



SEPT 2018

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Dear Community Partners,

INTRODUCING SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC HEALTH

Formed by the 2018 merger of Elgin St. Thomas Public Health and Oxford County Public Health, Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) is a new, independent health unit serving a population of about 204,000 across Oxford County, Elgin County, and the City of St. Thomas.

With offices in Woodstock and St. Thomas, SWPH will continue to offer the same quality services you have come to expect, from the people you know and trust.

Oxford County Drug Strategy Steering Committee

The Oxford County Drug Strategy Steering Committee met on August 22 in Ingersoll.

The committee welcomed Mamta Chail-Teves, Executive Director of Wellkin Child & Youth Mental Wellness and Lynn Hinds, Director, Planning and Integration South West LHIN.

DPRA was present to share the results of the community consultations.

Community Consultations

DPRA shared the results of the community consultations that were conducted during the months of May and June. DPRA identified eight themes:

1. Education and awareness
2. Children and youth
3. Housing
4. Transportation and outreach services
5. Addressing stigma
6. Greater investments into upstream approaches
7. Building greater local infrastructure and resources for problematic substance use
8. Family engagement and support

Each of the themes were accompanied by two or more short and long-term actions and were shared with members of the steering committee for further consideration and discussion.

Opioid situational assessment completed

Laura Gibbs completed the situational assessment for Oxford County. Information captured in the situational assessment report was similar to findings of DPRA's consultations. A preview of the opioid situational assessment report was shared with community stakeholders on Wednesday, September 26. The invitation was extended to members of the Oxford County Drug Strategy Project Steering Committee and organizations that were referenced by participants in the report. The purpose of the meeting is to share a portion of the report with the providers that were mentioned in the report before it is released publicly and to also discuss how SWPH will share these and other findings more broadly.

Opioid Response Plan

Melissa MacLeod, Epidemiologist Southwestern Public Health presented a draft version of Oxford's Local Opioid Response Plan to members of the Steering Committee. The focus of her presentation was around the development of a formalized response threshold criteria for Oxford County. Recognizing that each threshold will generate a response from participating agencies based on their operational mandates. Further discussion is required to refine the proposed criteria

Overdose Prevention/Naloxone Distribution

The naloxone distribution program continues to grow and expand. As part of the program expansion to eligible community agencies, CMHA Oxford has begun training their clients on overdose prevention and dispensing naloxone kits. Several other local community agencies are in the process of establishing their own programs. With the expansion of the take-home naloxone program, people at risk of an opioid overdose and their family and friends will have greater access to this life-saving drug.
