

## WRPCPC Agenda

December 11, 2020

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

The meeting will take place via Zoom. Please follow the instructions provided in the email or the Outlook meeting invitation.

**Chair:** Richard Eibach

**Minutes:** M.A. Allen

1. Welcome – 3 min
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
4. Approval of the November 13, 2020 Minutes – 5 min (attachment)
  - 4.1 Business Arising
5. Safe Supply Survey results – Jesse Burt and Michael Parkinson – 45 min
6. **Break** – 5 min
7. Vision Strategic Planning – Chris Cowie and Deb Bergey – 75 min
8. Nominating Committee update – Irene O’Toole – 15 min
9. Executive Director Update. None.
10. Other Business
11. Adjournment

## Draft WRCPC Minutes

November 13, 2020

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

### Video Conferencing

**Present:** Andrew Jackson, Bill Wilson, Chris Cowie, Dave Dunk, Irene O'Toole, Joe-Ann McComb Janice Ouellette, Jonathan English, Kathryn McGarry, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Mark Pancer, Patricia Moore, Peter Ringrose, Richard Eibach, Rosslyn Bentley, Sarah Shafiq, Shayne Turner, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Shirley Hilton, Tom Galloway, Trisha Robinson

**Regrets:** Angela Vanderheyden, Arran Rowles, Barry McClinchey, Bryan Larkin and Mark Crowell, Carmen Abel, Cathy Harrington, David Jaegar, Doug McKlusky, Hsiu-Li Wang and Karen Quigley-Hobbs, James Bond, Jennifer Hutton, John Shewchuk, Karen Spencer and Kelly Bernier, Lu Roberts

**Staff and Students:** Amy Moore (MSW Student), Deb Bergey, Jessica Hutchison, Julie Thompson, Michael Parkinson, Mary Anna Allen

**Chair:** Richard Eibach

**Minutes:** M.A. Allen

### 1. Moment of Silence:

The WRCPC participated in a moment of silence to remember the many people in the community that have passed away due to an opioid overdose in our community. Lives matter and all communities need to do better.

### 2. Welcome:

Richard Eibach welcomed WRCPC members and staff.

### 3. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Seconded by Mark Pancer

Carried.

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

None.

#### **5. Approval of the October 9, 2020 Minutes:**

Moved by Irene

Seconded by Patricia

Carried

##### **5.1 Business Arising:**

None.

#### **6. WRCPC Presentation to Regional Council:**

Peter Ringrose will be presenting to Regional Council on November 17, 2020. The presentation focus will be about the document: 'What is the Culture of the WRCPC?' It will also provide an opportunity to prepare Regional Council for a subsequent presentation of the WRCPC new concept proposal anticipated for the spring of 2021. The presentation will focus on Council's future directions: Upstream approaches, systems change, and governance review and restructuring. A viewing of the Upstream Prevention video will be included.

Staff will ensure that the WRCPC receive the webcast link to the Regional Council (Committee of the Whole) meeting. The meeting is on November 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. The WRCPC is second to present.

Kathryn McGarry will connect WRCPC staff with City of Cambridge staff to arrange a date in the New Year for Council to present the culture document to Municipal Council in the New Year.

#### **7. Nominating Committee:**

Irene O'Toole, as Vice Chair, is responsible for the Nominating Committee process for the preparation of the WRCPC 2021 Sector Slate. Council members were asked to inform Irene by the end of the meeting, if they plan to stay on Council for 2021. She will contact members not in attendance about their intentions.

The Nominating Committee consists of approximately five people. The Committee meets three times a year to review the sector list for potential changes to the sectors, representatives and

to review current vacancies using a diversity lens. Decisions about filling sector vacancies will be determined based on WRCPC structural changes and community need. Council members are to contact Irene O'Toole if there is an interest in participating on the Committee.

A Sector Slate 2021 will come forward to the WRCPC at its meeting on January 8, 2021 for approval. Irene encouraged Council members to forward representative recommendations from the broader community for Nominating Committee to consider for membership. The approved Council will meet at its inaugural meeting on February 12, 2021, for the election of the Executive positions: Chair, Vice Chair and Facilitating Committee representatives.

## **8. Design Team Update:**

To date, there have been discussions at the WRCPC table and the Design Team table about an integrated vision that aligns the work of the WRCPC and WWR. The hope is to address the overlapping efforts of both entities and to amplify those efforts. The Design Team has reviewed different concepts for integration. Most recently, the two groups explored an idea about building a foundation around integrating the concept of restorative practices and investigating the idea of a Centre of Justice and Prevention entity. Chris Cowie provided a presentation about the history of Restorative Justice and provided examples of restorative practices and principles. Following that meeting, members from both groups began to map out shared values, look at ways of implementing those values in the community, and identify alignments. Lastly, there was a discussion about restorative justice concepts and practices.

However, since that time, Wellbeing Waterloo Region has informed the WRCPC that the collaborative is currently working with organizational sustainability. Following a Connector's Hub meeting the decision was made to pause their involvement in the Design Team process, for now, to focus on their priorities. WWR is interested in pursuing this venture with WRCPC but the organization requires some time to regroup and reassess.

Deb Bergey, Irene O'Toole and Richard Eibach met to discuss the next steps for the Design Team process. It is important to move forward with the developing the concept, which has a tight timeline. A presentation of the draft concept, scheduled for the WRCPC meeting today, is now postponed to the December meeting. In addition, Council has made a commitment to the Region of Waterloo to develop a concept and present a proposal to Regional Council in the New Year.

It was recommended that the WRCPC members, part of the Design Team, continue work on shaping of a shared vision and concurrently keep the process open for WWR to rejoin the course once the group has reassessed their situation. Dominique O'Rourke is currently working on one of the practical aspects: creating a common language.

Some concerns expressed by Council members with that process are as follows:

- If the WRCPC moves too far ahead in its planning it might make it difficult for WWR to align its work when the group is ready to rejoin.
- The WRCPC is anxious to move forward and continue to champion upstream approaches to systemic issues.
- WRCPC and WWR were asked to align their work so as to avoid the duplication of collaborative tables and the region's response to the KPMG report is that the WRCPC and WWR are currently exploring the partnership and aligning of the two entities.

The next step recommended in the process is for the Chair, Vice Chair and potentially the Executive Director of the WRCPC to meet with Regional Chair Redman and CAO, Bruce Lauckner to provide a Design Team process update and to express some of Council's concerns and to ask for some clarification.

The Council will continue to flesh out a concept and shape a shared vision while keeping WWR informed of WRCPC's progress and leaving a space open for WWR and other organizations to integrate their work. This will not delay Council's upstream work, and ability to address issues within the community particularly extenuated by the pandemic.

A draft concept will be presented to the WRCPC at the December meeting.

## **9. Youth Engagement Strategy:**

Mark Pancer provided a Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) update carried forward from the WRCPC meeting held on October 9, 2020.

YES committee members are as follows: Janice Ouellette, Kathy Payette, Mark Pancer, and Joe-Anne McComb. Michael Parkinson is the staff support person.

In February 2018, Alfgeir Kristjansson was invited to the Region of Waterloo to present the Iceland Model, a best practice model using a community-based approach aimed at preventing children and adolescents from the initiation of drug use and other negative activities. Other best practice models include inREACH, Better Beginnings Better Futures (BBBF) and the Participating and Learning Skills (PALS) program.

The Iceland presentation received much support. Building on the upstream approach, the Youth Engagement Strategy committee (YES) began to look at developing a hybridized 'made in Waterloo Region' approach. This approach would include youth involvement. Research supports the notion of the need for a youth voice in developing every aspect of the project. In addition, the project would include a youth reference group.

Some issues that arose in the planning included the lack of staff time to look into partnerships, to develop the required structure and to develop the youth reference group. Some emergent

issues in the community took priority. Funding proposals submitted by Michael Parkinson for a dedicated person to the project and for the youth reference group were unsuccessful. This includes the most recent proposal for \$230 thousand from the cannabis implementation fund for a scoping review of the hybridized model and for the youth reference group. YES continues to looking for funding to move the process forward.

The Children and Youth Planning Table expressed an interested in supporting and amplifying the work of the Youth Engagement Strategy.

Council members support the model moving forward to a potential pilot project.

WRPCPC member Mark Pancer along with staff members, Deb Bergey, Michael Parkinson and Jessica Hutchison will be meeting with the City of Waterloo Mayor Jaworsky, Council member Jen Vasic, and CAO Tim Anderson to talk about some upstream funding opportunities for municipalities. A presentation including the youth engagement work has been prepared for that meeting.

A University of Waterloo research group is moving ahead with a small neighbourhood pilot project based on the Iceland model.

**10. Break:** WRPCPC returned at approximately 10:33 a.m.

**11. Safe Supply Update:**

Michael Parkinson provided an overview of 'safe supply' to the WRPCPC. A historical timeline of, and current efforts of the WRPCPC and its partners, locally and across Canada to advance a public health approach to the opioid-related poisoning crisis via safe supply were provided. Safe supply is about reducing or preventing individual and community harms associated with both the acquisition process and the consumption of the unregulated substances. The brief provided to Cambridge City Council in 2018 is found [here](#).

Fentanyl is the primary substance, often in combination with other substances that has been driving escalating fatal and non-fatal overdose poisoning emergencies across Canada since 2015-16.

The WRPCPC advised in February that the COVID-19 would likely lead to a rise in overdose fatalities. Last week, The Ontario Drug Policy Drug Research Network (ODPRN) released [Preliminary Patterns in Circumstances Surrounding Opioid-Related Deaths in Ontario during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) highlighting the rise in rates of opioid-related poisoning deaths.

There are some structural and funding barriers to safe supply but a prescriber is permitted to offer pharmaceutical equivalents as an alternative to the toxic and unregulated drug markets. Provincial guidelines exist in British Columbia and Quebec. There are existing small-scale

projects in Ontario. The WRCPC has assisted on a grant to Health Canada to support safe supply in Waterloo region.

When individuals are able to access diacetylmorphine or hydromorphone (opiate/opioid) in a therapeutic context, the retention rates are higher compared to other substitution programs such as methadone. There are significant drops in criminal activities and public disorder. A significant decline in homelessness among participants has been observed.

Following on safe supply resolutions from the Federation of Canadian Municipalities and others, the City of Kitchener Council passed a motion, on September 14, 2020, asking for senior level support from governments and regulatory agencies to enable safe supply.

In December 2020, two reports will come forward to Council. The first report is an informal survey about the low barrier shelter approach used at an overflow men's shelter in Kitchener that allowed drug use on site, harm reduction supplies and other supports. The second survey was administered to people who use drugs and are unsheltered and/or in the local shelter system. The survey asked about experiences and perception related to area shelters and housing, substance use and safe supply, and crime and victimization. Knowledge exchange material will be made available to the public in January 2021.

One Council member expressed concern about the need to stay close to the evidence available about safe supply. Dr. Carol Strike from the University of Toronto, Dalla Lana School of Public Health is currently conducting a formal study about safer supply programs. <https://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/faculty-profile/strike-carol/>. Psychiatrist, Jeremy Devine at McMaster expressed concerns about providing treatment while keeping patients trapped in their addictions. <https://policyoptions.irpp.org/magazines/july-2019/opioid-addicts-deserve-more-than-a-safe-supply/> were examples provided. A Council member asked for more literature supporting safe supply. Michael Parkinson will supply that information.

## **12. Justice Dinner 2021:**

The Justice Dinner will be held in 2021.

The planning for the Dinner will include developing a theme, identifying a speaker, and establishing a date. It will take approximately 4 to 5 months to plan. Budget, promotion, event and evaluation.

Julie asked for a few Council members and staff to participate on the committee. Assistance is needed specifically during the first part of planning to help develop a theme.

Janice Ouellette, Doug McKlusky volunteered to help with the planning. Julie will send out an invitation to Council members to ask a few more volunteers.

The Dinner can be a venue to highlight WRCPC's emerging vision and of the work moving forward.

The first Justice Dinner planning discussion will be held at the next Facilitating Committee on December 3, 2020.

### **13. Work Priorities:**

The WRCPC were provided with the current work priorities to review and to provide feedback. Staff are currently assessing the work priorities using an upstream approaches lens.

It was acknowledged that the WRCPC has limited resources, and that the Council is not sure it can do justice to everything listed in the work priorities.

The work priorities will be emailed out to the WRCPC and staff for the purpose of providing feedback directly to Acting Chair, Richard Eibach before the next Facilitating Committee meeting on December 3, 2020.

The Smart on Crime evaluation will support the future direction of the WRCPC. Jessica Hutchison is meeting with Manual Reimer with CCRLA to prepare for an evaluation report to Council.

### **14. Approval of Smart Update (carried over from the Sept.11, 2020 Meeting):**

Moved by Doug McKlusky

Seconded by Chris Cowie

Carried

### **15. Executive Director Update:**

Communications role posted closed on Monday, November 9, 2020. Deb Bergey asked a Council member to be part of the interview process.

### **16. Other Business:**

None.

### **17. Adjournment:**

No approval of adjournment without quorum.