

OXFORD MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACTION COALITION

2022-2024

OMHAAC - WHO THEY ARE & WHAT THEY DO

The Coalition is a partnership among community stakeholders from organizations that interface with programs and services for individuals and families affected by mental health & substance use challenges. It also includes members from the community who are family members or individuals with lived experience.

The Coalition provides oversight implementing recommended action items & priorities outlined within key Guidance Documents and monitoring system performance. In addition, it serves to renew integrated, strategic priorities over time in response to (1) emergent local community needs & (2) Ontario Health West/provincial directions.

VISION

A community where every person enjoys good mental health, well-being, and a sense of belonging throughout their lifetime, supported by individuals & agencies working collectively to address diverse mental health & addiction challenges with a health equity lens.

MISSION

Prevent, delay, or reduce the impact of mental health & addiction challenges by ensuring that citizens of Oxford County have timely access to an integrated continuum of services incorporating health promotion, prevention; early intervention; harm reduction; treatment; and justice & community safety options.

PARTNERS

Oxford County Community Health Centre
Canadian Mental Health Association Thames Valley
Addiction and Mental Health Services
Tillsonburg District Memorial Hospital
Alexandra Hospital Ingersoll
Ingersoll Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinic
Southwestern Public Health
Ontario Provincial Police – Oxford Detachment
Woodstock Hospital
Woodstock Police Services
Operation Sharing

Regional HIV/AIDS Connection
Wellkin Child & Youth Mental Wellness
Indwell
Oxford County Human Services
The Children's Aid Society of Oxford County
United Way Oxford
Thames Valley Family Health Team
Community Members
Oxford Ontario Health Team
St. Joseph's Health Care London
Domestic Abuse Services Oxford/Ingamo Homes

Through membership and collaboration on the action coalition, much has been accomplished over the past two years, including:



The Families CARE program, a group-based program that helps family members cope and relate effectively with those experiencing a substance use concern, was piloted in the City of Woodstock.

Completion and publication of a Consumption and Treatment Services Feasibility Study in June 2023.



A Caredove platform was set-up to provide individuals with information on local mental health and substance use services and supports.



Highlighting community needs and initiatives through advocacy & promotion. Members attended and hosted several events in the community (e.g., International Overdose Awareness Day) and wrote advocacy letters (e.g., warning labels on alcoholic beverages).



A peer-led syringe recovery team was launched in Oxford County.



Expansion of twenty-five new emergency shelter beds at Old St. Paul's Anglican Church in Woodstock.



Increased addiction supports at Woodstock Hospital.



Oxford Sexual Assault Services was expanded to offer more days and follow-up care close to home.



Collaboration between OMHAAC & the Oxford Housing Action Collaborative to launch a housing strategy.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS OF FOCUS (FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS):

1 Increase Primary Prevention & Health Promotion Efforts

Objective: Create a positive impact by addressing risk factors and enhancing protective factors to prevent substance use and mental health concerns across the lifespan.

2 Strengthen & Explore Low-Barrier Pathways to Support Individuals

Objective: Expand low-barrier programming, harm reduction, and diverse housing initiatives and policies to support individuals experiencing substance use and/or mental health concerns.

3 Enhance Treatment Service Systems

Objective: Explore and expand treatment supports and services for individuals who have concerns relating to substance use, mental health, and sexual assault.

4 Address Community Safety for all Citizens

Objective: Foster partnerships and build capacity to develop a coordinated approach among first responders, community stakeholders, neighbourhood groups, PWLE, and community agencies to address substance use and mental health-related concerns affecting the community.