



WECOSS Treatment and Recovery Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 17, 2025 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Microsoft Teams

Present: Jennifer Bradt (WECHU), Ron Sheppard (WFHT), Chris Thibert (Downtown Mission), Milvia Mendoza-Ramesar (Salvation Army), Kim Larocque (Paws in Recovery), Erica Bassakos (WEOHT), Tamara Klinkhamer (Peer Representative), Kelly Barill (WECHU – Recorder).

Regrets: Kayla Leckonby (Chair – Social Worker), Alexis Erickson (WECHU), Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre Shelter), Dominique Chauvin (WECHU), Kamillo Lamosa (ESCC), Kristi Benjamin (Peer Rep.), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Emily McKenna (Welcome Centre Shelter), Jennifer Bastien (Brentwood Recovery Home), Diane Quadros (CMHA-WECB), Amy Visser (weCHC), Melissa Major (HDGH – MHART), Jacob Riches (Student – Schulich), Ashley Shepley (DWCC), 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: Jennifer Bradt

Agenda Item	Action Items
1.0 Welcome and Introductions	
2.0 Review of Action Items from September 22nd, 2025 <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). Approval of Minutes from September 22nd, 2025 (K. Leckonby)	
3.0 Meeting Goals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide status updates on the WEC Connect program and service inventory. 2. Discuss plans for the upcoming Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) webinar for community service providers on Friday, November 28th. Review and discuss results from the WECOSS action plan consultation	

4.0	<p>WEC Connect Program and Service Inventory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed presentation • 8 new organizations added (116 total listings) • Media campaigns will be starting soon with social media, radio ads, and bus transit ads. • Kelly will be going through WEC Connect in November/December to review the listings and update if needed. 	<p>If there are any organizations not currently on WEC Connect or if there are any corrections to be made, reach out to Jenny.</p>
5.0	<p>2025 Project – Expanding Access of Opioid Agonist Therapies (OAT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review plans and next steps for Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) webinar. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reviewed presentation ○ First draft of the brochure for clients has been completed. Reviewed with the group. ○ <i>Feedback:</i> ○ Kim: hesitates on using individuals as the pictures in brochure. This was also mentioned at the PAC meeting. ○ Erika suggested using the name of the brochure instead and Opioid Agonist Therapy, add common names. ○ Tamara suggested using photos of medication. ○ Ron: Suggested working with the addiction treatment center to create a referral form through Ocean for RAAM Clinics which stays up to date with access to RAAM clinics with 72 hours, coordinated access through HDGH Community Withdrawal Management. ○ Kim: by routing everyone through one organization, they may be overwhelmed. Suggested having more than one option. ○ Chris: We (Phoenix Recovery) can get clients' help within 2 hours. ○ Erika: Sometimes it's quicker to call clinics directly, but the list is a good option if kept up to date. ○ Jenny: working on the service provider brochure ○ <i>Updates:</i> reviewed (see presentation) ○ Invites to be sent out for the upcoming OAT training webinar on Nov. 28. Facilitated by Jennifer Burton, Tamara K will also present her story. ○ Tamara is hoping to bring awareness about stigma and help give guidance to those who support people on OAT by sharing her story. ○ Encourage staff to attend the OAT training. 	<p>Jenny will send the brochure to the group for review.</p> <p>Reach out to Jenny with suggestions.</p>

6.0	<p>WECOSS Action Plan Consultation Results and Discussion (J. Bradt)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reviewed presentation <p>Discussion: what should we prioritize? How can WECOSS help everyone at the table moving forward?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Societal level: (KIM) we need to change Stigma even for family members of those who have a substance use disorder. Ron: Family intervention level: partnership with schools, it's never too young to start educating children as they are exposed at a younger age now. (Need for prevention) Tamara: peer engagement and education within schools. Jenny: ads are promoting vapes to youth. Youth ambassadors will be a good step forward for prevention. <p>What do you see as more important for pathways forward for treatment and recovery specifically?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Erika: Advocacy for safer supply and having a community calendar for mental health and substance use options. Ron: New Beginnings to launch our OTR modified for youth. We have other partners in children and youth sectors to work on making this available. New Beginnings should launch at the beginning 2026/27. (in the chat) Tamara: stigma (if it did not exist) we would have so much accomplished today. Aftercare varies between service providers so some people will decide where they go based on this. Jenny- much of the work WECOSS can support in treatment and recovery can be through advocacy, policy change, and data. 	
7.0	<p>WECOSS Pillar Updates</p> <p>HRWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nov. 25th from 9-11 am, we have an anti-stigma policy workshop. The WECHU will be implementing this policy soon. Basis of education is meeting people where they are at and person first language. Reach out to Jenny if you want the information or the invitation. Erika and Kim want to review the policy ahead of time. <p>PEWG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> attended workshops working with parents and caregivers on how to talk to youth about substance use. <p>EJWG:</p>	Jenny will look into providing access to the policy.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with OPP and CSWB on creating Safety plans for Leamington and Essex. • We will have 6 education sessions between now and March specifically for those in the county. • Mental health and Addictions and Trauma informed care are two of the topics. • The first session is this Friday on trauma informed care. 	
8.0	<p>Agency updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kim: Paws for Recovery will start their drop-in sessions in December to provide a safe space. Board games, info session.... Etc. • Ron: finalized OTR schedule. All marketing material should be sent out soon. See above for more information. 	
9.0	<p>Summary of Action Items and Next Steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jenny will send the brochure to the group for review, send an email with suggestions/comments. • Review WEC Connect and let Jenny know if there are any additional listings that should be added or changes to be made. • Jenny will look into providing access to the anti-stigma policy. Prior to the workshop. 	
10.0	<p>Meeting Wrap-Up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjourned: 2:55 pm 	

Next Meeting: TBD