



Meeting: Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table
Date: August 19, 2021
Time: 10:00 A.M.
Location: Webex

Attendees: Deb Mountenay, Elgin Workforce Development Network
Danielle Neilson, Housing and Homelessness Action Table
Dan Logie, Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network
Chief Chris Herridge, Public Safety Action Table
Heather Stillitano, Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee
Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas
Wendell Graves, City Manager – City of St. Thomas
Warden Tom Marks, County of Elgin
Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer – County of Elgin
Jenna Fentie, Legislative Services Coordinator – County of Elgin
Carolyn Krahn, Legislative Services Coordinator – County of Elgin

Minutes

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table Orientation

Carolyn Krahn provided an overview of the Integration Table's composition, objectives, and structure. The Table agreed to meet four (4) times per year, and the Mayor of St. Thomas and the Warden of Elgin County agreed to co-chair the meetings with Warden Marks volunteering to co-chair this first meeting.

3. Introductions – Action Tables

i. Education and Skills Development – Elgin Workforce Development Network, Deb Mountenay

Currently, there is a big demand for workers. Many people are moving to this area from Toronto. They are purchasing homes in the community, thereby increasing the demand for services; but many of them are not filling in local job

vacancies. To help address the workforce shortage, the Workforce Development Network will be offering a Business to Business program this fall, and they are in the process of developing an Adult Education Plan.

ii. Housing Security – Housing and Homelessness Action Table, Danielle Neilson

The Housing and Homelessness Action Table was suspended mid-pandemic and reconvened mid-July 2021. They have updated their Terms of Reference and are supporting the Housing and Homelessness Study. The landscape around housing and homelessness has shifted dramatically, and local stakeholders are looking for more resources.

iii. Mental Health and Well-Being – Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network, Dan Logie

The Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network is a collection of service providers that meet monthly to collaborate on and coordinate service delivery. The Network has been working on its objectives and goals as well as expanding its membership. The Canadian Mental Health Association, one of the Network's members, is working on meeting needs where they exist. Instead of having people come into the office for help, they are increasing their presence in the community.

iv. Public Safety – Public Safety Action Table, Chief Chris Herridge

The neighbouring police services met recently, and a safe return to school was discussed. The discussion included a focus on addressing road safety violations. There are now eight (8) cameras in downtown St. Thomas. They have been installed along the length of Talbot Street, and St. Thomas Police are looking at expanding coverage into the business zone. The St. Thomas Police are partnering with the Canadian Mental Health Association. The partnership has seen a full-time mental health response worker work alongside officers to provide support.

v. Substance Use and Addiction – Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee, Heather Stillitano

The Steering Committee was formed in September 2018. The Committee has developed four (4) pillars to help achieve their vision of a safe and healthy community without the negative impacts of drugs and alcohol. The Committee is interviewing for a coordinator/consultant to drive the work forward, and they would like to finish their strategy by the end of 2021.

4. Rural Response to COVID-19 – Leith Deacon, University of Guelph

Leith Deacon presented an overview of the Rural Response to COVID-19 Survey. The survey will explore the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 on residents and will help identify vulnerable populations, identify priority programs to support vulnerable populations, and identify emergent mental health and addictions, income, and housing concerns generated by COVID-19.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.