



safe & well

OXFORD COMMUNITIES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Oxford County Administration Building - **Room 222**

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Review of Agenda for meeting of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025
3. Review of Minutes of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 meeting ([attached](#))
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - Area Municipalities DEI Charter follow-up – Norwich
  - 2025 Summit: Final location and date
  - Use of Space Policy
  - Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey
  - Oxford County Grant Program
  - Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)
  - Oxford Housing Action Collaborative – on hold
  - Oxford Mental Health & Addictions Network - Peter Heywood ([attached](#))
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Coalition - Ayesha Sajid ([attached](#))
  - Domestic Abuse Resource Team – Ashley Brown ([attached](#))

6. Next Steps & New Business:
7. Upcoming Meeting Dates – Oxford County Administration Building – Room 129:
  - June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - July 28<sup>th</sup>
  - August 25<sup>th</sup>
8. Adjournment



10:00 a.m.

Room 129

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcus Ryan at 10:02 a.m. and a quorum was present.

Marcus Ryan, Bernia Martin, Davide Barnabi, Peter Heywood, Tina Diamond, Ayesha Sajid, Sarah Hamulecki, Amy Humphries

Resolution No. 1      Moved by: Bernia Martin  
Seconded by: Peter Heywood

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be approved.

Resolution No. 2      Moved by: Bernia Martin  
Seconded by: Peter Heywood

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be approved as presented.

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#### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Area Municipalities DEI Charter follow-up – Norwich
  - No updates.
- 2025 Summit: Location and date determination
  - S. Hamulecki provided an update on possible locations identified by area municipalities. S. Hamulecki will investigate each appropriate location further and choose a final location.
- Use of Space Policy Update
  - S. Hamulecki presented a draft procedure for identifying eligible organizations.
  - The draft will be shared with area municipalities for input before final approval.
  - The Committee agreed that it was appropriate for a formal policy to be developed providing direction for staff to approve applications rather than the Committee.
  - Consideration will be given to accessibility and paper copies of applications.
- Steering Committee Meeting Location
  - S. Hamulecki provided an update on possible locations identified by area municipalities.
  - The Committee discussed the value added by rotating the meeting location.
  - The Committee agreed that the current location is sufficient but that the Co-leads could move the meeting to a specific location if a specific reason or agenda item would deem a move appropriate.
  - It was noted that the meeting locations could change based on the outcome of the new Plan.
- Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey
  - The survey launches on May 1. Postcards will be mailed out to every mailing address in Oxford County with links to the survey or information on how to request a paper copy.
  - The survey is open from May 1 to June 15. Various organizations will have paper copies available for their clients.
  - Posters will be mailed out to partners to assist with promotion.

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (*TBD*)
  - Oxford County's Homelessness Response Strategy is complete. This Collaborative is anticipated to be restarted in the coming months.
- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (*Peter Heywood*)
  - The Coalition has not met, but a smaller group has met to discuss the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Finance's Social Responsibility funding in order to develop ideas to discuss at an upcoming meeting with these Ministries.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition (*Ayesha Sajid*)
  - No updates.
- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (*Diane Harris*)
  - No updates.

- Letter of support for the Public Health Agency of Canada Grant Stream 2 funding

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee approve the Letter of Support for Planet Youth Coalitions in Elgin and Oxford Counties.

- Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Presentation (OMSSA) - Ministry of the Solicitor General
  - The Committee reviewed the presentation, specifically discussing advocacy for provincial funding and common risk priorities identified across the Province.
  - The OPP is pursuing a Community Safety and Policing grant.
- Oxford County Grant Program
  - Applications open May 1.
  - Communication will go out to all stakeholders.
  - Emphasis is given to organizations that can maintain the program on an ongoing basis. The grants are meant for new programs rather than annual operational funding.

- ## 7. Upcoming Meeting Dates – Oxford County Administration Building – Room 129

- ## 8. Adjournment

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried**



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## Action Coalition Update

Meeting Date:	May 26 2025
Action Coalition:	Oxford Mental Health & Addictions Action Coalition
Representative:	Peter Heywood
Update:	<p>The OMHAAC met on May 21, 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Refresh of the Oxford Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ A comprehensive refresh of the Oxford County Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy is set to begin this year, marking a significant step toward addressing substance use challenges in the region. This initiative aims to enhance existing strategies and develop a more effective framework that reflects the community's evolving needs. The process is expected to conclude by December 2025.</li><li>○ Southwestern Public Health will lead this effort and work closely with the Action Coalition, other stakeholders, and community members to ensure a broad and inclusive approach. Their collaboration will be crucial in gathering valuable insights and perspectives throughout the refresh process.</li><li>○ A key part of this renewal will be incorporating a mental health scope, recognizing that they don't always have a direct causal relationship. One can't always say that substance abuse directly causes mental illness or vice versa. This component will require additional time and resources to ensure its thorough development, and it is anticipated to be completed by September 2026. The aim is to create a more integrated strategy that addresses substance use and strengthens mental health support within the community, promoting overall well-being for residents of Oxford County.</li></ul></li><li>• Members of the Action Coalition have agreed to include "Housing for All, 2024-2033," a new plan addressing housing and homelessness, as a key strategic document. This plan will guide decision-making over the next decade and inform the Action Coalition's priorities and actions.</li><li>• The OCCDAS website, currently a multi-page site, will be transformed into a single-page webpage to better highlight the Action</li></ul>

	<p>Coalition's work. This decision aims to reduce website maintenance while still promoting the Coalition's mandate, membership, and key priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Randy Peltz highlighted the \$459,830 investment over three years in Oxford County Community Health Centre to expand its Oxford Sexual Assault Services, which supports victims of sexual assault.</li> <li>• The next meeting is scheduled on September 10, 2025.</li> </ul>
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## Action Coalition Update

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Meeting Date:	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Action Coalition:	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Action Coalition
Representative:	Ayesha Sajid
Update:	<p>Chelsea Martin attended the DEI Action Coalition Meeting to discuss the effects of climate change on equity-seeking groups for Oxford County's Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>Coalition members suggested having an informative document for the public, e.g., a DEI Postcard explaining DEI's connection with the Ontario Human Rights Code. Coalition members have made some suggestions to the draft and will have a finalized Postcard version soon.</p> <p><b>DEI Action Coalition Webpage</b> Action Coalition members suggested we recognize June as Pride Month on the Action Coalition's Webpage and share the link to the Oxford Pride Website.</p> <p>For Pride Family Day, it was previously proposed that the DEI Action Coalition should have a table at the event. The details are yet to be discussed, and depending on the purpose, availability, and support of the Action Coalition members, we will see if we can do that this year or next.</p>

## Action Coalition Update

Meeting Date:	May 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2025
Action Coalition:	Domestic Abuse Resource Team (DART)
Representative:	Ashley Brown
Update:	<p>The Domestic Abuse Resource Team (DART) continues to undergo a restructuring process to strengthen our ability to respond to high-risk cases of femicide in Oxford County. As part of this work, we're making significant progress on our community training plan, with only a small number of table members still needing to complete Make It Our Business and BSAFER risk assessment training. A sincere thank you to all agencies who have committed staff time and resources toward the development of this high-risk table—your contributions are laying the groundwork for a stronger, more responsive community system.</p> <p>While we were not the successful recipients of the recent federal grant to support the table's development, we remain committed to moving forward. Only one region in Ontario was funded under this proposal; however, the grant included funding for evaluation by the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children (CREVAWC) at Western University. That evaluation will still be accessible to us and will support our continued efforts to make high-risk response a municipal and federal funding priority.</p> <p>DART continues to engage in prevention, awareness, and advocacy. We regularly facilitate workshops at Brightside Youth Hub, teaching teens about healthy relationships, boundary-setting, and human trafficking prevention. We also deliver half-day workshops at the Women's Employment Resource Centre, helping service users understand intimate partner violence, early warning signs, safety planning, and community supports available to them.</p> <p>Our annual Snapshot is still in development. This year, we are shifting toward a more iterative, story-driven approach that centers the voices of our member agencies and better reflects the realities and priorities in our community. This storytelling model will help strengthen our advocacy efforts and ensure the final product is useful to all members.</p> <p>May is Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Month, and we've launched an online campaign with educational posts, resources, and</p>

conversation starters. Resources have been shared through our meetings and listserv to encourage engagement across sectors.

We are also proud to announce the launch of the Anti-Human Trafficking Story Walk, timed with Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. This community-based awareness initiative includes an interactive walking route through downtown Woodstock, featuring a survivor-informed story and local resources for those seeking to exit exploitation. The online map and accompanying resource guide have received over 100 views so far. Thank you to our incredible creators, community agencies, and partners who made this project possible. To view the protocol or access the resource guide, visit the link in our Instagram bio or email [amaddress@ingamohomes.com](mailto:amaddress@ingamohomes.com).

Lastly, as we continue to gather input from partners about emerging trends, we've identified strangulation and elder abuse as growing concerns for lethality in our region. These are conversations we are prioritizing as we look to deepen community education and prevention strategies, particularly around cultural awareness and risk recognition. Together, we can build a community that responds earlier, listens more deeply, and prevents more lives from being lost.

April Femicide Newsletter - [Femicides in Ontario - April 2025](#)