



WECOSS Treatment and Recovery Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 22, 2025 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

Present: Kayla Leckonby (Chair – Social Worker), Jennifer Bradt (WECHU), Dominique Chauvin (WECHU), Milan Durocher (WECHU), Kamillo Lamosa (ESCC), Ron Sheppard (WFHT), Alexis Erickson (WECHU), Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre Shelter), Milvia Mendoza-Ramesar (Salvation Army), Emily McKenna (Welcome Centre Shelter), Jennifer Bastien (Brentwood Recovery Home), Kim Larocque (Paws in Recovery), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Erica Bassakos (WEOHT), Diane Quadros (CMHA-WECB), Amy Visser (weCHC), Kelly Barill (WECHU – Recorder).

Regrets: Patrick Kolowicz (HDGH), Kristi Benjamin (Peer Rep.), Melissa Major (HDGH – MHART), Jacob Riches (Student – Schulich), Ashley Shepley (DWCC), Chris Thibert (Downtown Mission), Kelsey Vasovski (AEGIS – RAAM), Holly Busi (HCCO), Kristen Stockford (DWCC/RE:ACT), Jennifer Cline (WEC Housing Corporation), Holly Kettle (ESH), Michella Mollicone (EMS), Brad Williams (Hand in Hand), Robert Sandwith (Leamington Centre of Hope), Carrie Hoogsteen (ESHC), EMS MHART VPN.

Chair: Kayla Leckonby

Agenda Item & Minutes	Action Items
1.0 Welcome and Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to all. • Judy Lear Zylstra has stepped down as Co-Chair for this Working Group. • Kayla Leckonby, Social Worker, has graciously stepped in to fill the position as Chair. Thank you, Kayla! 	
2.0 Approval of the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved. 	
3.0 Review of Action Items from May 26th, 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate meeting presentation with the minutes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete. • Add the OAT Training Needs Assessment Survey to the online survey platform and issue it to partners for completion. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete. • Reconvene with the TRWG once the needs assessment findings are available to share. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Needs assessment findings are ready to share and will be discussed later in the agenda. <p>Approval of Minutes from May 26th, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved. 	

4.0	<p>Meeting Goals</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide status updates on the 2025 TRWG project. 2. Facilitate a focus group for the WECOSS Action Plan Consultation. 	
5.0	<p>2025 Project – Expanding Access to Opioid Agonist Therapies (OAT) (M. Durocher)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milan Durocher reviewed the OAT Training Needs Assessment Results Presentation, which will be included with the minutes. <p>Group Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ron Sheppard / Milan Durocher: Discussion on whether methadone and suboxone were listed in the survey as examples of OAT. The survey did clarify examples like methadone and suboxone. It will be good to define examples in the future OAT training. • Emily McKenna: Survey results are not surprising, as OAT is a confusing topic. The differences between different kinds of OAT can be confusing and cause fear. It can be helpful for clients to understand how beneficial OAT can be as a treatment option. • Jenny Bradt: We have a good sense of what service providers are needing in terms of training. Getting back to the basics with training. • Kim Larocque: The webinar could be recorded and given to management so they can get the training to their staff. We could also look at live training sessions. • Ron Sheppard: We should have information on different referral methods for clients in our community. • Kayla Leckonby: It is worth having a pros and cons list and success stories from family/friends who have seen the benefits of OAT. Their stories can help others understand what OATs are and how they work. • Jenny Bradt/Alexis Erickson: Need support with identifying experts/specialists in OAT who can support with facilitating OAT training. Alexis has a list of suggested providers from previous meetings that we can connect with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Withdrawal Management Program at HDGH – Was an option proposed by Judy Lear-Zylstra. Can follow-up with HDGH to confirm if this is still a possibility. • Patrick Kolowicz from HDGH previously gave some suggestions of physicians/OAT prescribers who may be able to assist. • RAAM clinic providers may be an option as well. • WFHT previously mentioned that they have a 	<p>Connect with Jennifer Bradt, Alexis Erickson, and Milan Durocher if you or someone in your network may be able to assist with the facilitation of the future OAT webinar (All).</p>

	<p>specialist that may be able to support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erica Bassakos: Erica has a connection with the VON chronic pain program who may be able to assist. • Kamillo Lamosa: PAWS in Recovery provides pain management and OAT. There are 3 doctors involved in pain management. If clients are seen at the hospital, they don't need an assessment with VON. If not, VON will do an assessment prior to going to their clinic. • Alexis Erickson/Jenny Bradt: In terms of delivery formats for the OAT training, we plan to start with a webinar. Can record the webinar so others can use it for training purposes. During the webinar, can also share a list of contacts that agencies can reach out to for further in-person trainings as needed. Depending on the needs of the community, we may also offer more sessions in the future. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could explore opportunity to have a panel of speakers at the webinar to ensure that various agencies/providers who provide OAT are represented. This could also include peer speakers who might be willing to share stories of lived experience. • Next step is for the WECHU to confirm facilitators for the OAT webinar and support with development of training content. Goal is to offer webinar before end of year. 	<p>Confirm facilitators for OAT webinar and support with development of training content (WECHU).</p> <p>Host OAT webinar before end of year (TBD).</p>
6.0	<p>WECOSS Action Plan Consultation – Focus Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alexis provided an overview of the WECOSS' Action Plan Consultation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The WECOSS has launched a comprehensive community consultation that will inform the development of a renewed, multi-year action plan for the strategy. ○ The WECOSS' action plan was last updated in 2021 and requires a refresh to meet the new and evolving needs of the community. ○ The consultation involves key informant interviews with WECOSS Leadership Committee members and other community leaders, focus groups with each of the WECOSS Working Groups, a focus group with the WECHU's Substance Use Peer Advisory Committee, and other supporting activities. ○ Together, the feedback gathered will be used to create a new action plan for the WECOSS, with fresh goals and actions for the partnership to achieve over the years to come. • A focus group was facilitated with the TRWG as part of the 	<p>Share preliminary results from the action plan consultation at upcoming Working Group meetings (WECHU).</p>

	<p>action plan consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary results and findings from the consultation will be shared at upcoming Working Group meetings. 	
7.0	<p>Community Agency Roundtable (All)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Milvia Mendosa-Ramesar: Salvation Army has opened one couples' bed. Can bring pets while they stay. 	
8.0	<p>WECOSS Pillar Updates (Alexis Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm Reduction Working Group – Developing an anti-stigma policy template for community organizations. Working to implement the policy at the WECHU first. Will then branch it out to other community organizations who are interested in doing something similar. Will also be offering anti-stigma workshops and trainings for organizations and their staff to support implementation of the policy. • Enforcement and Justice Working Group – Continuing with neighborhood safety planning project. Working on developing a safety plan for Leamington. Will be launching a community consultation to get feedback from those who live, work, and frequent the area to inform the plan. • Prevention and Education Working Group – Working on youth substance use prevention. Going to community events and offering workshops to educate youth, parents/caregivers, families, and educators on how to prevent and support conversations about substance use with youth. Ongoing social media campaign on youth substance use prevention has also continued. 	
9.0	<p>Summary of Action Items & Next Steps (Kayla Leckonby & Alexis Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with Jennifer Bradt, Alexis Erickson, and Milan Durocher if you or someone in your network may be able to assist with the facilitation of the future OAT webinar (All). • Confirm facilitators for OAT webinar and support with development of training content (WECHU). • Host OAT webinar before end of year (TBD). • Share preliminary results from the action plan consultation at upcoming Working Group meetings (WECHU). 	
10.0	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up</p> <p>Adjourned: 3:30 p.m.</p>	

Next Meeting: Monday, November 17th from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.