

WRCPA Agenda

October 15, 2021

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Video Conference

Chair: Richard Eibach

Minutes: Shama Saleh and Michael Parkinson

1. Territorial and Land Acknowledgement Differentiation
2. Welcome (5 min)
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
5. Approval of the July 9, 2021, Minutes (attached)
 - 5.1 Business Arising
6. Standing Items:
 - a. Indigenous Peoples Update (5 min)
 - b. Regional Councillor Update (5 min)
 - c. Regional Liaison Update (5 min)
7. Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls for Actions: Irene O'Toole and Lu Roberts (discussion and action) (45 min)
8. Working Group Updates: (15 min) (for information)
 - Anti-racism Working Group: Lu Roberts
 - Youth Engagement Strategy: Mark Pancer
9. Urgent Public Health Needs Sites (UPHNS) Update: Michael Parkinson (15 min) (for information)
10. Executive Director update: Deb Bergey (5 min)
11. Break: (10 min)
12. Follow-up from October 12th Presentation (Closed) (50 min)
13. Other Business
14. Adjournment

WRPCPC Minutes

July 9, 2021

9:00 am to 11:30 am

Video Conference

Present: Amanda Trites, Andrew Jackson, Arran Rowles, Bill Wilson, Chris Cowie, Doug McKlusky, Irene O'Toole, Jamie Sheridan, James Bond, Janice Ouellette, Jennifer Hutton, Joe-Ann McComb, John Goodman, Jonathan English, Judah Oudshoorn, Karen Spencer, Kathryn McGarry, Kathy Payette, Kelly Anthony, Lu Roberts, Mark Pancer, Myeengun Henry, Peter Ringrose, Richard Eibach, Rosslyn Bentley, Sara Escobar, Sharon Ward-Zeller, Tom Galloway Trisha Robinson

Regrets: Angela Vanderheyden, Barry McClinchey, Cathy Harrington, Dave Dunk, David Jaeger, Hsiu-Li Wang, John Shewchuk, Patricia Moore, Sarah Shafiq, Sue Weare

Staff: Deb Bergey, Abbi Longmire, Julie Thompson, Mary Anna Allen, Michael Parkinson, Shama Saleh

Guests: Clarence Cachagee (Conestoga College), Niran Akintunde (Community Justice Initiatives), and Mifrah Abid (Coalition of Muslim Women)

Chair: Richard Eibach

Minutes: Mary Anna Allen

1. Land Acknowledgement;

Land Acknowledgement provided by Clarence Cachagee.

2. Welcome:

WRPCPC members and guests were welcome and introductions were made.

3. Approval of Agenda:

Moved by Doug McKlusky

Seconded by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Carried

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest:

None

5. Approval of the June 11, 2021, Minutes:

Moved by Kathy Payette

Seconded by Kathryn McGarry

Carried

5.1 Business Arising:

Letter to Chair Redman follow-up:

At the May 2021 WRCPD meeting, the Council passed a motion to send a letter to the Regional Chair Karen Redman, Regional Council, and CAO, Bruce Lauckner asking about the future of the WRCPD at the Region of Waterloo. Richard Eibach shared that the WRCPD has received a response by Regional Chair Karen Redman. Chair Redman is asking that the WRCPD bring forward a proposal about the Council's plans for the future of CPC and its partnership with CJI to form a justice centre.

In addition, the WRCPD passed a motion in May 2021 for the WRCPD to form a working group to develop a transition plan. Following that motion, several action teams were developed, and they are actively working on different components of the plan with the goal of clearly articulating the proposal to Chair Redman and Regional Council.

Richard Eibach, Irene O'Toole, and Chris Cowie, as Past Chair will be interfacing with each of the action teams and Richard will be interfacing and consulting the Regional Councillor, and with Deb Bergey, as interim Executive Director to provide guidance.

The plan is to bring forward the draft proposal to the WRCPD September 10, 2021 retreat for the Council's consideration and approval. (Post addendum: the date for the proposal presentation is scheduled for September 24, 2021).

Richard thanked WRCPD members involved in the various action teams.

If there are any questions, please reach out to Richard Eibach or Irene O'Toole.

6. Nominating Committee Recommendation:

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Irene O'Toole asked for a motion for the WRCPD to accept Clarence Cachagee as a member of the WRCPD.

Moved by Kathryn McGarry

The WRCPD voted unanimously

Carried

7. Standing Items:

a. Regional Councillor Update:

Tom Galloway shared that before the WRPCPC proposal goes before Regional Council, Chair Redman would like the WRPCPC to flesh out the model further. There has been no discussion at Regional Council about the proposal. The model will go to the Regional Chair first before being presented to Regional Council.

Dr. Hsiu Li Wang had lifted the Step 2 deferral starting on Monday because of the indicators trending downwards, and the vaccinations that are taking place. Tom Galloway encouraged the WRPCPC members and partner organization to continue to encourage the vaccinations. There are many added clinics, free bus service, and walk-ins for first dose vaccines (increase in hesitancy for first doses). The increase in vaccine availability has increased the ability for popup clinics in specific neighbourhoods that may experience barriers.

b. Regional Liaison update:

Arran Rowles shared that since the beginning of the pandemic, and the implementation of Canadian Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), the number of individuals that have been accessing Ontario Works has significantly decreased. With the CERB ending September 2021, the Region is expecting a steep increase in applications to Ontario Works. Community Services is beginning to think about how to support individuals as the community moves into the fall.

The Province is transforming Social Assistance and making the delivery of social Assistance more holistic and more client centred. For the last number of years, the Province has been transforming Employment Services and moving to a service system manager model. A prototype of this model has been running in three communities through the pandemic. The Province has announced that this will be expanded to most areas of the province over the next nine months. There will be a shift in how employment services are delivered in the ROW by moving to a service system manager model. The Service System Manger is expected to be in place by April 2022. The goal is to have employment services delivered in a more seamless and accessible way than currently delivered. This will have potential impacts for Community Services because it delivers Ontario Works, Employment Services, and Employment Ontario.

Community Services has been working closely with Public Health over the past month to find innovative ways to connect the individuals that access services to direct supports for vaccines.

Joe-Ann McComb acknowledged the ROW vaccine team's quick response, and synchronized efforts to a neighbourhood's request for vaccines for a hard-to-reach population.

8. Truth and Reconciliation:

Irene O'Toole shared that the Waterloo Park pavilion has been booked for September 10, 2021.

Laurel Creek was suggested as another location option.

The group will meet to discuss retreat plans, and to decide about the location.

9. Anti-racism Working Group – Update and Motion:

Lu Roberts, on behalf of the Anti-racism working group, asked to move the following motion for Council approval:

Strike a committee to apply an anti-racism lens to review Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council's Governance Policy document. Emphasis of this review will be placed on membership including sector representation, and ex-officio roles within the WRPCPC.

The rationale for this motion is to address concerns regarding power imbalances within the WRPCPC membership (whether real or perceived). In addition, the motion will ensure that the Council works towards a more inclusive and safe space while continuing its important work in and for the community.

The committee will be composed of members of the Anti-racism working group, as well as invited and interested members of the larger Crime Prevention Council.

Immigration Partnership has gone through a similar governance review process from an anti-racism and equity lens, and has resources available to the WRPCPC if interested.

Initially, the group will be reviewing how it will do the work, and determining how to undertake the task. Resources and tools will follow. E.g. [ResilienceBC Anti-Racism Network – Anti-Racism Tools](#)

Seconded Irene O'Toole

Carried

WRPCPC members interested in being part of the new committee can contact Deb Bergey.

10. Waterloo Region Youth Engagement Strategy (WR-YES):

Mark Pancer shared that the WRPCPC has always been part of youth involved initiatives and projects such as the Waterloo Region-Youth Engagement Strategy (YES), and the inREACH project. The Iceland project, successful in observing a decrease among youth

substance use, was presented to the WRPCPC and its partners in 2019. Mark added that there are also many other projects that prove that with the right environment, and opportunities, youth have an increased chance to thrive.

The WR-YES group have discussed using successful elements of both the Iceland project, the inREACH project, and other successful project to develop a similar project that will include one significant element, providing youth a voice. This combined effort would produce a made in Waterloo Region project. Currently, the WRPCPC has not been successful in securing funding for this project.

Mark introduced Shama Saleh, the new Community Engagement Coordinator, hired to focus on operationalizing and conceptualizing the WR-YES. Since Shama has started with the WRPCPC, the WR-YES, and the project, development has been rapidly moving forward with this effort.

Shama Saleh provided an overview of the WR-YES.

The WR-YES is a feature of the Region of Waterloo Strategic Focus (4.5.1), the WRPCPC Smart on Crime Plan 2015-2018, and the Special Committee on Opioid Response Plan.

The success of the Icelandic Model, presented to WRPCPC and its partners, brought about new hope in moving the initiative forward.

Currently, WR-YES has submitted two funding applications. The first application submitted is for the Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) phase one. The funding source is approximately 250,000 until March 2022. If a decision is made in favour of the initial application in the fall, a phase two application will be submitted. The second application was submitted to the Employment and Social Development Canada for the Social Development Partnerships Program funding. This funding is approximately three million dollars from 2021 to 2026. WRPCPC and CJI will be working closely with this potential funding. This funding application decision is expected in the fall.

The group is also involved in a research study, a review of the inREACH project, The WRPCPC 2016 formative review, and the WR-YES 2018 recommendations.

The Main activities and the timeline are outlined in the PPT presentation attached.

Questions:

Mifrah Abid from the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW (CMWKW) shared that there might be a good opportunity to connect the WR-YES work with a current CMWKW project. The CMWKW is working with rationalized groups of 12 different ethnicities and Black youth. Shama shared that there is a potential to connect the work of both groups.

Kelly Anthony suggested that the WR-YES group reach out to Dr. Scott Leatherdale from the University of Waterloo about the [COMPASS CIHR](#) study. The study includes

longitudinal data from a large sample of secondary schools and the grade 9 to 12 students attending those schools in Alberta and Ontario. There may be funding opportunities.

11. Break: (10 min)

12. Sulah Project:

Niran Akintunde, the Sulah Service Coordinator from Community Justice Initiatives and Mifrah Abid the Program Coordinator for the Together Again Islamophobia Program, from the CMWKW presented the Sulah Project, its potential, the challenges, and the future.

The Sulah Project came about in 2019 as a response to the present state of Islamophobia in Waterloo Region. This was identified in the 2018 [Report on the Community Consultation about Islamophobia for the Coalition of Muslim Women and the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council](#) (Prepared by Dr. Sarah Shafiq PhD).

The main objective of the Sulah project is to create a synergy between understanding the impact of hate incidents that are motivated by Islamophobia, racism, and xenophobia and the need for a restorative justice response or approach in addressing these incidents of conflict. A description of the Sulah Project can be found on the CJI website: <https://cjiwr.com/sulah/>.

The project has the potential to be replicated in other contexts and in other communities.

As part of the Sulah Project outreach work, the hope is to collaborate with various agencies like the WRPCPC and other organizations to increase public education and awareness about Sulah services. This would help to shed some light on relevant issues relating to hate incidents that are motivated by racism, Islamophobia, or xenophobia (anti-immigrant sentiment). Representatives welcome invitations to present, provide orientations and to consult in situations where their services may be necessary. The current partners include Region of Waterloo Housing, WRPS, secondary schools, and post secondary schools.

Please see attached YouTube videos 'Community Table Talk: Responding to Racism - Part one and Part two', and 'Hate Crime and Discrimination Documentation Project' lead by the [Coalition of Muslim Women of KW](#) as part of Waterloo Region's Response to Islamophobia Program.

<https://youtu.be/T50IQ4rzE-8>

<https://youtu.be/-S6QdbxbCCg>

Mifrah Abid shared about how the Coalition of Muslim Women KW features in the partnership with the Sulah Project.

Understanding that both hate crimes and hate incidents have a negative impact on the victim, at times, it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Hate incidents do not meet the criminal threshold to classify as a hate crime. In an effort to reduce underreported hate crimes and incidents in Waterloo Region, the Coalition launched a hate reporting tool, Report Hate. This now includes incidents outside the Muslim community, e.g., the Asian community. A full description of tool, hate crimes, and hate incidents can be found at <https://reportinghate.ca/>

Questions:

Police reported hate crimes has fallen to the lowest level since 2013. Many times, there are reports of hate incidents, but unfortunately, they do not meet the threshold to classify as a hate crime leaving the incident documented, but not as a hate crime. The reporting tool 'Report Hate' bridges that gap.

A Council member shared that the reporting tool and the documentation of incidents is an important process. Eventually, Parliament will review the hate crime legislation. The documentation may show that incidents are more prevalent than people understand, and this could potentially affect the legislation by defining hate crimes more narrowly.

A Council member asked if there is any effort to expand the project locally, and are there any opportunities to build a national model and/or export the model to other communities.

The Sulah Project does not have the scope or funding to move beyond the local community. The Project is really entrenched in local work, although other communities are interested.

Currently, the Sulah Project funding scope is for race-based harm. However, there may be those that fall within that scope who are also part of the LGBTQ2+ and other communities. The Sulah Project team wants to hear about issues that arise from all the voices.

13. Funding Announcement:

In August 2019, the WRPCPC facilitated a funding application to Health Canada to establish a safer supply initiative for a fraction of local people most at risk of accidental drug poisoning. A collaborative effort with the Inner City Health Alliance (ICHA) - primarily the Working Centre and Sanguen Health Centre - produced an application seeking approximately \$7m over 5 years. That application was well-received but not successful due to a deluge of applications from across Canada.

Following many conversations with local and federal counterparts, in the fall of 2020, the collaborative was invited to re-apply at a reduced time and cost. That application was successful at \$2.4m over a 2-year period. Despite the pandemic burden, a new staff team is now in place, protocols established, evaluators have been hired, and the

program is slowly underway in the KW area, with hopes of geographic expansion in Year Two. The funding will not meet anticipated need, and it is an open question what will happen when the funding ends in March 2023.

WRCPC's efforts on safe supply since 2017 were key, despite the structural resistance at the time. More recently, WRCPC (Un)Safe research from 2020 supports the assertion that safe supply initiatives can have both individual and community health, safety and well-being benefits, addressing the some structural determinants of health by decriminalizing people's lives simply through the replacement of unregulated, criminalized substances with regulated, legal pharmaceutical alternatives.

The WRCPC joined the formal funding announcement with area Members of Parliament on July 8, 2021 and provided several media interviews. The WRCPC continues to advise on the initiative, and advocate broadly for urgent and proportional responses grounded in equity. The WRCPC is grateful to members of the ICHA and other non-governmental organizations who continue to work under terrible circumstances to advance life-saving and life-changing initiatives.

More information about safe supply is available via WRCPC at www.overdoseprevention.ca and through Health Canada at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/opioids/responding-canada-opioid-crisis/safer-supply.html#a6>

14. Vision Language:

Richard Eibach, on behalf of the Facilitating Committee, asked for a minor but important change to the Vision Statement to include the words 'love and be loved' The statement would read as follows:

Vision Statement:

A safe, equitable, and just community where everyone has access to opportunities to thrive and to love and be loved.

David Siladi noted 'loving relationships' in the research predictors, and the concept was subsequently incorporated in all the WRCPC upstream communications about upstream. Sara Escobar reminded us to recognize this.

The motion to add 'love and be loved to the Vision Statement was put forward for approval.

Moved by Joe-Ann McComb

Seconded by Sharon Ward-Zeller

Approved by consensus

15. In-kind hours:

Deb Bergey shared that WRCPC will receive a survey from staff asking that members submit in-kind hours accumulated outside of formal meetings. The timeframe is from January 2021 to June 2021. This is an effort to track WRCPC member contributions.

16. Budget Update:

Deb Bergey share that Region of Waterloo will be making significant budget cuts for 2022. Deb will continue to provide the WRCPC with an update as this process unfolds.

17. Executive Director Update:

a. Information (UP)Stream Update:

The Information (UP)Stream update is part of the Council package.

18. Other Business:

None

19. Adjournment:

Moved by Irene O'Toole

Carried at 11:32 a.m.

WR-Youth Engagement Strategy

June 11, 2021

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Collaboration
& Commitment



Compassion
& Courage





Today's Agenda

1. Overview of WR-YES
2. Current status
3. Progress since March 2020
4. Timelines & Next steps

Brief Overview.

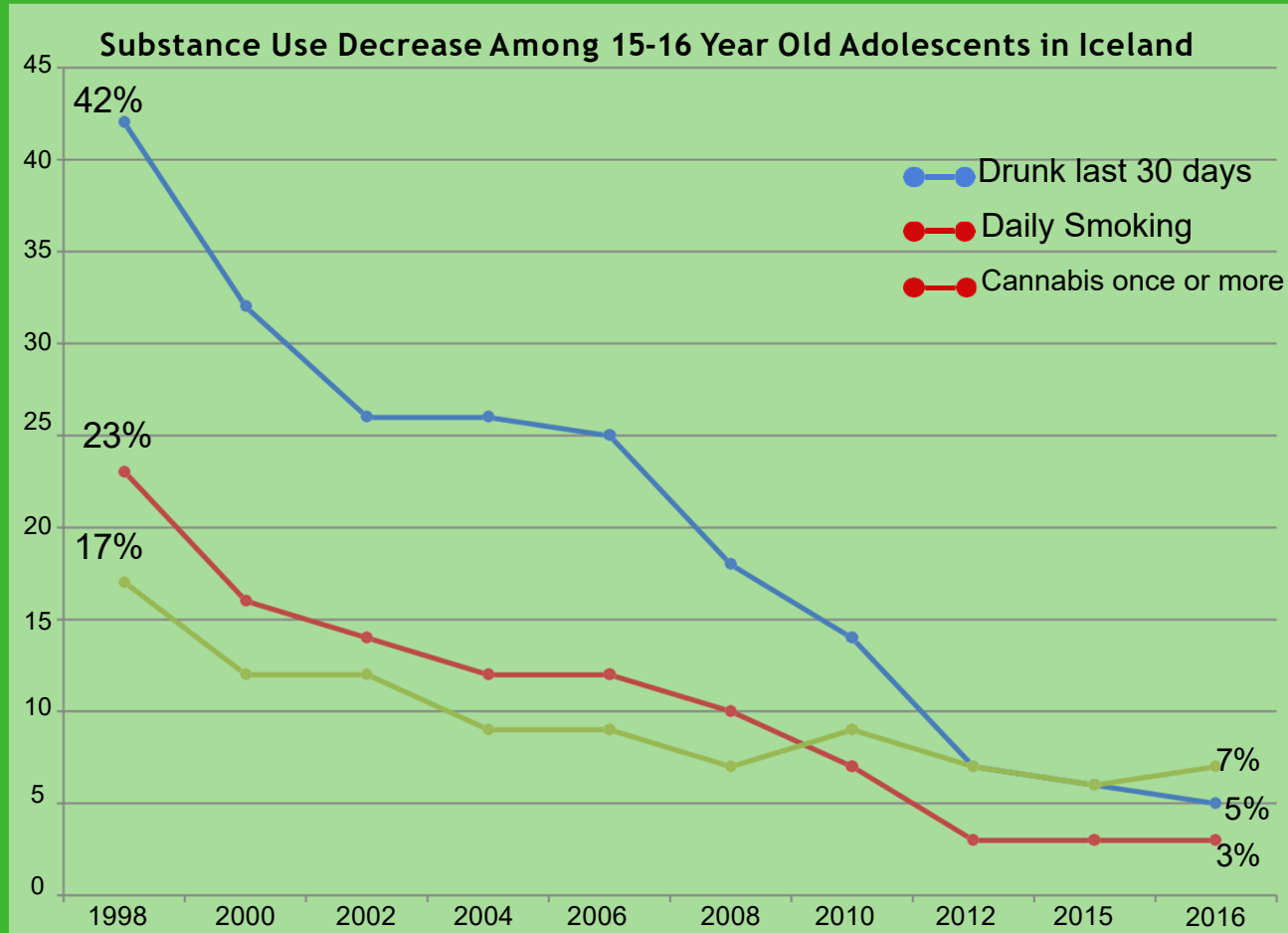
The Waterloo Region Youth Engagement Strategy (WR YES) aims to improve the health and safety of all youth through universal, upstream prevention approaches with an intentional and priority on Black, Indigenous and racialized youth and thus most likely to be systematically and disproportionately affected in multiple domains – morbidity and mortality, educational attainment, problematic substance use, crime, and victimization, etc.

The WR YES is a feature of:

- Region of Waterloo Strategic Focus (4.5.1)
- WRCPC Smart on Crime Plan
- Special Committee on Opioid Response Plan



Success Story: The Icelandic Model



1

Current Status: Funding

- Substance Use & Addictions Program
- Employment and Social Development Canada: Funding for Social Development Partnerships Program



2

Research Study

WR-YES Research Study will inform much of the YES work

also a review of...

inREACH Street Gang Prevention Program

WRCPC: Formative Review (2016)

WR-YES Recommendations (2018)



3

Main Activities around WRYES:

1. Assemble Youth Reference group
2. Choose BIR grassroots organizations to support with staff and administrative costs
3. Youth Summit
4. Community Needs Assessment among youth
5. Individual Mentorship + Training youth on skills
6. Infusing restorative practices throughout WR-Youth Engagement Strategy with the support of Community Justice Initiative



Progress since March 2020

Hired

Community Engagement
Coordinator (April 2021)-
Shama Saleh's main focus is
actualizing the Youth
Engagement Strategy



Research Study

Research proposal is being sent
into ethics board for approval



Funding

Actively looking for and applying to
grants

Timeline...

May

- Finding funding opportunities AND brainstorming ways to incentive youth (ongoing...)

June

- Complete logistics around how YRG will be integrated into CPC
- Taking steps to start Research study

July

- Actively applying to funds
- Finishing ethics application for research study
- Actively looking for collaborations and partnerships on this WRYES-related work

August

- Start preparing for reaching out to youth, parents and organizations about youth reference group and starting to establish group



Thank you!

For questions, requests, and
anything else I can help you with,
please email me at
ssaleh@regionofwaterloo.ca