

## WRPCPC Minutes

July 12, 2019

9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ken Seiling Waterloo Region Museum

10 Huron Road

Classroom A

Chair: Shayne Turner

Minutes: Michael Parkinson

**Present:** Lu Roberts, Bill Wilson, Chris Cowie, Jennifer Hutton, Jonathan English, Kathy Payette, Peter Ringrose, Arran Rowles, Cathy Harrington, Courtney Didier, Doug McKlusky, Irene O'Toole, Janice Ouellette, Kathryn McGarry, Kelly Anthony, Laurie Strome, Liz Vitek, Mark Pancer, Richard Eibach, Rosslyn Bentley, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shayne Turner, Tom Galloway, Nicole Redgate

**Regrets:** Angela Vanderheyden, Barry Cull, Bryan Larkin, Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders, Felix Munger, John Shewchuk, Sarah Shafiq, Andrew Jackson, Barry McClinchey, Carmen Abel, David Jaeger, Hsiu - Li Wang, James Bond, Joe-Ann McComb, Kelly Bernier, Nikki Smith, Shirley Hilton, Trisha Robinson

**Staff:** Alejandra Amezquita Gutierrez, Christiane Sadeler, David Siladi, Michael Parkinson

### 1. **Welcome:**

WRPCPC members were welcomed and introduced.

### 2. **Approval of Agenda:**

Moved by Doug McKlusky

Seconded by Courtney Didier

Carried

### 3. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest:**

None

#### 4. WRPCPC Membership Changes:

Cathy Harrington indicated that Shawn Johnston is leaving to attend school outside of Waterloo region, and Lu Roberts has been nominated to serve as Indigenous Services represented. Arran Rowles is proposed to be a designate for Douglas Bartholomew-Saunders.

Moved by Cathy Harrington

Seconded by Courtney Didier

Carried

#### 5. Approval of the May 10, 2019 Minutes:

Moved by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Seconded by Jonathan English

##### 5.1 Business Arising:

Christiane Sadeler noted that the Smart on Crime evaluation is forthcoming via five knowledge briefs. The briefs alongside other materials are unique in terms of summarizing evaluation results and indicate a positive impact and a healthy organizational culture.

Carried.

#### 6. Approval of the Smart Update:

Moved by Laurie Strome

Seconded by Tom Galloway

Irene O'Toole highlighted two items: WRPCPC's Conversations of Substance report and the meeting with Minister Blair.

Irene noted that she attended the **Conversations of Substance** report presentation at Regional Council but had to leave the lengthy meeting before the presentation. Irene asked where the report is at now, especially in light of the overdose crisis and other drug-related issues showing no signs of substantial improvements.

Christiane Sadeler indicated that the purpose of the **Conversations of Substance** report was to inform the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) and related community efforts along the prevention continuum. WRPCPC was able to provide a vehicle for hearing the voices of youth using substances and who are at considerable distance to the opportunities many of their peers enjoy. The report is now for the community to share, reflect on, and consider the necessary efforts to improve the quality of life for

youth farthest from opportunities. The WRCPC will make the presentation slides **available in the members'** corner so that sector leaders can share the report in their respective systems.

Regarding comments about WRCPC's absence in drug-related issues, Christiane Sadeler noted that WRCPC had asked for additional resources beginning in 2016 to support drug-related efforts but none were forthcoming. Staff continue to receive drug-related requests locally and beyond but still lack the capacity to assist. Christiane is involved with the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy and the Opioid-Response Plan, of which the Waterloo Region Youth Engagement Strategy (WR YES) is a key feature within the prevention pillar. Are we on top of the overdose issue? No. The challenge is large, complex and runs deep and the WRCPC withdrawal created further gaps which is not surprising. Staff are doing the best they can with the resources available.

Irene O'Toole asked if there was a role for WRCPC? The overdose-substance use issue may be one of the greatest issues of all time in the region and beyond. Do we need to have a discussion about what the role of WRCPC is?

Christiane Sadeler noted that perhaps the November 8, 2019 WRCPC meeting would be an opportunity. The Smart on Crime plan speaks to addressing issues of marginalization and inequity and the connection between drugs and crime is not lost but resources were not forthcoming from a variety of sources. Tom Galloway suggested WRCPC should continue to have role, and should take a lot of credit for developing the Waterloo Region Integrated Drugs Strategy (WRIDS) and related initiatives. Tom asked that WRCPC be updated occasionally and reminded everyone that there is still much more to be done.

Irene O'Toole asked if we could have an update from WRIDS 2-3x per year? Christiane Sadeler indicated that the WRIDS Coordinator's reports could be added to the consent agenda since they are a matter of public record. An invitation was extended to the Chair of the WRIDS, along with other local collaboratives, to attend WRCPC meetings but the invitation was declined simply due to lack of capacity. The WRIDS Coordinator is working part time and also has very limited availability. Christiane Sadeler noted that WRCPC has not replaced the Addiction Sector representative since Jennifer Mains retired which is in part what is creating the challenge.

Rosslyn Bentley indicated that community health centres are advocating for decriminalization of all drugs.

Christiane Sadeler noted she has raised broader drug policy issues including decriminalization at the WRIDS steering committee at the last meeting but the committee ran out of time. It might be wise to have WRCPC involved in this aspect given the overlap of crime, justice, health and social well being.

Richard Eibach offered comments on Minister Blair's visit with Chair Redman, Christiane Sadeler and Cathy Harrington present alongside Jeremy Steffler who joined from work by teleconference. Richard noted the meeting was interesting and useful, and he spoke of the catalyst role of WRCPC, and the wide variety of work done over the years. Minister Blair showed curiosity on LGBTQ+ issues, especially the perspectives and efforts outside of Toronto and in rural areas. Cathy suggested the Minister seemed impressed and supportive of crime prevention strategies and offered to open doors for the national network among others if needed.

Richard Eibach thanked the outreach efforts of WRCPC staff – especially Julie Thompson – during Pride Month. Lots of great feedback on Breaking the Silence word was received including the artful door in particular. Richard found the GVI experience was one of the most moving Pride experiences of his life.

Christiane Sadeler thanked Richard Eibach for his very substantial efforts this year.

Carried

## 7. **Book Review: “Dopesick” reviewed by Bill Wilson**

Bill Wilson provided an overview of the 2018 book **Dopesick: Dealers, Doctors, and the Drug Company that Addicted America** by Beth Macy. The book outlines the rise of a company's pharmaceutical opioid called OxyContin, and the enormous harms and profits that followed.

Beth Macy's book provides a history of opioid use, from the civil war to the present, including the purchase of Purdue Pharma U.S.A. by the Sackler brothers. Purdue U.S.A. subsequently began a campaign, now the subject of several criminal and civil suits, to encourage the prescribing and dispensing of OxyContin, a time release opioid that many across North America cite as the precursor to the chronic opioid/overdose crisis. Both the harms from prescription opioids and the dangers of an unregulated (fentanyl and other novel substances) market were flagged by the WRCPC, beginning in 2008.

A good discussion followed with Kelly Anthony, Courtney Didier, Rosslyn Bentley and Michael Parkinson weighing in. Bill Wilson is pleased to recommend the book for members of Council. A copy of the “Dopestick” is available at the WRCPC office for borrowing.

## 8. **Another new WRCPC Film!**

David Siladi premiered a new WRCPC film for Council members. The film captures the historical narrative of WRCPC since its inception, culminating in the middle-out catalyst function that WRCPC uniquely occupies today. The film will be released publicly in the near future alongside the time line narratives, report and interactive information graphic.

The film was created in anticipation of the need to capture history as significant changes are anticipated in the future.

### **9.1 Joining with Wellbeing Waterloo Region:**

Christiane Sadeler provided an overview of the process to date, up to the joint consultation meeting, and the anticipated process for the future – the PowerPoint is attached to these minutes.

A question posed at the Slit Barn consultation - should we merge or should we not – revealed this outcome:

56% said yes

44% said yes with reservations

No one said no.

Lori Fioze and Christiane Sadeler continue to meet, consult and plan. Christiane noted that financial budgets are not the only challenge – the ongoing decline of social capital has been a significant factor for several years now.

A WRCPC Design Planning Team has been struck, with members noted in the attached PowerPoint, with the addition of Richard Eibach. A draft timeline provided for the potential merger was presented and will again be discussed at September WRCPC retreat. Celebrating community success to date will be a feature of the upcoming Justice Dinner on November 14.

Cathy Harrington noted that reflecting on unanticipated consequences may prove to be a valuable addition to the current discussions.

Kelly Anthony noted that the benefits and challenges were not publicly discussed at the Slit Barn event. Christiane indicated that they are in the report summarizing the meeting which was circulated to WRCPC but that it needed further discussion.

**9.2** Council members worked in small groups to generate drivers for and against a change. Please see full notes below.

**9.3** Council members were asked to individually provide a visual representing a potential model and some potential names for a new entity. Key thoughts from members of WRCPC included:

- We need a collaborative constellation model.
- “You can’t be neutral on a moving train”
- Well being need to be more clearly defined
- Bringing community into the process of the planning matters.

- It is essentially a community advocacy for wellbeing initiative.

**Potential names or inclusion of words mentioned were:**

Upstream Waterloo Region (x 2)

Inclusion Waterloo Region (first nations models incorporated visually)

Safe Waterloo Region

Waterloo Region Upstream Prevention and Wellbeing

WR Crime Prevention and Safety in Our Community (with an inverted triangle to indicate the grass roots component)

Community Safety and Wellness Committee

WR Safety and Well Being Council (intentionally identify crime prevention in the structure/mandate)

Safe Waterloo Region

Community Safety & Wellbeing Waterloo Region

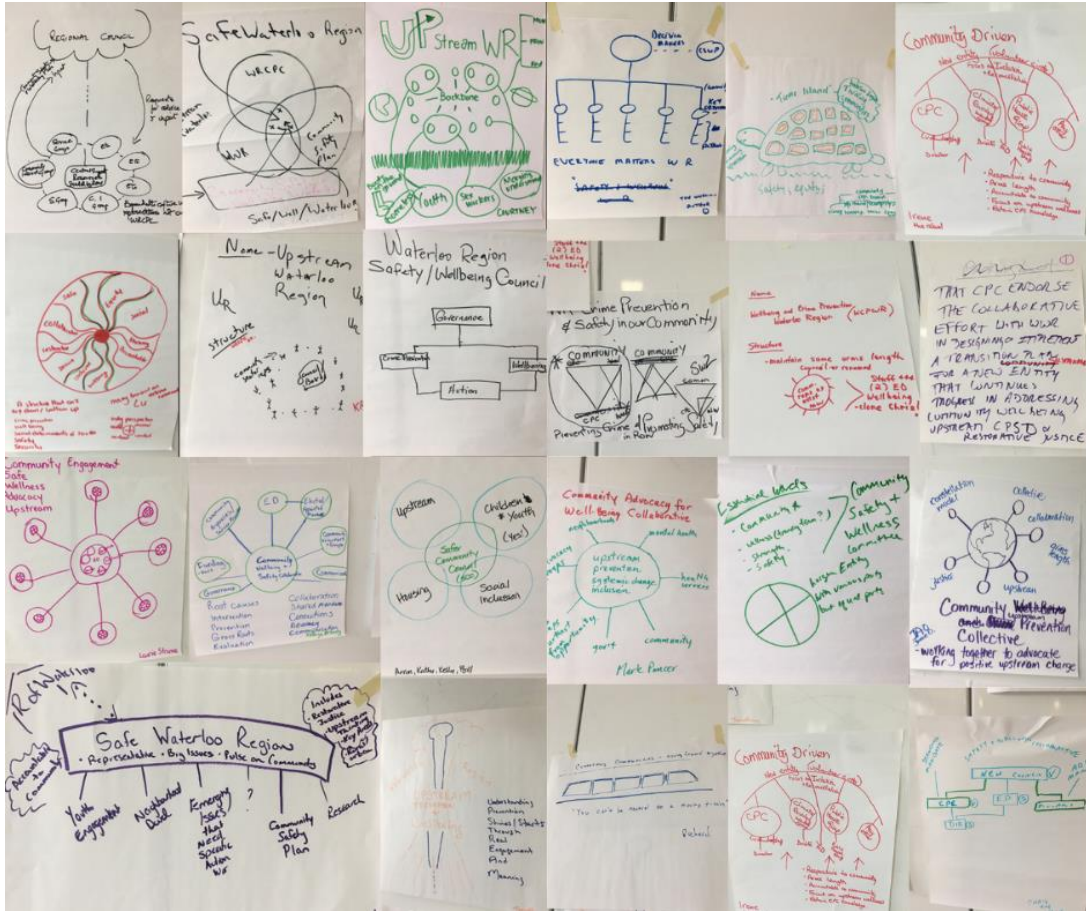
“Everyone Matters - Waterloo Region”

Safer Community Council

Community Wellbeing and Safety Collaborative

Safety and Wellness Collaborative

Wellbeing and Crime Prevention Waterloo Region



**Discussion: What do you see?**

- A lot of places where similar people are meeting
- Attempts to accommodate governments, legislation, and administrators rather than accommodating community and community members (these are not the same interests)

A question was asked what happens to WWR at end of year?

Christiane clarified that there are some commitments from some funders but staff contracts and secondments are at this time scheduled to end either in December or at the end of March. Lori Fioze is the exception since she is managing the initiative but works in the CAO's office.

Christiane Sadeler said the exercise and comments would be valuable for members of the Design Team and encouraged WRCPC members to connect with any member of staff or design team to forward additional thoughts.

Shayne Turner indicated that likely a recommendation from the Design Team near end of December would be forthcoming, potentially to be followed by establishing an Implementation Team in January to be comprised of different people.

Shayne Turner made the following motion:

**That the WRCPC endorse a collaborative effort with WWR in designing and implementing a transition plan for a new sustainable entity that continues progress in addressing community well being, upstream crime prevention through social development and restorative justice.**

Seconded by Chris Cowie

Discussion:

It is a bit of a leap of faith that a small group will do this work and reporting back to the larger group matters. Decisions should be made by the full Council only.

Lori Fioze and Christiane Sadeler are only there to provide background information as needed and are to facilitate but not direct the process.

The motion provides license to continue the work. The goal is to begin a new entity next year. The train may have left the station, but we can hop off anytime.

Carried

## **9. Adjournment:**

Moved by Jonathan English

Carried at 11:40 a.m.



## WRPCPC Notes from small group discussions on July 12, 2019

### Why we need to change...

- Increase impact through alignment
- The new entity has to have a different look
- The new mandated regulation provides new opportunities
- There might be opportunities for new/more diversified resources
- We are always doing more with less
- There might be resource allocations from province
- This will force change faster instead of being static
- For the community this adds clarity in knowing whom to ask to access supports
- Root causes are common to both initiatives
- More clarity for community members since the two organizations look alike
- Duplication of efforts is not sustainable
- We are louder together = increased impacts
- Optics: we are expected to be more efficient
- Two organizations will simply not be funded
- This allows us the opportunity to figure it out on our own as opposed to having it done to us
- It is a chance for new name or branding
- We can create a stronger and broader collaborative
- It will bring enhancements as we move forward

### What are the drivers against change...

- Ownership
- Generational; mature vs new
- Fear of the unknown
- Loss of authority and decision making – need to get the right balance
- Decisions that can filter down taking away from the grass roots
- Access to the right decision makers (see also clarity comment above)
- Losing focus on justice
- Existing effective structure (WRPCPC) via constellation governance might be altered and become ineffective
- Fear of losing jobs
- Fear of losing our fearless leader too soon
- With cuts will anyone be able to exist???
- If it is too big it is hard to move out of process and into movement
- Caution about reacting rather than planning
- Losing focus on justice

- Community feeling loss of a long standing initiative

### **Yellow Flags – I can support this merger if...**

- Process is facilitated and the concept of merger is identified as the right way to move forward (use independent facilitator!)
- Collaboration is equally distributed between the two entities
- We show respect and think the process out with integrity
- We focus on keeping the strengths and approaches that have worked (i.e. frameworks), people knowledge and broad-based approaches
- We safeguard the relationships that exist and that have built trust and our ability to build consensus (and where challenges are welcome here)
- Movement is made
- We have a truly collaborative approach
- We design a structure that includes everyone and allows for movement forward
- We have a shared vision and shared commitment and a processes that enable this to happen
- We don't lose 'arms-length' independence (freedom to hit issues hard and show courage)
- It is not prescriptive
- There is diverse representation
- The voice for upstream prevention stays central to the new initiative
- There is a **real commitment** to advocacy for those furthest from opportunity
- We retain the ability for **action** and independent decision making
- Crime prevention remains a focus: Smart on Crime plan is identifiable
- The justice piece isn't lost
- Increased awareness is still there
- We clearly acknowledge and address peoples' concerns
- We have a true consultation where all ideas are addressed/considered; we feel heard are given due consideration
- If not everything is new but objectives can stay same and it is more like bringing two groups working together

### **Red Flags – I could NOT support this merger if....**

- We lose funding
- We lose focus on justice, crime, prevention
- CPC loses traction on current actions/work
- NO is really not an option. We need to figure it out. Which makes this exercise a bit moot.

- CPC ceases to become a catalyst organization and becomes a 'doing for' organization
- We lose the expertise/human power/institutional memory
- We lose the connections/connectedness of/in community
- Are just assimilating one group into the other

## **Post meeting reminder:**

### **Volunteers are needed for “Doors Open”**

“Doors Open” will be happening on Saturday, September 21st! This is a free heritage and architecture open house event, organized by Region of Waterloo. Visitors will be given the opportunity to tour noteworthy buildings, interesting places and heritage sites in Waterloo Region, many of which are not regularly open to the public. Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council takes this opportunity to showcase the 1878 historic Governor’s House where its offices are located since 2015. Since the themes this year is “water” we decided **to feature the Upstream campaign.**

**Staff are looking for 4 awesome volunteers (two in the morning and two in the afternoon) to help with logistics and the tour on Sept 21. The volunteers’ functions are to welcome and guide people through the house. We will be distributing a brochure with interesting information about the architecture and the renovations of the house as well as share information about upstream approaches.**

For more information about “Doors Open”, please visit

<https://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/en/exploring-the-region/doors-open-waterloo-region.aspx>