Safe & Well Oxford Steering Committee Minutes June 23, 2025



# STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held virtually

#### 1. Call the Meeting to Order

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

#### Attendees:

Marcus Ryan, Bernia Martin, Tony Hymers, Tina Diamond, Ashley Brown, Ayesha Sajid, Sarah Hamulecki, Angie Ferrell

#### 2. Review of Agenda for meeting of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

Resolution No. 1 Moved by: B. Martin Seconded by: T. Hymers

RESOLVED that the agenda for the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025, be approved.

**DISPOSITON: Motion Carried** 

### 3. Review of Minutes of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, meeting

Resolution No. 2 Moved by: B. Martin Seconded by: A. Brown

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting of May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, be approved as presented.

**DISPOSITON:** Motion Carried

# 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Area Municipalities DEI Charter follow-up Norwich
  - Warden Ryan comments that nothing has been done since the last meeting.
    Warden Ryan, S. Hamulecki and B. Addley will have a discussion regarding the timeline in the context of the new plan.
  - B. Martin has had some discussions and feels there is an opportunity for change.
- 2025 Summit: Final location and date
  - A few options were viewed as potential venues Mt. Elgin, Embro and Innerkip - proceeding with the Mt. Elgin location.
  - S. Hamulecki will work with Strategy Corp. to explore how the Summit can be leveraged as an opportunity to gather input and feedback for the updated plan.
  - B. Martin commented that the Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey data would be available for September to share with Summit attendees.
- Use of Space Policy Update
  - S. Hamulecki met with the Area Municipal Clerks last week not much feedback has been received.
  - Most recent request was to write a policy to share with the Area Municipalities to share with their Councils. S. Hamulecki doesn't see the need for a policy. Perhaps a procedure would be more helpful. S. Hamulecki adds that it might be helpful to clarify that this would apply to organizations looking to expand new services, not for agreements already in place.
  - Warden Ryan adds that allowing use of spaces at underutilized times at no charge could be a consideration.
- Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey
  - The deadline has been extended to June 30, 2025. Close to 1,500 responses have been received so far, with 40 paper surveys, which is more than anticipated.
  - The breakdown of responses received to date very closely aligns with the census population in Oxford.
  - A summary report is expected approximately three weeks after the survey closes.
- Oxford County Grant Program
  - No update

- Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
  - S. Hamulecki had a project kick-off meeting with Strategy Corp., and biweekly meetings have been scheduled moving forward.
  - In the recent meeting with Oxford County Clerks, buy-in of the plan was discussed. Oxford Councils will be paying closer attention to what they are approving by adopting this version of the CSWB plan.
  - Stakeholders S. Hamulecki will share a list of names to connect with. This will involve in-person focus groups and a survey. The Committee was requested to follow up with an email to S. Hamulecki with a list of the groups that should be contacted. The Stakeholder input is scheduled to be completed by the end of August.
  - Draft plan is scheduled to be created by the end of September.
  - S. Hamulecki indicates that some Area Municipalities may not agree that the priority risk areas align with the needs of their communities. The Steering Committee will need to consider next steps if this is the case.

## 5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (TBD)
  - Rebecca Smith was not able to attend the meeting.
- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (Peter Heywood)
  - No update provided.
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Action Coalition (Ayesha Sajid)
  - The DEI Action Coalition participated in Pride Family Day and had a table at the event. Handouts on 'Tips on Inclusive Communication', along with the Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey, were distributed. Community members were asked to share what Inclusion means to them on a canvas painted with Pride colours. Treats and DEI stickers were also distributed.
  - In previous DEI Action Coalition meetings, concerns were raised by community members regarding recent interactions with local police services. Ayesha contacted WPS and OPP to pass along the feedback. After consulting with Rod and Tony and considering the interests of Coalition members, police services have been invited to attend the meeting in September. The experiences will be summarized into scenarios that can be used to provide education and awareness.
  - After the June meeting, the DEI Action Coalition will resume meeting in September.
- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (Ashley Brown)
  - DART continues its restructuring process to enhance its ability to respond to high-risk femicide cases in Oxford County. DART will maintain regular meeting times through the summer and use the coming months to focus on important internal discussions, most notably, exploring how the MARAM high-risk table and the Situation Table might align. The goal is to reduce

duplication by sharing knowledge and resources while maintaining the distinct purpose of each. These conversations will unfold throughout the summer, with formal community updates expected in September.

- The operational side of DART has found a strong rhythm, incorporating program updates and a "concerns and trends" discussion into each meeting. Starting in the fall, these insights will be shared at the leadership table to ensure that emerging issues identified on the frontlines can inform strategic responses at a broader level.
- One concern identified recently by several partner agencies is the rise in strangulation cases, particularly among youth. In response, the DART operations committee will engage in training on this issue and co-develop a public awareness campaign. The group will determine the most effective target audience and outreach strategy to ensure the campaign is traumainformed and has a meaningful impact.
- As part of the broader community training plan, DART hosted a B-SAFER risk assessment training on June 10th. This training plays a critical role in preparing the femicide prevention table. Following this session, only a small number of table members remain untrained, marking significant progress toward our goal of consistent, coordinated risk assessment practices.
- DART's outreach efforts also continue to grow, hosting booths at both GrowGirls and Oxford Pride, engaging directly with community members and expanding the social media following. We are currently participating in a live #WeBelieveSurvivors campaign focused on raising awareness around sexual violence and the justice system in light of the ongoing OHL sexual assault case. The campaign has resonated deeply, encouraging public dialogue and survivor support.
- The anti-human trafficking work is advancing following the successful launch of the survivor-informed Story Walk during Victims and Survivors of Crime Week. The next phase of this initiative will focus on developing a secondary protocol - a directory of extended care services that may support individuals wishing to exit exploitation, including trauma-informed yoga therapy, equine therapy, and other longer-term healing modalities.

## 6. Next Steps & New Business

- Household Food Insecurity: Strategies for Local-Level Implementation
  - Kendall Chambers from SWPH shared the slide presentation included in the agenda regarding household food insecurity within the community.
  - B. Martin inquired as to how many Area Municipalities are living wage employers. Blandford Blenheim is the only one currently certified.
  - S. Hamulecki will follow up with SWPH to obtain data to help inform the updated Safe and Well Oxford plan.
  - B. Martin indicated that landlords can currently raise rent by 2.5% annually. She suggested this be added to the list of advocacies with the provincial government.
  - Kendall will forward the primer document to the Committee.

Resolution No. 3 Moved by: B. Martin Seconded by: T. Diamond

> RESOLVED that the presentation from SWPH regarding food insecurity in our region be received and that the slide deck be shared with the nine municipalities within Oxford County.

**DISPOSITON:** Motion Carried

- 7. Upcoming Meeting Dates Oxford County Administration Building Room 129
  - Remaining 2025 meetings:
    - o July 28<sup>th</sup> Warden Ryan, B. Martin and T. Diamond will not be in attendance
    - August 25<sup>th</sup> Warden Ryan, S. Hamulecki, and T. Diamond will not be in attendance
    - o September 22<sup>nd</sup>
    - October 27<sup>th</sup>
    - November 24<sup>th</sup> Warden Ryan, B. Martin and S. Hamulecki will not be in attendance
    - December 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - A meeting invite will be circulated for Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> and the July 28<sup>th</sup> and August 25<sup>th</sup> meetings will be cancelled.
  - A meeting invite will be circulated for Monday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and the November 24<sup>th</sup> and December 22<sup>nd</sup> meetings will be cancelled.

## 8. Adjournment

Resolution No. 4	Moved by: B. Martin
	Seconded by: T. Diamond

RESOLVED that the Safe and Well Oxford Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

**DISPOSITON:** Motion Carried