

Drug & Alcohol

STRATEGY

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2021

Collective Priorities

1. *Website Development*

- Build an interactive website & social media platform to promote services & provide information that addresses problematic substance use in a manner that is fresh, timely, relevant, & engaging (all 4 Pillar teams to contribute content)
- To function as a knowledge & resource *hub* for providers & community members

2. *Needle Disposal Management*

- Expand low-threshold programming by introducing a comprehensive needle/sharps disposal strategy that incorporates (1) reporting mechanisms, (2) monitoring, (3) receptacle distribution, (4) collection teams, & (5) education campaign

3. *People with Lived/Living Experience (PWLE) Engagement*

- Ensure that outcomes of the Drug & Alcohol Strategy meet the needs of the target audience & broader community by informing (1) unmet needs of the community, (2) better provision of comprehensive care, (3) overcoming barriers to service, (4) culturally safe practices, & (4) improved clarity of programs
- Seek a diverse group of experiences to be represented throughout the engagement process – those who have experienced problematic substance use, or those with family & friends that have had these experiences

The 4 Pillar Framework & Priorities (Working Teams):

PREVENTION: to prevent problematic substance use from occurring and to deter or delay problematic substance use within Oxford County by increasing various prevention initiatives.

#1: Promote government-led campaigns such as “*Re-think Your Drinking*” - Parents Matter campaign; “*Not an Experiment*” campaign; & “*Use Your Instincts*” campaign amongst various settings i.e. Schools, The Hub for Parent & Caregivers, etc.. Track receipt of information e.g. # of recipients, # posts, scope of promotions.

TREATMENT: to help individuals with problematic substance use concerns make healthier decisions, support recovery, and move towards decreasing and/or stopping problematic substance use by increasing various treatment initiatives.

#1: Opioid & Alcohol dependence - Oxford Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinic – strengthen scope, access points, referral pathways, workflows, network of relationships, hospital connections ***

#2: Addiction Response Resource (ARR, Woodstock Hospital - NEW) – extend ARR to Tillsonburg and Ingersoll emergency departments, and advocate for sustainability of the ARR initiative ***

HARM REDUCTION: to reduce & eliminate health, social, and economic harms of problematic substance use among individuals, families, and the community of Oxford County by increasing harm reduction initiatives.

#1. Support implementation of the collective Needle Disposal Management initiative

#2: Stigma reduction initiatives - Resource development: create a tool kit/presentation/videos/self-learning module, hand-outs such as ‘Language matters’ ‘Harm Reduction 101’. Target service organizations for training as COVID 19 allows.

#3: Overdose prevention strategies & use of naloxone - assess gaps/attempt to fill gaps for Naloxone access in Oxford County. Work toward an event for International Overdose Awareness Day August 31 with ‘Naloxone as part of your first aid kit’ social media campaign and training events (including a youth-focused training event) as COVID 19 allows.

JUSTICE & COMMUNITY SAFETY: to strengthen the ability of law enforcement, including police, regulatory agencies, the courts, licensing authorities, & other actors in the criminal justice system to uphold public safety and reduce harms associated with problematic substance use by increasing various justice and community safety initiatives.

#1: Oxford Drug Treatment Court implementation ***

#2: Mental Health Engagement & Response Team (MHEART) – seek funding to increase hours, access, & sustainability *** (complete – permanent funding secured)

#3: Community Education sessions (x2) – focus on building community capacity & increase referrals to community-based supports; divert calls from police when not necessary

Cross Reference to Other Community Plans:

*** these aforementioned initiatives are also imbedded in the objectives of the **Oxford Ontario Health Team** – Year One Deliverables – Mental Health & Addictions population. **OHT Action Team:** Oxford Mental Health & Addictions Network (OMHAN)

- **Safe and Well Oxford Communities** - community safety & wellbeing plan scheduled for release May/June 2021 following extensive consultation.
 - ❖ *4 Priority Risk Areas:* mental health; affordable housing; substance misuse & addictions; equity, diversity, & inclusion