



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

## **WECOSS Prevention and Education Working Group Meeting**

**Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> from  
1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

# WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation Results

# Background

- ❖ In the Summer of 2024, a **partnership evaluation survey** was distributed to each of the four WECOSS Working Groups.
- ❖ The purpose of the survey was to gather input from Working Group members on the **effectiveness of the WECOSS partnership** and to identify **opportunities to improve** the strategy moving forward.
- ❖ The survey was **adapted from previous evaluations** conducted with the WECOSS, the last survey occurring with the Working Groups in **2019**.
- ❖ The survey examined three dimensions of the WECOSS Working Group partnership – **Process & Structure, Group Functioning, and Membership Participation**.

# Partnership Evaluation

## *Method, Scoring, and Analysis*

### Method

- The survey examined member agreement with 20 items related to the three dimensions of the WECOSS partnership.
- Open-ended questions were also included to capture additional comments.

### Scoring

- Levels of agreement with the 20 items were assessed using Likert-scaled response options ranging from “Strongly Agree” to “Strongly Disagree”.
- For scoring, responses were converted to a Likert-scaled scoring system ranging from 1-5, with 1 equaling “Strongly Disagree” and 5 equaling “Strongly Agree”.

### Analysis

- Using the numeric scoring system, average scores for each dimension were computed.
- Average scores at 3.5 or above were considered satisfactory and those below 3.5 were considered areas for improvement.
- Open-ended responses were also summarized for discussion.

# Partnership Evaluation

## Results

### 2024 WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation Results

*Total Responses = 11\**

Partnership Dimension	Average Score
Process and Structure	3.79
Group Functioning	3.63
Membership Participation	3.62

**\*Incomplete responses were excluded from the analysis.**

# Partnership Evaluation

## Results

### Partnership Dimension: *Process & Structure*

Assessment Item	Average Score
The working group has a clearly defined goal or purpose.	4
The WECOSS is adding value (rather than duplicating services) for my clients, the community, or the agencies involved.	3.82
The actions of the working group are effectively addressing community needs.	3.7
The roles, responsibilities, and expectations of the working group members are clearly defined and understood.	3.36
The structure of the partnership (i.e., Leadership committee and pillar-based working groups) is effective for accomplishing the work of the WECOSS.	3.82
I am comfortable with the level of responsibility of the backbone agency (WECHU).	4.09
The group has the right stakeholder representation (the right organizations involved and/or the right makeup of people).	3.73

# Partnership Evaluation

## Results

### Partnership Dimension: *Group Functioning*

Assessment Item	Average Score
The communication from the backbone agency is timely, efficient, and the methods of communication are effective.	4.18
All members have the opportunity to contribute to goal and action planning.	3.91
All members actively participate in the working group's projects and activities.	2.91
The group's tasks and responsibilities are assigned and distributed fairly to members.	3.27
The group's leaders (Co-Chairs, Coordinators) effectively support members in completing tasks and activities.	3.91
The group monitors and evaluates progress toward goal attainment effectively.	3.64
Conflicts between members and/or their respective organizations are addressed effectively.	3.63

# Partnership Evaluation

## Results

### Partnership Dimension: *Membership Participation*

Assessment Item	Average Score
I am satisfied with my current role in the WECOSS.	3.5
I am comfortable with my level of participation in the working group.	3.78
The working group meetings are a productive use of my time.	3.4
I feel that I am part of the decision-making process of the WECOSS.	3.22
I am satisfied with the current plans that the working group has in place for achieving its goals.	3.7
My participation in the WECOSS means that I can have a greater impact than I could on my own.	4.1

# Partnership Evaluation

## Results

### Open-Ended Questions

#### Recommendations to Improve Process & Structure

- Build additional capacity
- Review mandate and expectations for new members
- Incorporate more task-focused work
- Encourage leaders to verbalize value of the strategy and promote and support involvement

#### Membership Recommendations (PEWG Relevance)

- Increase representation from priority groups and people with lived experience
- Bridge gaps as it relates to serving youth and transitional-aged youth
- Continue to build relationships with other community groups
- Support linkages to post-secondary institutions and research
- Continue to focus on multi-sectoral partnerships

#### Benefits to Participating in the WECOSS

- Connection, coordination, and collaboration across multiple sectors
- Working together to achieve common goals and to demonstrate responsiveness as a system
- Knowledge and information-sharing
- Involvement in changing attitudes, values, and perceptions about substance use and mental health

# Discussion

**The following items scored as areas for improvement:**



**What actions are needed or can help improve these aspects of the partnership?**

**Are there other areas missing from this list that require further attention?**

# **WECOSS Prevention and Education Working Group 2025 Project Proposal**

***Community Engagement for Substance Use  
Prevention and Health Promotion***

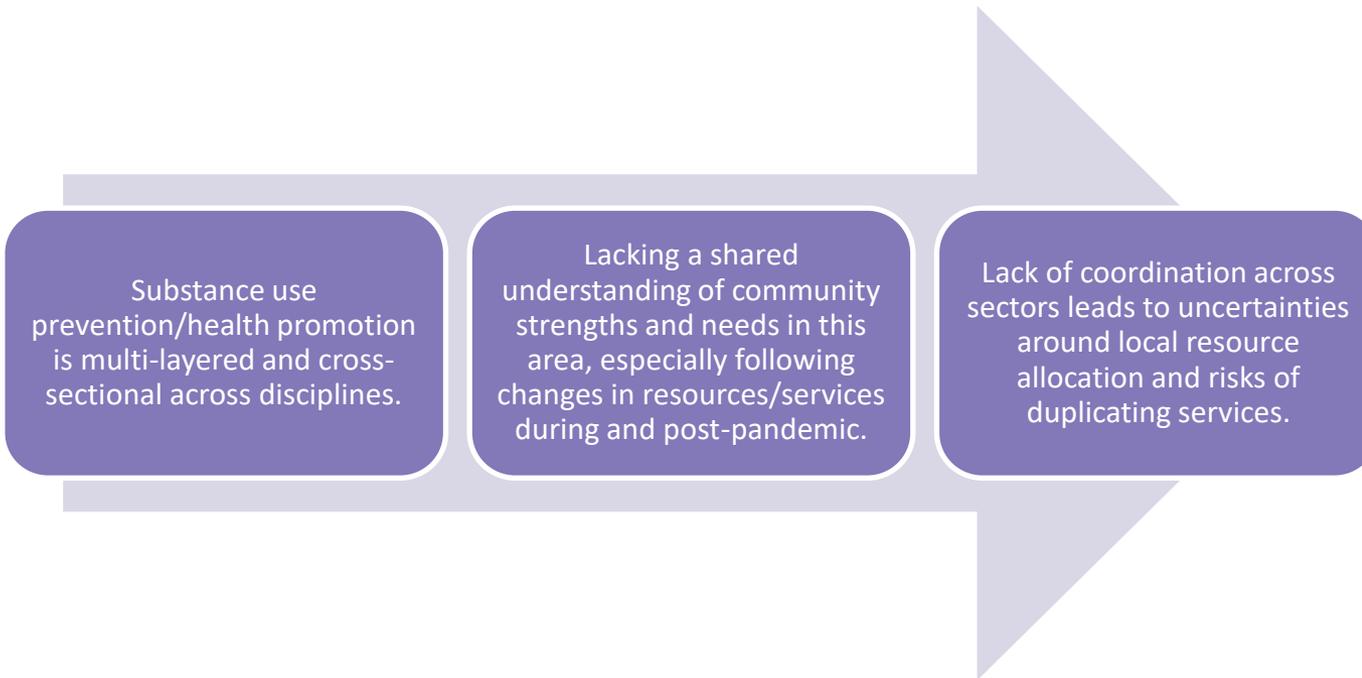
# Background

- ❖ The Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy identifies substance use prevention as key to reversing current trends in substance use harms across the nation.
- ❖ Substance use prevention involves the use of strategies that aim to prevent or delay the onset of substance use by addressing related risk factors and increasing known protective factors.
- ❖ Health promotion complements this work by aiming to strengthen the health and well-being of communities, addressing the root causes of substance use across the life span, and reducing socio-economic inequities related to substance use.
- ❖ When combined, comprehensive strategies using both prevention and health promotion approaches have emerged as a promising practice to prevent and reduce substance use-related harms.

[CDSS, 2024](#); [CCSA, 2013](#)

# Background

Local and provincial data demonstrates that the Windsor-Essex County area continues to be disproportionately impacted by substance use-related harms. The need for comprehensive prevention/promotion strategies is more evident now than ever before, yet local priorities for this work remain unclear:



*WECHU, 2024*

# Project Purpose and Goals

## Purpose:

Engage the community around a comprehensive substance use prevention/health promotion strategy for Windsor-Essex County (WEC).

## Goals:



# Why a Comprehensive Strategy Steered by Community Engagement?

Assessing community strengths and needs is the first step to planning effective prevention/promotion interventions (CCSA, 2013).

Inter-disciplinary planning approach recognizes the multi-faceted nature of substance use as a complex health problem and mobilizes allied professionals to work together to appropriately respond (CCSA, 2013).

Allows for community-informed decision-making on where resources are most needed and stakeholders who are best-positioned to support.

Creates opportunities to coordinate existing work across sectors to reduce duplication and improve flow of services.

Facilitates improved understanding of and tailoring of strategies to address the root causes of substance use.

Provides a platform to execute long-term, large-scale strategies with comprehensive evaluation processes in place, improving ability to assess and demonstrate impact over time.

# Strategic Alignment

## Modernization Priority #5

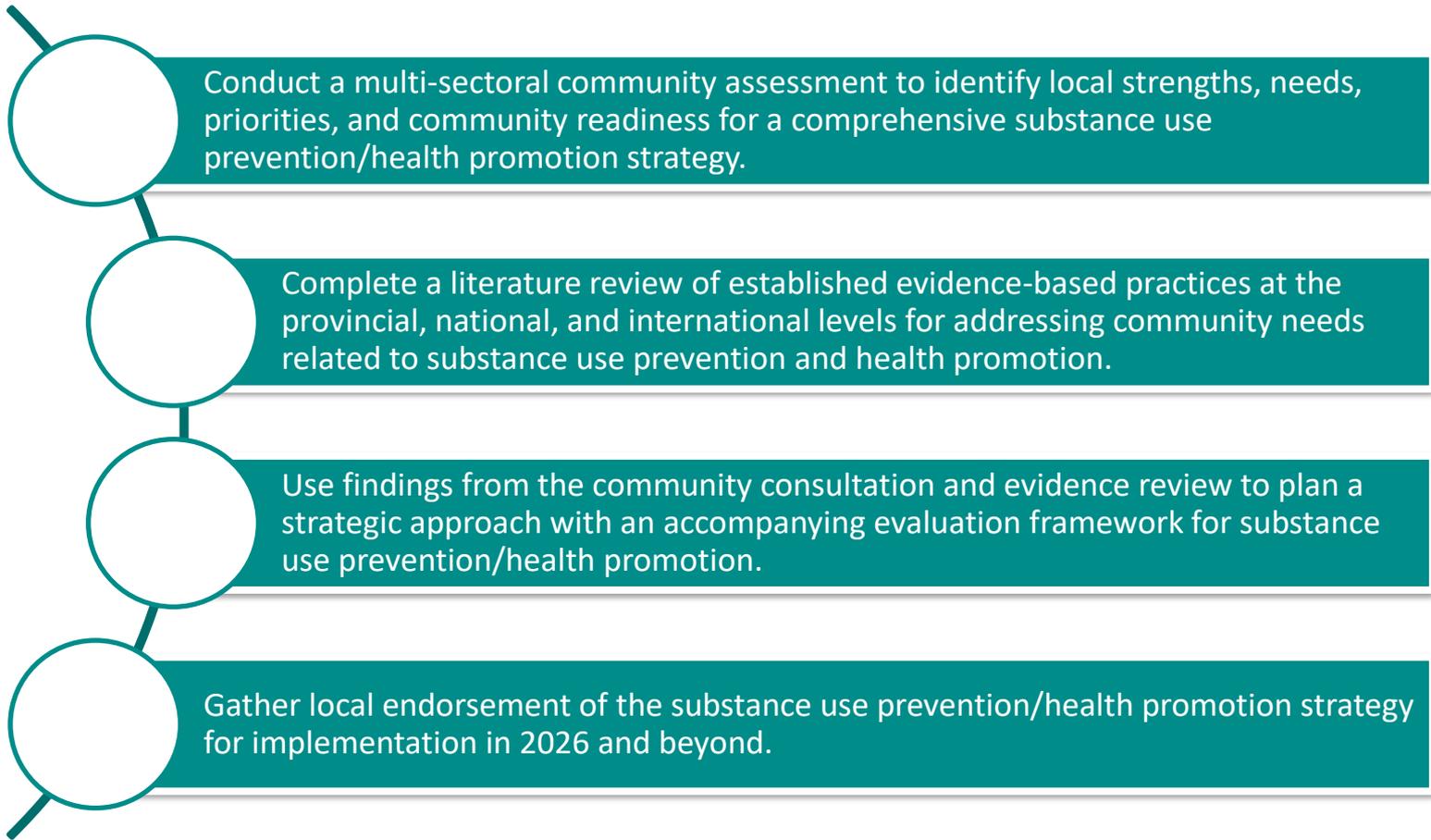
- Address the social determinants of health that impact substance use and community well-being

# Target Populations

## **Primary Target Audience**

- Community service agencies and allied professionals who work or have a vested interest in substance use prevention and health promotion across the life span.

# Project Activities



# Discussion

1. Is the 2025 project proposal reflective of community needs/capacities? Are the appropriate project activities proposed to address these needs?
2. What is the PEWG's perception of current community readiness for a multi-year, multi-sectoral substance use prevention/health promotion strategy?
3. Are there other project activities that the PEWG should consider to meet the Working Group's goals and objectives in 2025?
4. What kinds of stakeholders might we engage in this work? What resources might be needed?

# References

*Canadian Centre for Substance Use and Addiction (CCSA). (2013). Substance Use Prevention and Health Promotion. The Essentials of...Series. Retrieved from <https://www.ccsa.ca/substance-use-prevention-and-health-promotion-essentials-series>.*

*Canadian Drugs and Substances Strategy (CDSS). (2024). Prevention and Education. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/canadian-drugs-substances-strategy/prevention-education.html>.*

*Windsor-Essex County Health Unit (WECHU). Substance Use Data Dashboard. Accessed November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Retrieved from <https://www.wechu.org/reports/substance-use-0>.*