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**Meeting:** Community Safety and Well-Being Integration Table  
**Date:** February 23, 2023  
**Time:** 9:00 A.M.  
**Location:** Webex

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**Attendees:** Mayor Joe Preston, City of St. Thomas, Chair  
Warden Ed Ketchabaw – County of Elgin  
Emilian Siman, Elgin Workforce Development Network  
Danielle Neilson, Housing and Homelessness Action Table  
Sandra McCabe, Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network  
Deputy Chief Marc Roskamp – St. Thomas Police Service  
Sandra Datars Bere, City Manager – City of St. Thomas  
Julie Gonyou, Chief Administrative Officer – County of Elgin  
Carolyn Krahn, Manager of Economic Development & Strategic Initiatives – County of Elgin

**Regrets:** Marcia Van Wylie, Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee

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## Minutes

### 1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

### 2. Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2022

The minutes were approved as presented.

### 3. Delegation – Elgin Ontario Health Team, Lauren Caruana and Deanna Huggett

A refresher on the health team and their background was provided, with a focus on doing more community-facing work to improve health care services and outcomes. The structure of the health system in Ontario, with its regional and provincial models, was discussed, with a focus on operational planning and regional governance to support the population. There are more upstream opportunities to support the population's health, with a focus on value and sustainability.

The OHT is clinically and fiscally responsible for delivering a full continuum of care to a specific geographic area, with a focus on equity and accessibility. The Elgin region is a formal OHT, with a focus on building the foundational pieces, expanding the number of individuals working on sub-tables, and using a population health management approach to identify which segments to start with.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease is a specific population to focus on, given the higher smoking rates in Elgin, higher mortality rates, and aging population. The OHT is also looking to expand this work to additional populations, including mental health and addictions, homelessness, and indigenous populations.

Engaging the voices of the community is important, with a focus on connecting the dots between other areas of work, such as the drug and alcohol strategy.

#### 4. Roundtable – Action Tables

##### i. Education and Skills Development – Elgin Workforce Development Network, Emilian Siman

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training & Skills Development recently announced that the City of London was selected as the Service System Manager for the London catchment area to create a single, efficient, cost-effective system focused on helping all job seekers, businesses, and communities. The Service System Managers will oversee the planning, design, and delivery of employment services across Ontario in 15 defined catchment areas.

At the last planning meeting, members of the network, which include agencies in the London division, discussed how to avoid duplication of initiatives and actions, and align their plans and strategies. There are many agencies that include workforce development on their agenda. The network is exploring how they can have a unique voice in their area.

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

In the region, there are 1,100 households waiting for social housing. The Housing Stability Financial Assistance program prevents homelessness by providing immediate financial assistance to low-income households.

However, homelessness is still an issue, and the City actively tracks occurrences through the by-name list. This list identifies 120 individuals experiencing homelessness, and Social Services are working to match them with housing,

including through partnerships with organizations like CMHA, YWCA, and InDwell.

There are two emergency shelters in the County, one in the east and one in the west. Social Services continues to work with Built for Zero to drive down the number of people experiencing homelessness. The coming weeks should see a further announcement from the Built for Zero campaign.

iii. Mental Health and Well-Being – Elgin Mental Health and Addiction Network, Sandra McCabe

There are various programs and services being offered in the Elgin area, and efforts are underway to align services with the needs of the community around core service sites to ensure that the services are meeting those who require them. Hubs and mini-hubs are being explored to provide services where they are needed most. One of the newest programs is the Ontario Structure Psychotherapy Program, which is aimed at helping individuals who experience depression and anxiety. One staff member has already been hired and is in the training process. The program will be implemented next month through St. Joseph's Health Care Centre. With the high need for counseling services, especially since the pandemic, self-led strategies with support from a coach, as well as one-to-one or group therapy, are being offered.

The Elgin Mental Health and Addictions Network has 10-12 services and organizations that take part in it, with 25 members from organizations such as STEGH, Welkin, and Violence Against Women. Terms of reference have been established, and the network is working on a strategic reference and an environmental scan. The members are also looking for ways to share resources and are connecting with the MPP to discuss what is happening in the Elgin area through roundtable discussions, keeping everyone up to date on the latest developments.

iv. Substance Use and Addiction – Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy Steering Committee, Carolyn Krahn on behalf of Marcia Van Wylie

The Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy is launching a new website in April that will highlight the work of the committee and respective working groups. During the next few months, the four pillar groups (Prevention, Justice, Harm Reduction, and Treatment) will be developing implementation plans for the key recommendations that came out of the community consultation.

The committee is also actively recruiting members for the pillar groups. Anyone interested can contact Marcia Van Wylie at [mvanwylie@swpublichealth.ca](mailto:mvanwylie@swpublichealth.ca).

v. Public Safety – Public Safety Action Table, Deputy Chief Marc Roskamp

Chief Herridge officially retires tomorrow. Deputy Chief Roskamp will be sworn in as Chief of the St. Thomas Police Services on May 16<sup>th</sup>. Updates from the Community Resource Unit include the placement of four (4) special constables with plans to increase to six (6) in the downtown core by 2023. The Unit aims to support business owners and vulnerable populations and prevent crime. They are making use of a satellite office in the downtown core, located at 585 Talbot Street. The office offers space for report writing, meetings with vulnerable populations and business owners, and a break room.

The MOST team, which is a mental health and substance use service delivery model, has maintained two (2) clinicians and hopes to add a third and fourth due to the need. There has been an increase in calls for service relating to mental health and substance use. There is no longer a police officer attached to the team, and the officer has been returned to core policing functions.

St. Thomas Police Services has launched a new four-year strategic plan after extensive research and development.

5. Date of Next Meeting

The Integration Table will meet again on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 9:47 a.m.