



WECOSS Prevention & Education Working Group

Minutes

Thursday, November 7, 2024

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Present: Jennifer Bradt (WECHU), Alexis Erickson (WECHU), Ashley Kirby (WECHU), Amy Lofaso (WECD SB), Stacey Shepley (MHART), Karen Trotter (CSC Providence).

Regrets: John Antoniw (MHART), Margo Cameron (CMHA), Tammy Drazilov (HDGH), Kelly Farrugia (WECHU), Allyson Hallahan (VON), Rob Hallett (WPS), Melissa Little (MHART), Sean Patterson (WPS), Amanda Ryall (WECHU), Amy Visser (WECHC), Kim Willis (CMHA).

Co-Chairs: Jennifer Bradt

Recorder: Theresa Sarkis

		<i>Action Required</i>
1.0	Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. 	
2.0	Meeting Goals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss progress and next steps of ongoing projects. Present WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation results. Review 2025 project proposal. 	
3.0	Approval of Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda approved. 	
4.0	Review of Action Items from September 19th, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess opportunities to incorporate substance use-related statistics in the December 2024 Healthy Schools newsletter around partying safer during the holidays. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Schools Team will look at opportunities to incorporate statistics into the next newsletter. Share WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation results – To be discussed at this meeting. Share link to “I Found a Needle” poster on WECOSS.ca: https://www.wecoss.ca/resources (available under “Steps to Safe Needle Disposal” drop-down in the “Safe Needle Disposal” section). Draft a 2025 project proposal for review at the next meeting – To be reviewed and discussed at this meeting. Approval of Minutes from September 19th, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved. 	
5.0	Project Updates Continuous Communication (A. Erickson)	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several WECOSS and substance use-related messages issued on WECHU accounts in September. Messaging taken from WECOSS communications toolkit and social media calendar. • Evaluation report for 2024 is being generated and will be shared with the group once complete. <p>Medicine Cabinet Clean-Out (MCCO) (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MCCO event scheduled for today (November 7th) at Devonshire Mall. Purposefully scheduled to coincide with Crime Prevention Week. WECHU and WPS at event to collect unused/expired medicine and give out resources. • More information to follow regarding weight of collected medicine. <p>Break the Vape (A. Kirby)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report being finalized and waiting for approval before sharing with group. • Looking at how this can run again within community needs to launch in 2025. • Healthy Schools Team launched a policy template to address students vaping on school property. Schools can reach out to the School Nurse on the Healthy Schools Team with any questions or for more information on implementing this policy. 	<p>A. Kirby to share student vaping policy with A. Lofaso.</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>WECOSS Working Group Partnership Evaluation Results (A. Erickson/J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background on partnership evaluation provided – survey distributed to the Working Groups in the Summer of 2024 to gather input from members on the effectiveness of Working Group partnerships and opportunities to improve the strategy moving forward. • Survey examined three dimensions of the Working Groups – process and structure, group functioning, and membership participation. • Evaluation results were shared – 11 complete responses across the four Working Groups. • Most assessment items related to the partnerships scored as satisfactory, per the scoring method used for the analysis. • Items that scored below satisfactory and were coined as areas for improvement were role clarity, active participation, fair 	

	<p>assignment of work, productivity of meetings, and decision-making.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking for input from the group on actions that can be taken to improve these aspects of the partnership or other aspects. • Any other input can be shared by completing the online survey or contacting the Co-Chairs. <p>2025 Project Proposal (A. Erickson/J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WECHU internal restructuring to occur in early 2025, resulting in some changes to department structure and staffing. Updates will be shared with the Working Group as restructuring occurs. • 2025 project proposal, Community Engagement for Substance Use Prevention and Health Promotion, presented and discussed. • Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A. Kirby – Glad to see a more coordinated approach to work. Healthy Schools is currently working with other WECHU departments to recruit 2SLGBTQIA+ youth to participate in a priority population advisory committee for public health. May be able to consult with this group as community engagement project is completed. ○ J. Bradt/A. Erickson – Icelandic Prevention Model, “Planet Youth”, might be something that we explore as a substance use prevention model for our area. It is a well-researched model with demonstrated success across many countries. Health Canada funded a few projects earlier this year that focus on implementing and adapting this model within the Canadian context: https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/canadian-drugs-substances-strategy/youth-substance-use-prevention-program.html 	<p>Share any other feedback on the WECOSS Working Group partnership by completing the online survey or contacting the Co-Chairs.</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Community Agency Roundtable (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A. Lofaso – WECDB had police education community liaison meeting. Discussed AI, vaping and awareness of regulations, and available supports. Schools have seen a large resurgence. • S. Shepley – EMS has naloxone kits in all ambulances. Suboxone is now being provided as well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In a meeting with 311 services, learned that public can call into 311 to inquire about family members that are unhoused. 	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>WECOSS Pillar Updates (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm Reduction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing with community overdose prevention trainings. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next workshop scheduled for November 19th, targeted to the construction industry. - May have an opportunity to support upcoming health events in Glengarry – more to come on this. • Treatment and Recovery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WEC Connect inventory has launched and is on WECOSS website, providing a list of available mental health, substance use, and behavioural addiction services. Inventory includes both publicly and privately funded services, making it distinct from other available inventories. - Inventory launched at 2-1-1 training event in October. Partnering with 2-1-1 and the WE-OHT for data-sharing and ongoing sustainability. - Within the first few days of launch, the inventory had over 5,000 web visits. - Promotional efforts for the inventory continue in collaboration with partners. WECHU has posters and wallet cards with information about the inventory available to distribute. • Enforcement and Justice: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continuing with substance use and corrections workshops. Upcoming workshop scheduled for November 21st with School of Social Work students. - Last workshop occurred in September with Police Foundations students at St. Clair College – well-attended workshop with lots of engagement. May be opportunities to partner with the college again in the future. 	<p>If anyone is interested in wallet cards or posters for WEC Connect, please connect with J. Bradt.</p>
<p>9.0</p>	<p>Next Steps and Action Items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share any other feedback on the WECOSS Working Group partnership by completing the online survey or contacting the Co-Chairs (All). • Forward any additional input on the 2025 project proposal to the Co-Chairs (All). • Contact J. Bradt if interested in WEC Connect wallet cards or posters (All). 	
<p>10.0</p>	<p>Meeting Wrap up & Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m. 	
<p>11.0</p>	<p>2025 Meeting Schedule:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TBD in early 2025. 	