

Smart Update (Consent Agenda) December 11, 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. This can free up valuable time that can be devoted to more substantial discussions about undecided issues. Any member has the right to “pull” an item from the Consent Agenda and add it to the regular agenda for discussion, comment or clarification. Consent agendas are published on our website www.preventingcrime.ca, along with approved minutes. 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. **Neighbourhood Engagement** – Community Engagement staff continue to work with a Kitchener neighbourhood to support youth engagement opportunities. As with any project, it is never perfectly smooth & partners are starting the search to hire two new youth navigators. The partners hired an evaluator who has already begun their work. Of most concern is the sustainability of projects of this nature and staff are engaged in discussions about this with the city stakeholder group.
2. **Smart on Crime 2015-2018** – Our new community plan will be available for distribution at the December WRPC meeting. With a focus on three priority areas – **youth, neighbourhoods** and **building the momentum for Smart on Crime** – this plan outlines several actions for council over the next four years.

We will achieve these actions through four key approaches:

- Balance knowledge with innovation
- Increase engagement of the community
- Leverage dynamic partnerships
- Advocate for equity and belonging

We engaged a young artist from Cambridge, Mackenzie Eckert, to paint the cover of the new plan, which will be unveiled at the December Council meeting. The strategic plan will roll out as a full document, a one page summary handout and of course via our website and social media channels. Shayne Turner, WRPC Vice-chair, will present the plan to Regional Council on **Wednesday, December 16 at 7:00 p.m.** in Regional Council Chambers, 150 Frederick Street. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

3. At the request of the WRIDS Steering Committee, WRPC is lending time to develop an **Overdose Monitoring, Warning and Preparedness Plan**. The presence of bootleg fentanyl in Ontario, which WRPC advised on in [2013](#), and the absence of surveillance,

plan or crisis response has the potential to lead to significant harm. Both Alberta and BC are expected to see significant numbers in fentanyl deaths this year.

4. In October, the WRCPC endorsed a letter requesting the Province to establish a leadership role on **opioid-related overdose deaths**. The [letter](#) was signed by nearly 80 organizations and individuals and has been sent to the Premier and the Minister of Health. Prescription opioid use is a leading cause of premature death and is a major contributor to acquisitive crimes.
5. Together with CJI and other partners, WRCPC is working with **a new collaborative** to reduce the transition of youth at risk or in the youth criminal justice system from entering the adult criminal justice system.
6. We received an email from Howard Sapers (honorary friend of crime prevention since his visit in Waterloo Region in September 2015) that he has indeed passed on the blue “be a friend ” button as we requested. The recipient was no-one less that the Honorable Minister of Public Safety Canada, **Mr. Ralph Goodale**.
7. Staff attended the Ontario symposium regarding **Community Safety and Well-being**. Symposium information has been shared with Regional staff and members of WRCPC and is again available upon request.

B. Education and Learning

1. **Smarttalks Justice Dinner 2015**: Approximately 287 people attended the annual Justice Dinner held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in downtown Kitchener on October 22, 2015. Overall, based on some feedback from the guests and participants, the event was a success. The Justice Dinner Committee will be meeting on December 8, 2015 to debrief about the Dinner and to talk about next year’s event. We invite WRCPC members that have not had the opportunity to provide feedback to email any suggestions (keynote speaker, format etc.) for next year’s event to Mary Anna Allen at mallen@regionofwaterloo.ca . Survey results, a budget report and updates will be provided to the WRCPC at the January meeting.
2. A presentation of the **Connected School Award** was made to **Grandview Public School**, New Hamburg on November 26. Peter Rubenschuh and Regional Chair Seiling presented the award and \$500.00 cheque to the school for their involvement in Say Hi Day 2015. The principal reports they will use their prize to host a community Christmas lunch to student engagement. A presentation will be made to St. Anne Catholic Elementary School in Cambridge in January 2016.
3. During Bullying Awareness Week (Nov 16-20) the Social Media Committee promoted the **THINK campaign** to schools by providing materials as a resource to use during the week through a school



board memo. Several schools promoted the THINK message during this week.

4. The **Social Media Committee** has partnered with the [Year of Code](#) to work with secondary students who will develop code to create a standalone website for THINK that will be ready to launch in the spring. The website will feature resources and information for students, teachers, and parents. The project will be documented as a case study as part of Year of Code Waterloo Region. <http://www.yocwr.ca/>
5. **Breaking the Silence on Hidden Violence** – this report was presented to the Community Services Committee on Tuesday, December 17. Committee members gave unanimous endorsement of the report. While this endorsement does not come with a course of action per se, it is another step along the way to bolster community buy-in. It also speaks to additional future supports we can expect when seeking assistance from Regional Departments and it comprises a commitment from Regional Council to help our community advance this work in the prevention of hate crimes.

We posted this news on our Facebook page. **Your quick action of the day: Like it & Share it!** <https://www.facebook.com/crimepreventioncouncil/>

Find the report here: http://preventingcrime.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/2015-BreakingTheSilence_web.pdf

6. **Educational Events about Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):** WRCPC is a member of the Health Engagement Task Force (of the Domestic Assault Review Team, DART) which seeks to increase awareness of and screening for intimate partner violence. An event about IPV and child maltreatment was attended by 28 medical residents on October 26th at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine. On December 3rd, an event focusing on domestic violence and the workplace for human resource professionals and employee supervisors was held at Anselma House. Twenty-five people from businesses, non-profits, and the public sector attended. Both events provided expert keynote speakers, a panel representing community resources and time for questions. Positive evaluation feedback affirms the value of these knowledge and relationship building events.

Note: These efforts arise from the previous work of the Violence Prevention Committee and a recommendation from the report produced by WRCPC titled **The Missing Pieces: An Assessment of Service Assets and Gaps for Offenders and Victims of Interpersonal Violence in Waterloo Region (2010)**. Given the new mandate of the Violence Prevention Committee, WRCPC staff will be transitioning off this task force in the spring of 2016. The task force is expected to continue)

C. Research & Inquiry

1. AGORE (the Advisory Group On Research and Evaluation) continues to develop the model and activities for a **Knowledge Exchange Centre** and has provided content for a job description for a part-time Knowledge Exchange Coordinator that will be hired in the new year.
2. The **Violence Prevention Committee** is exploring the new mandate to measure, monitor and report on interpersonal violence in Waterloo Region by focusing initially on domestic violence. The committee is reviewing research and results of key informant interviews.

D. In the News

1. [Support for families who've lost loved ones to drugs](#) (Molly Hayes, Hamilton Spectator, October 26, 2015)

E. Additional Information

1. Connectivity Waterloo Region received an International Association of Chiefs of Police award. Staff attended the celebration at Victoria Pavilion. A presentation by the evaluators is scheduled for the regular meeting of WRCPC on January 09, 2016.
2. The National Municipal Network officially launched in Montreal on December 04, 2015. The network steering group met ahead of the launch and the full network met over three days to closely look at the work plan and what is required as part of the funding. Sustainable Societies Consulting Inc has been hired to coordinate the project. A full report will come forward to WRCPC at the January meeting.

F. Community Partner Information

1. **WAYVE** is a youth violence prevention and mental health promotion program for youth by youth in the Waterloo Region. WAYVE used to stand for Working Against Youth Violence Everywhere but it now stands for **Wellness Acceptance Youth Voices Empowerment**. Check out this new promotional video to help explain the WAYVE program. YouTube link to the video: <https://youtu.be/2i9Y4O6N2ZM>
2. [March 24, 2016 United Way KW & Area Community Spirit Awards 2015](#)
3. [March 10, 2016 oneRoof Youth Services Call to Action, Eradicate Youth Homelessness - Amanda Lindhout](#)

Respectfully Submitted,

Christiane Sadeler,
Executive Director
December 07, 2015