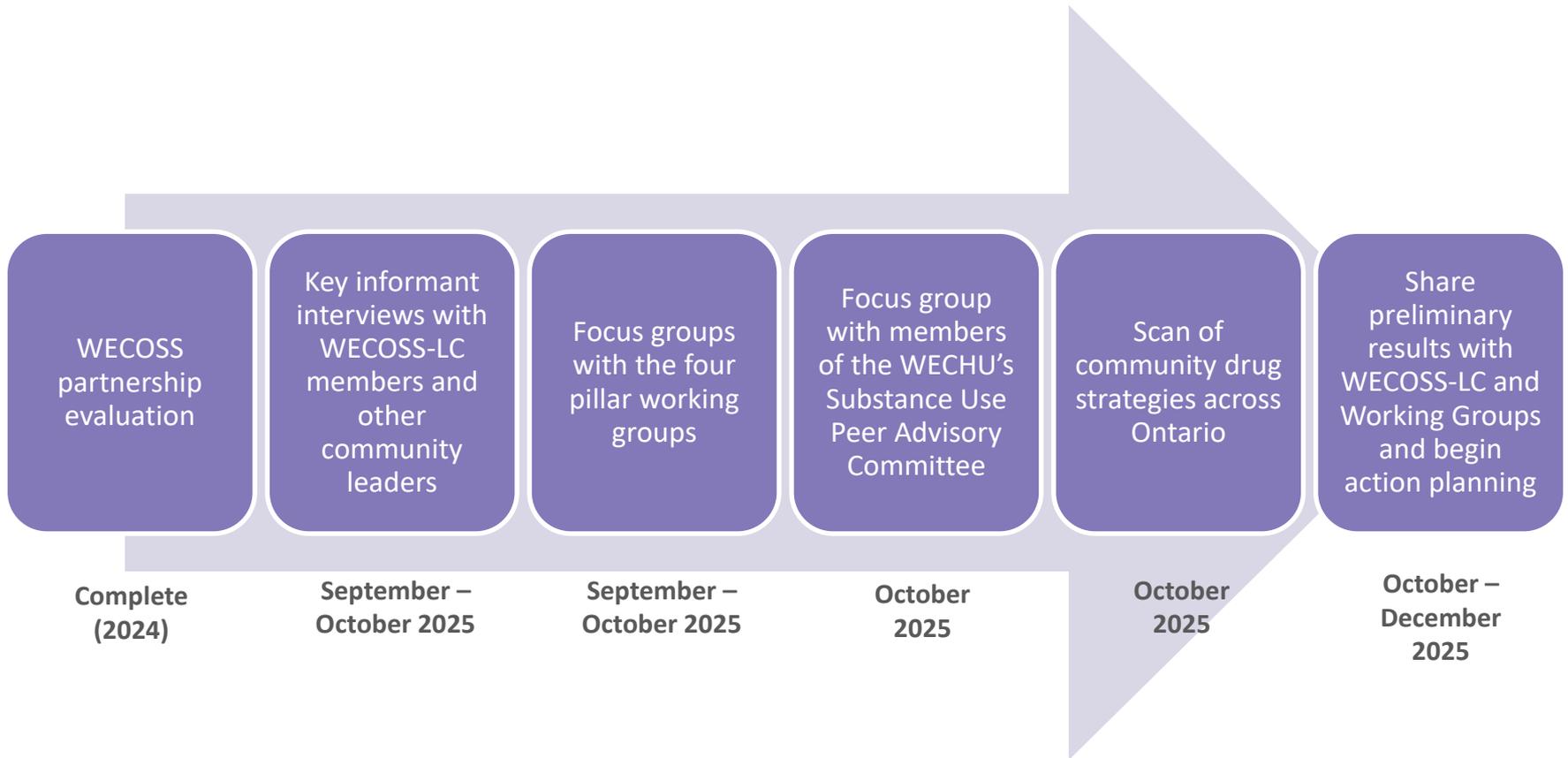
Confirm existing strengths, capacities, and resources currently available to address these concerns at the community level.

Solidify community needs, gaps, and priorities for the WECOSS to address in its future work with community partners.

Define the WECOSS' role in the community by identifying strategies to improve coordination and reduce duplication between the WECOSS and other emerging community initiatives.

Use results from the consultation to generate recommendations guiding the strategic direction for the WECOSS in 2026 and beyond.

Key Activities & Timelines



Prevention and Education Working Group

Focus Group

- ❖ During today's meeting, a focus group will be held with PEWG members as part of the action plan consultation.
- ❖ The focus group will allow us to explore the future direction and potential areas of focus for this specific pillar over the years to come.
- ❖ Your feedback is important to us and will help to shape the goals, actions, and recommendations proposed within the new action plan.

WECOSS PEWG 2025 Project Update

Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach for Substance Use Prevention

WECOSS PEWG 2025 Project

Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach for Substance Use Prevention

Project Purpose:

To educate and build community capacity for substance use prevention among youth and families.

Key Activities and Outputs:



Explore opportunities to implement the Icelandic Prevention Model (*Planet Youth*) locally.



Host in-person and virtual education sessions on substance use prevention for parents, caregivers, and families.



Collaborate with school boards to provide resources and lesson plans to support schools.



Launch a mass communication campaign on supporting the family environment for youth substance use prevention.



Participate as guest speakers at community events.



WECOSS PEWG 2025 Project

Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach for Substance Use Prevention

Status Updates and Next Steps

Icelandic Prevention Model (Planet Youth)

- Youth Mental Health Grant application for Planet Youth implementation awaits approval
- Agencies involved are reconvening to discuss next steps

Family and Youth Substance Use Prevention Workshops

- 4 workshops held since last meeting:
 - CSC Providence – Vaping Information for Parents of Youth
 - Unemployed Help Centre – Family and Youth Substance Use Prevention Workshop for Newcomers
 - GECDSD (Public School) – Nicotine Dependency and Talking to Kids about Substances
 - St. Clair College Student Resident Advisors – Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction
- 88% of evaluation respondents (44/50) reported improved awareness or understanding of these topics
- 1 workshop upcoming with parents and families at the Welcome Centre Shelter

WECOSS PEWG 2025 Project

Youth and Family Engagement and Outreach for Substance Use Prevention

Status Updates and Next Steps

Youth Substance Use Prevention Education at Community Events

- 7 community events attended since last meeting:
 - Viamonde Health Fair
 - Amherstburg Health Fair
 - CHC Youth Wellness Event (Crowley Park)
 - CHC Youth Wellness Event (Pykes Park)
 - Windsor-Essex Pride Fest
 - Neighbourhood Celebration: School Readiness Event (Windsor)
 - Neighbourhood Celebration: School Readiness Event (Leamington)
- 100% of those who received education and participated in the evaluation (31/31) felt more aware of how to talk to or support their youth with substance use

School Board Support for Youth Substance Use Prevention

- 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
 - Provides smoking/vaping education for youth
 - Supports a progressive enforcement approach