

Smart Update (Consent Agenda) July 10, 2015

At meetings of most organizations, at least a few items come to the agenda that do not need any discussion or debate either because they are routine procedures, for information only or are believed to be unanimously supported. A consent agenda allows the organization to approve all these items together without discussion or individual motions.

Depending upon the organization, this can free up valuable time that can be devoted to more substantial discussions about undecided issues. Any member has the right to “pull” any item from the consent agenda and add it to the regular agenda for discussion or comment or clarification.

Consent agendas are published on the WRCPC website www.preventingcrime.ca along with minutes after approval. **Consent agendas are selective, not comprehensive.** Whenever possible, Consent Agenda items will fall under the directions of the current strategic plan.

A. Collaborative Leadership

1. WRCPC is proud to be a founding member of the newly formed **Rainbow Community Council!** Go to <http://yourwrrc.ca/rainbow-community-council/> for announcement. Please feel free to share this announcement through your networks and online social media channels.
2. **WRCPC Position on Prostitution Law Reform, Bill C-36:** The WRCPC was asked to make a presentation at the SWAN (Sex Workers’ Action Network) symposium on June 11th. Shayne Turner and Dianne Heise described how and why the Council arrived at a resolution supporting the decriminalization of sex work as the preferred policy approach. The SWAN of Waterloo Region announced that they have adopted the WRCPC position statement. Ginette Lafreniere presented the results of the Region of Waterloo Sex Worker Needs Assessment research. (WRCPC provided some financial support for this research.) Contact Dianne for an electronic copy of this research report. Deputy Chief Kevin Thaler also spoke about the local impacts of Bill C-36. We expect this issue will continue to evolve.
3. **Neighbourhood Engagement** – Community Engagement Staff are still involved in assessing & supporting the significant challenges experienced by a local neighbourhood. Two Youth Navigators were hired at the beginning of May. Their orientation phase is largely completed and they spend the majority of their time now getting to know youth in the community. The project partners successfully secured a \$10,000 grant from the Astley Family Foundation to fund an evaluation of the project. A decision to award the contract is

expected shortly. Staff are playing a significant supporting role in this project, on behalf of the Region of Waterloo and of course WRPCPC.

4. **WRIDS:** The Enforcement and Justice Committee has begun meeting and will continue to convene regularly throughout the year. A key event in the fall with justice and other representatives from Seattle is expected. The WRIDS Steering Committee endorsed a “Take Back Your Prescription” campaign using the materials developed by WRPCPC and key support from pharmacists.
5. The [Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinator’s Network of Ontario](#) released “Prescription For Life” on June 1. The recommendations to prevent accidental death have subsequently received support from the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and other health entities. The MDSCNO was established in part by the WRPCPC in 2008 and now includes members in more than 155 municipalities and First Nations across Ontario.
6. Michael attended a forum of select international experts in drug policy at St. Michael’s Hospital as a lead up to UN GASS 2016. Canada is an outlier in global drug policy with Russia and China as primary allies.
7. The WRPCPC was pleased to write a letter of support to establish a ‘managed alcohol program’ in Waterloo region. The WRPCPC via In The Mind’s Eye has hosted several events since 2006 highlighting the benefits of a ‘wet shelter’.
8. The **National Municipal Network** launch is now scheduled for October 01, 2015. The City of Montreal has agreed to proceed with a consultant position for the network. A call for proposals will be shared shortly.

B. Education and Learning

1. **I Choose Dignity!** June 12, 2015 – WRPCPC staff participated in Extend-A-Family’s **virtual launch** of this year’s I Choose Dignity campaign. Visit <http://www.ichoosedignity.com/events.html> to see how you can support this campaign – post a photo of your organization supporting dignity for all.
2. **Breaking the Silence on Hidden Violence** – staff is preparing a report to be made available at September Council meeting outlining collective and individual actions recommended at the November 2014 Friends meeting and subsequent meetings. A full update will come to the September 2015 WRPCPC meeting.
3. **Intimate Partner Violence** materials (posters and RAP sheets) were featured at the to the Region of Waterloo’s display table at **Tri-Pride** on June 6.

4. WRCPC staff participated in the launch of the **Year of Code** on Saturday, July 4 with a display and distribution of our THINK material. Year of Code is a one-year regional initiative to teach digital literacy to 250,000+ people of all ages, but with a primary focus on youth and teens. #YoCWR is leading the work to increase access to technological learning, and to shine a spotlight on tech learning opportunities, organizations, and facilities in the region.
5. Thanks to all WRCPC members for providing photos for **our new website**. We will be ready to launch publicly soon... stay tuned!
6. Working Group for the **History of Crime Prevention Project** met and toured the Governor's House. Sara Wicks was hired on a federal summer student grant and is moving along quickly with the research.
7. **Mark your calendars NOW** for the next Friends of Crime Prevention event – **Thursday September 10th, 6:30pm**. We couldn't be more pleased to welcome **Mr. Howard Sapers**, Correctional Investigator of Canada, for a film + discussion evening at the Kitchener Public Library. More details to come, but you don't want to miss this night!
8. The **Justice Dinner** keynote speakers met on June 29th, 2015. The six keynote speakers discussed the focus for the evening to assist with the subject matter of their speeches. A theme of "back to the future" was agreed upon and it promises to be a fun evening with plenty of room to reflect of what we have learned over 20 years. **Mark your calendars for the Justice Dinner on Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 5:30pm!**

C. Research & Inquiry

1. The main area of focus for the research area has been on consolidating the consultation data with the data from the June retreat towards the **WRCPC strategic plan** as well as to provide input in the larger Regional strategic planning process. A release of the strategic plan is anticipated at the very latest for the Justice Dinner.
2. AGORE will continue as a committee with a somewhat changed mandate and a meeting for the review of actions for the remainder of 2015 is anticipated for October 2015.

D. In the News

1. [Ontario networks push for broader access to opioid antidote](#) (Hamilton Spectator, June 10, 2015)
2. [Police looking for unused expired drugs](#) (The Record, May 6, 2015)

E. Additional Information from the WRCPC office.

1. To bring the **budget of the WRCPC** in alignment with current resources and operational needs we had to make redundant the FT management position of supervisor of research and evaluation. A notification to WRCPC and significant community partners was provided on June 24, 2015. We thank Anthony Piscitelli for his many contributions to crime prevention through social development in Waterloo Region and wish him all the very best. While this was a difficult decision, sincere attempts are made to keep service changes for 2015 to a minimum and plan for a 2016 based on the strategic directions for the next four years.
2. The **move to the Governor's House** is now scheduled for the **week of August 03, 2015**. **Unfortunately, phone numbers will need to change** and staff are working on notifications to the Community. Council's continued support and patience with this process is much appreciated. Staff are committed to keeping the disruptions to a minimum. The **open house is planned for September 18, 2015** with further details to follow.

F. Community Partner Information

1. **July 25, 2015:** The African Women's Alliance of Waterloo Region is celebrating its 14th **Annual Afro Festival** is on Saturday, July 25th, at Waterloo Park, Westmount Road entrance from 12:00p.m to 8:00p.m. The Afro Festival is a festival of dance, music, drama, art and African cuisine celebrating the rich cultural heritage of all of the countries that comprise the African continent. For more information please go to <http://afrowomen.org/afrofest.html>
2. **September 24, 2015:** The HAV (**Human Animal Vulnerability**) Coalition of Waterloo Region Conference. For more information please go to <http://havcoalition.ca/announcements/>

G. Attachments:

1. Jane's Walk Report to Community Services Committee June 16, 2015 - PDF

Respectfully submitted,
July 06, 2015

Christiane Sadeler
(Executive Director)