



WECOSS Treatment & Recovery Working Group Meeting Minutes

Monday, October 21, 2024 | 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams

Present: Toluwalope Adedugbe (WECHU), Erica Bassakos (WE-OHT), Kamillo Lamosa (ESCC), Judy Lear-Zylstra (HDGH – Co-Chair), Theresa Sarkis (WECHU – Recorder), Ron Sheppard (WFHT), Patrick Kolowicz (HDGH), Alexis Erickson (WECHU).

Regrets: Anastasia Adams (Welcome Centre Shelter), John Antoniw (MHART), Rio Anzolin (WRH), Kristi Benjamin (Peer Rep.), Holly Busi (HCCO), Robert Cameron (RE:ACT), Jennifer Cline (WEC Housing Corporation) Silvana DeLorenzis (CMHA), Elizabeth Dulmage (Brentwood – Co-Chair), Holly Kettle (ESH), Kayla Leckonby (Social Worker), Melissa Little (MHART), Alison Malott (Peer Rep.), Kevin Matte (HDGH/CMHA), Milvia Mendoza-Ramesar (Salvation Army), Mack Park (UofW), Jacob Riches (Schulich), Stacey Shepley (MHART), Chris Thibert (Downtown Mission), Kelsey Vasovski (AEGIS Health), Amy Visser (WECHC).

Co-Chairs: Judy Lear-Zylstra

Recorder: Theresa Sarkis

		<i>Action Required</i>
1.0	Welcome & Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m. • Judy introduced as Co-Chair of the group, alongside Elizabeth Dulmage. 	
2.0	Approval of Agenda Agenda approved.	
3.0	Review of Action Items from June 24th, 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-Chairs will work on a framework of intent and objectives of TRWG intentions – To be discussed at this meeting under the “2025 Project Proposal” agenda item. • If interested in having printed copies of the wallet card resource for your organization, please contact tsarkis@wechu.org. • Anyone interested in adding their services to be offered at the Windsor-Essex Community Housing Corporation, please contact Jennifer Cline - jcline@wehc.com. Approval of Minutes from June 24th, 2024 Minutes approved.	
4.0	Meeting Goals <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review progress and next steps of ongoing projects 2. Review and discuss 2025 project proposal 	

<p>5.0</p>	<p>Project Updates</p> <p>Treatment Inventory (T. Adedugbe)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of WEC Connect project, key milestones, timelines, and pilot study findings provided. • Launch is scheduled for October 23rd at 2-1-1 training event. Partnering with 2-1-1 and the WE-OHT for sustainability of the inventory and data-sharing. Inventory will support system navigation work locally until coordinated access models become available, in collaboration with the WE-OHT. • Promotional tools are ready for the launch, including wallet cards, posters, social media posts, bus ads, a media release, and google ads. 	
<p>6.0</p>	<p>New Business</p> <p>2025 Project Proposal (A. Erickson)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2025 project proposal, Expanding Access of Opioid Agonist Therapies (OAT), was presented by Alexis Erickson. • Group Discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There needs to be a way to normalize the conversation of substance use to make it easier to approach primary care providers. Some individuals may find services somewhere else, but not in primary care for fear of reprisal. ○ Stigma is a barrier for both caregivers and clients. ○ Some primary care providers may not feel equipped to deal with substance use or have the time needed to effectively engage with clients about their substance use. ○ Is there merit to discussing/adding substance/alcohol use within healthcare or emergency room assessments? ○ In 2024, a Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIR) Project was launched by the WECHU in collaboration with the Primary Care Public Health Partnership. The project focuses on integrating a locally-developed SBIR model into primary care practice and supports primary care providers in screening, briefly intervening, and referring to treatment for alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco use. This was initially a pilot project and there may be opportunities to continue 	

	<p>and expand next year to include opioid use and referrals to OAT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Can also look at OAT as a harm reduction care method, in addition to a treatment method. ● TRWG was in support of moving forward with the proposal. Proposal will be reviewed with the WECOSS Leadership Committee in December prior to moving forward with further planning and implementation. 	<p>Present 2025 project proposal to the WECOSS Leadership Committee in December for discussion and approval.</p>
7.0	<p>Providers of Addiction Treatment (PAT) Committee Update (P. Kolowicz)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If any agency is interested in helping host the PAT committee, please reach out to Patrick Kolowicz. The leadership period for the current organizers will conclude soon and new leadership is needed to continue with the committee. ● Last PAT committee meeting took place on October 17th at HDGH. ● Alexis Erickson will forward minutes and materials from all PAT committee meetings to the TRWG. 	<p>Contact Patrick Kolowicz if interested in hosting the PAT Committee.</p> <p>Alexis Erickson to forward minutes and materials from all PAT committee meetings to the TRWG.</p>
8.0	<p>WECOSS Pillar Updates (A. Erickson)</p> <p>Harm Reduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 project has focused on delivering community overdose prevention training events. ● Between March and August of 2024, 6 trainings were held, over 100 people were trained on naloxone administration, and over 100 naloxone kits were distributed. ● Upcoming session planned with the construction industry on November 19th. <p>Enforcement and Justice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2024 project focuses on delivering substance use in corrections workshops to support reintegration of people who use/d substances and are justice-involved back into their communities following release from custody. ● Workshops delivered to service providers at the South-Essex Community Council and Southwest Detention Centre earlier in the year. ● In September, workshop was delivered to Police Foundations students at St. Clair College. ● Planning additional session with School of Social Work students at the University of Windsor, tentatively for November. <p>Prevention and Education</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on continuous communication strategy to promote shared messaging about substance use and the WECOSS. • WECHU is using the WECOSS' continuous communication toolkit and social media calendar to promote messaging on WECHU's social media channels. • 15 campaign messages issued on social media over June to August, with over 19,000 reaches on Facebook. • Additional messaging went out in September and will go out in November – performance data will be shared once available. • In-transit bus advertisements and Google display advertisements to be issued over the Fall, encouraging community members to subscribe to opioid alerts. 	
9.0	Next Steps & Recap of Action Items <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present 2025 project proposal to the WECOSS Leadership Committee in December for discussion and approval (Co-Chairs) • Contact Patrick Kolowicz if interested in hosting the PAT Committee (All). • Forward minutes and materials from all PAT committee meetings to the TRWG (A. Erickson). 	
10.0	Meeting Wrap-Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjournment: 2:35 p.m. • 2025 meetings to be scheduled early in New Year. 	