



STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 26th, 2024

10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

Oxford County Administration Building
(Room 129)

1. Call the Meeting to Order (10:00 a.m.)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marcus Ryan at 10:00 a.m. and a quorum was present. Randy Peltz was absent.

Guests: Kate Leatherbarrow – City of Woodstock, Councillor
Lindsay Wilson – Town of Ingersoll
Diane Harris – Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)

2. Review of Agenda for meeting of February 26th, 2024

Resolution No. 1 Moved by: Tina Diamond
Seconded by: Kelly Black

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of February 26th, 2024 be approved, as amended (funding needs from action coalitions).

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

3. Review of Minutes of January 15th, 2024 meeting

Resolution No. 2 Moved by: Bernia Martin
Seconded by: Tina Diamond

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Safe and Well Oxford Steering

Committee meeting of January 15th, 2024 be approved as presented.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Police Services Involvement/Representation on Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee – *agreed/confirmed – City of Woodstock will not be in attendance at February meeting.*

Tony Hymers, on behalf of OPP, noted that he is pleased to be here. The Committee welcomed Diane Harris, on behalf of Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART). She noted that she is happy to be here on behalf of the fifth priority risk area, gender-based violence.

5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (Kelly Black)

Kelly Black advised that the Committee's feedback on the Calls to Action were considered by the Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (OHAC). There is a subcommittee working on this. They would like to attend the March 25th Steering Committee meeting.

She advised that there is a lot of work being done regarding geared to income housing and rent eviction. They are trying to raise awareness for tenants so that they know what their rights are and don't end up without housing. The Action Collaborative is also supporting a human rights approach when it comes to encampments and it was noted that it is important that we do not criminalize homelessness.

The OHAC is working on generating resources to share so that this information may be more broadly shared to the public.

- Oxford Mental Health & Addictions Network (Randy Peltz - absent)

The Committee discussed the possibility of each member providing a written update from their action coalition if they are not available to attend a meeting. This update may be provided to Julie or Sarah in advance of the meeting date to be circulated with the meeting agenda package.

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition (Ayesha Sajid)

Ayesha provided the following information as an update for the committee:

- The DEI Action Coalition is currently working on the development of an Inclusion Charter for Oxford – this outlines a commitment to advancing DEI work within Oxford. Area municipal representatives have been invited to the meeting coming up in March to provide their comments/feedback on the draft inclusion charter circulated to the group. The hope is that this meeting will help build a more collaborative working relationship with area municipalities. Once completed, the inclusion charter will be circulated to area municipal councils for their support and endorsement.
 - Following the finalization of the Inclusion Charter, the DEI Action Coalition will be working on an action plan to support the inclusion charter.
 - County staff are working on the development of content for a DEI webpage – resources are intended to be shared publicly and with area municipalities.
 - Potential grant funding was discussed briefly at their last meeting and will be discussed further – funding is needed for training initiatives and public education and awareness.
- **Domestic Abuse Response Team (Diane Harris?)**

Diane Harris, on behalf of the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), provided an update to the Committee as follows:

- DART is continuing to work on an Oxford wide protocol to address human trafficking locally., Funding has been received from the province to support continued work with a consultant to develop an emergency plan and provide long-term support for survivors. A pilot program is expected to begin in April.
- The femicide prevention protocol series will begin on Thursday, March 7th – this is the first of four sessions.

6. Next Steps:

a. Safe and Well Oxford 2024 Summit – October, 2024 – Oxford Centre Community Centre

Date has been confirmed for Friday, October 25th, 2024, in the afternoon. Norwich Council is considering a request to cover the cost of the rental fee for the Oxford Centre Community Centre. Further updates to come at a later date.

b. Website Update & Communication Plan – update

Sarah is working with the Oxford County Communications Team to put together the DEI web content. There will be a separate webpage for each Action Coalition on the new Safe and Well Oxford website. She is also working on developing a Safe and Well Oxford brand and development of a newsletter to communicate with stakeholders on a more regular basis. Discussions have also taken place about developing a greater social media presence for Safe and Well Oxford. Discussion took place regarding the possibility of adding Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting agenda to eScribe for publishing online.

c. Canadian Index of Well-being & Metrics – update

Funding has been included in the County 2024 budget to participate in the Canadian Index of Well-being survey. County staff will be working with the same provider to ensure that comparable data is received. Sarah will reach out to the University of Waterloo to get the process started. The survey is sent by mail and there is also an online portion. She will report more details back once she has met with the provider to get the process started.

d. Grant Funding Model/Criteria – update

Sarah did send out an email to get input from the action coalitions regarding their funding needs. The County of Oxford does not currently have a grant policy in place. It is hoped that this will be in place going into the 2025 budget process for area municipalities. Funding will not be to support ongoing operations – intended to be project based (i.e. training, education and awareness). Will need to consider contribution from area municipalities and how much will be requested.

Action Coalitions are encouraged to discuss what their funding needs may be over the next year – this will help to give area municipalities an idea of what the policy will look like. Funding should have a prevention focus and connection to the goals and objective of the Safe and Well Oxford Community Safety and Well-being Plan.

Further discussion will need to take place regarding whether or not Safe and Well Oxford will seek additional funding through outside sources (i.e. Oxford Community Foundation, City of Woodstock). It was noted that organizations may also apply for this funding on their own.

e. Update to Area Municipalities – update

Marcus Ryan and Sarah Hamulecki are planning to make a delegation request at each area municipality over the next few months – this update will include recommendations from the DEI Action Coalition regarding the Inclusion Charter for Oxford, grant policy and upcoming Safe and Well Oxford Summit – October, 2024, and any update regarding the Canadian Index of Well-being survey.

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

Monday, March 25th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, April 22nd, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, May 27th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Monday, June 24th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

8. Adjournment (12:00 noon)

Resolution No. 3

Moved by: Diane Harris

Seconded by: Bernia Martin

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting adjourn at 11:22 p.m. to meet again on Monday, March 25th, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

DISPOSITON: Motion Carried