



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

**WECOSS Enforcement and  
Justice Working Group  
Meeting**

Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> from  
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

# 2025 Project Update

## *Strengthening Community Safety and Well-Being*

# Strengthening Community Safety and Wellbeing

## Project Purpose:

Sustain and expand the neighbourhood safety planning process initiated by the Substance Supports in Neighbourhoods Accessed through Police Partnerships (SSNAPP) team.

## Key Activities and Outputs:

Attend community events to educate residents about the existing neighbourhood safety plans developed for the City of Windsor.

Conduct community consultations to examine neighbourhood safety/needs in Leamington and Essex.

Create neighbourhood safety plans for Leamington and Essex.

# Strengthening Community Safety and Wellbeing

## Accomplishments to Date Since Last Update:

- Attended **3** community events from October 9<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup> to educate residents about existing neighbourhood safety plans:
  - **82** safety plans distributed.
  - **100%** indicated they felt more confident in supporting safety related to substance use after receiving a review of the plans.
- Facilitated a Trauma-Informed Care workshop for 28 first responders and service providers who serve communities in Essex County.
  - Positive feedback from participants, 100% indicated that the training adequately supported them in following through with trauma-informed practices and they feel confident applying the skills and knowledge gained from training.
- Addictions and Mental Health webinar scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> for first responders and service providers.

# Strengthening Community Safety and Wellbeing

Steps Completed	Next Steps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted four focus groups with key stakeholders who serve communities in Leamington and Essex.</li><li>• Launched a community survey in October.</li><li>• Leamington and Essex safety plan drafts have been created based on focus group and survey results.</li><li>• Hosted a Trauma-Informed Care workshop for first responders and service providers from Essex County.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Finalize and distribute Leamington and Essex safety plans.</li><li>• Create an evaluation to measure the effectiveness of the safety plans.</li><li>• Continue to attend community events to educate residents about existing safety plans.</li><li>• Host five additional workshops for first responders and service providers related to substance use, mental health, and other identified topics.</li></ul>

# Strengthening Community Safety and Wellbeing

## Summary of Results and Safety Plan Content:

- **100** individuals filled out the safety plan community survey (most from Leamington).
- Four focus groups conducted with first responders and service providers in Leamington and Essex, total of **23** participants.
- Main safety concerns highlighted include mental health, substance use, homelessness, road safety, and harassment.
- Additional topics highlighted within focus groups include the lack of county-based resources (particularly withdrawal management) as well as barriers to transportation.
- Two new topics added to both Leamington and Essex safety plans – human trafficking and intimate partner violence.
- Safety plans are currently being reviewed by SSNAPP partners.

# Strengthening Community Safety and Wellbeing

## Action Items for WECOSS Working Group Members:



Promote Leamington and Essex safety plans once created.



Continue promoting and distributing existing safety plans. All safety plans can be found at [WECOSS.ca](http://WECOSS.ca) and sample social media messaging will be shared.



Watch for future workshops for first responders and service providers.



# Thank You!

**Thank you to the members of the WECOSS Enforcement and Justice Working Group** for your collaboration and support in making these community events and neighbourhood safety plans a success.



# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

## *Results and Discussion*

# Recap of WECOSS Action Plan Renewal

## Why a New Action Plan for the WECOSS?

✓ It has been almost four years since the WECOSS' action plan was last updated.

✓ The last action plan from 2021 has been addressed through many projects and initiatives.

✓ Community issues and concerns surrounding substance use have greatly evolved since 2021.

✓ Community capacity to address substance use issues has grown significantly over the years.

✓ A new action plan will allow the WECOSS to adapt its plans to meet new needs and address current gaps in the community.

# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

Over the months of September and October, a community consultation was conducted with community partners to guide the development of the new WECOSS Action Plan. Community partners were consulted on the following topics:

## Community Strengths

- What is our community and/or the WECOSS currently doing well to address substance use at the community level?
- Where are there existing resources and capacity to support this work?

## Community Issues and Concerns

- What are the most pressing issues and concerns currently impacting our community as it relates to substance use?

## Community Needs

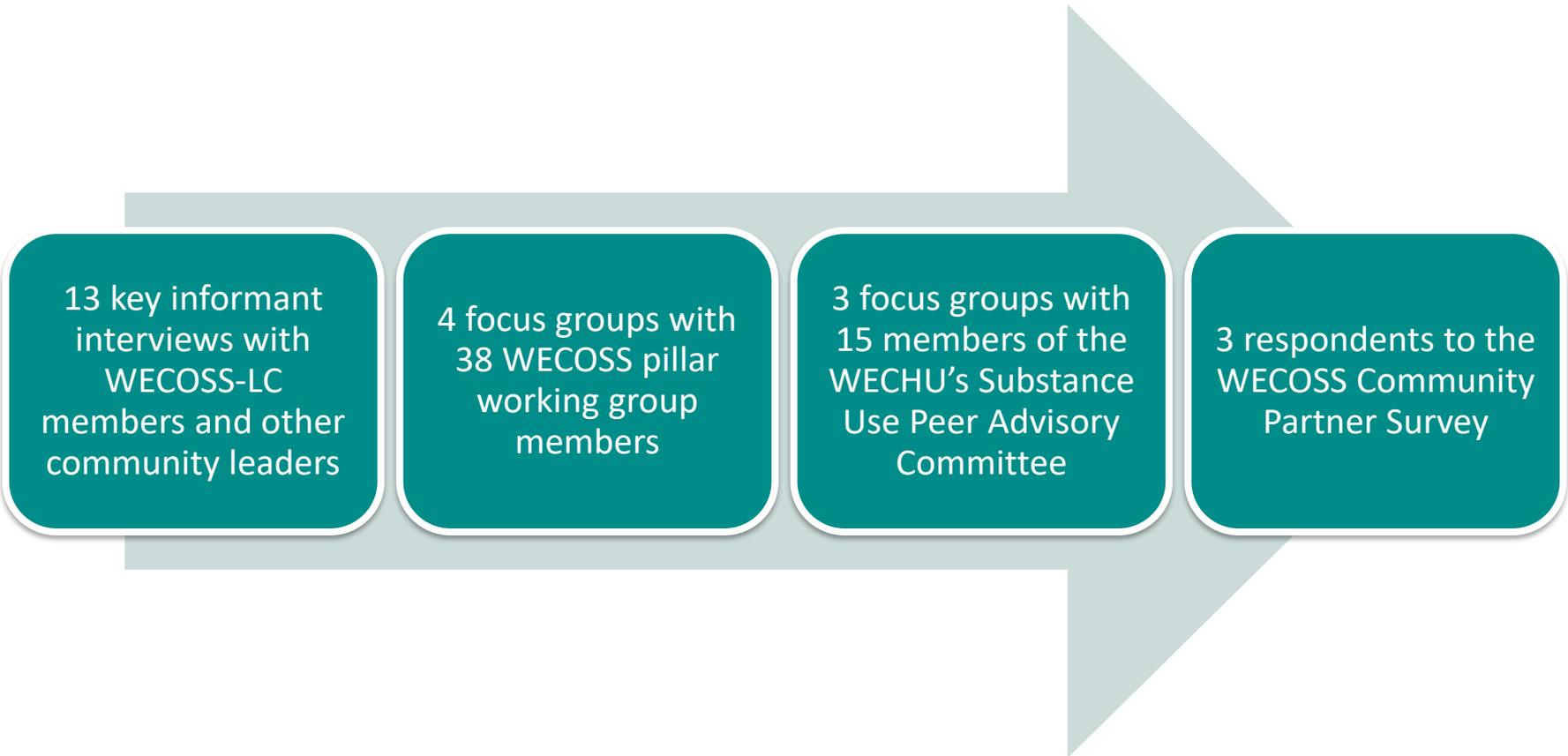
- What community-level actions need to be taken to address substance use in the future?
- What unique gaps in services and supports can the WECOSS help to address?

## Community Coordination

- What strategies can be used to improve coordination between the WECOSS and other community groups with similar goals?

# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation

## *Methods*



13 key informant interviews with WECOSS-LC members and other community leaders

4 focus groups with 38 WECOSS pillar working group members

3 focus groups with 15 members of the WECHU's Substance Use Peer Advisory Committee

3 respondents to the WECOSS Community Partner Survey

# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation Results

## *Key Community Strengths*



**Sustained  
collaboration and  
diverse  
partnerships**



**Data sharing and  
communication**



**Harm reduction  
and anti-stigma  
efforts**



**Education and  
prevention**



**Accessible and  
transparent  
information**



**Community & peer  
engagement and  
outreach**



**Community Safety**

# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation Results

## *Pressing Issues, Concerns, and Needs*

### Stigma and Discrimination

- Service delivery approaches and practices
- Lack of community understanding and misconceptions about substance use and harm reduction

### Systems and Policies

- Current legislative frameworks
- Funding and capacity challenges
- Lack of investment in social determinants of health
- Fragmented service systems

### Barriers to Access Existing Services

- Wait times
- Transportation barriers
- Geographical gaps in rural communities and outside of downtown core
- Utilization of best practices in service delivery

### Service Gaps

- Treatment for youth and justice-involved individuals
- System navigation
- Substance use support in primary care
- Follow-up and aftercare services
- Safer consumption options
- School-aged and family systems supports
- Culturally sensitive and trauma-informed services

# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation Results

## *Summary of Key Priority Areas Identified for WECOSS*

### Harm Reduction

- Standardize harm reduction practices
- Expand harm reduction efforts to county areas
- Address stigma
- Prioritize trauma and violence-informed care

### Prevention & Education

- Early school and family intervention
- Incorporate voices of youth
- Professional development opportunities
- Public awareness campaigns

### Data & Accountability

- Increase data and surveillance efforts
- Transparent data sharing
- Increased accountability of organizations

### Advocacy & Policy

- Advocate for healthy public policy
- Justice-involved support
- Workforce inclusion for PWLLE
- Streamlining resources

# WECOSS Action Plan Consultation Results

## *Potential Collaboration Opportunities for WECOSS*

### **Community Safety & Well-Being**

*Community Safety and Well-Being Plan*

### **Treatment & Recovery**

*The Mental Health and Addictions Sector Table & Providers of Addiction Treatment Committee*

# Group Discussion

1. What is your level of agreement with the four priority areas that were identified for the WECOSS?
2. In reviewing the results, is there anything you felt was missed or requires deeper exploration?
3. Of the action areas that were proposed, which are most important to you and the work that you do?