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OXFORD COMMUNITIES

## STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

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Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

2:00 p.m.

Oxford County Administration Building – Room 214

1. Call the Meeting to Order
2. Review of Agenda for meeting of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026
3. Review of Minutes of January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026 meeting ([attached](#))
4. Business Arising from the Minutes
  - Canadian Index of Well-being Survey – report on key findings pending
  - Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
  - New Community Safety and Well-being Coordinator and priorities for the role
5. Action Coalition & Other Updates (Round Table)
  - Oxford Housing Action Collaborative – on hold
  - Oxford Mental Health & Addictions Network - Peter Heywood ([attached](#))
  - Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Coalition - Ayesha Sajid (no update)
  - Domestic Abuse Resource Team – Ashley Brown ([attached](#))
  - Police Updates & Information Sharing
6. Next Steps & New Business:
  - ROMA Advocacy

7. Upcoming Meeting Dates – Oxford County Administration Building – Room 129:

- Determination of upcoming meeting dates (minimum of quarterly under the current Terms of Reference)

8. Adjournment



#### 4. Business Arising from the Minutes

- Canadian Index of Well-Being Survey
  - SWPH is working on the analysis to summarize themes and highlights from the data.
- Updated Community Safety and Well-Being Plan
  - The updated draft plan was reviewed by the Committee.
  - The new Plan has been presented to and approved by 6 of the area municipal Councils. Warden Ryan reported that the delegations were well received and that the Councils posed constructive questions.
  - Staff reports were drafted in collaboration with the Clerks so that the presentation of the new plan was not only deemed a delegation but also considered a staff recommendation to the Council.
  - S. Hamulecki reported that people were happy that the feedback provided at the Summit was considered and incorporated into the Plan.
  - B. Martin inquired about the new Area Municipal representatives who will be part of the Advisory Committee. There was discussion about whether criteria and a skill set should be established for these roles. S. Hamulecki stated that there will be further discussions with the Clerks and CAOs to determine what roles will be best suited for the position.
  - Oxford County Council approved the request for a full-time Community Safety and Wellbeing Coordinator. The job will be posted in February with a planned start date of the beginning of April. S. Hamulecki indicated that the Action Coalitions that were formed from existing committees would continue in the interim (i.e. DART, OMHAAC), but that the DEI Action Coalition could pause until implementation of the new plan begins, unless there are existing projects or work pending.
- Police Updates
  - Chief Novacich provided the following 2025 statistics on behalf of the Woodstock Police Service:
    - 1220 homeless encounters
    - 1381 unwanted person calls
    - 194 person with addiction encounters
    - 254 mental health/suicide attempt calls
  - Woodstock Police are using virtual reality to improve training opportunities.
  - Body cams now include translation services to improve communication and interaction with diverse populations.

#### 5. Action Coalition Updates (Round Table)

- Oxford Housing Action Collaborative (on hold)
  - Warden Ryan advised that there continues to be space in the shelter.

- Oxford Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition (Peter Heywood)
  - OMHAAC met on December 4th, 2025, for the annual Year-end Reflection and Celebration.
  - Oxford County presented the new Homelessness Strategy and highlighted the positive impact of the new transitional housing project. The importance of establishing a new centre for unhoused people was emphasized.
  - Woodstock Hospital provided an update on the HART Hub. As of December 1st, clients have begun accessing the space. They are still looking for space in Ingersoll.
  - An update on the Planet Youth work was received. Just under 900 consents were returned. Reports should be coming back sometime in March. The funding challenges for year 2 were noted. They will connect with municipalities and community partners to secure additional funding.
  - CMHA reported that Families Care is doing another round in Oxford and that Nurturing Yourself while Nurturing Someone Else is also starting.
  - The Oxford Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy is currently undergoing a comprehensive refresh aimed at ensuring that its recommendations are both relevant and practical for the upcoming three years. This crucial update process involves engaging local stakeholders, reviewing recent data, and assessing the effectiveness of current initiatives to better align with the community's evolving needs. The refreshed strategy is expected to be completed by the third quarter of the year, paving the way for enhanced support services and initiatives to effectively address substance use challenges in Oxford. This initiative reflects a commitment to creating a safer and healthier community for all residents.
  
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Action Coalition (Ayesha Sajid)
  - No updates
  
- Domestic Abuse Resource Team (Ashley Brown)
  - No updates

## 6. Next Steps & New Business

- 2026-28 Safer and Vital Communities Grant: Call for Applications
  - The Ministry of the Solicitor General is now accepting applications from community-based, not-for-profit organizations for the 2026-2028 Safer and Vital Communities (SVC) Grant.
  - The theme for the Grant is “Preventing Hate Motivated Crime through Community Collaboration.” It supports an integrated community-based approach to addressing issues related to hate motivated crime. It also addresses the increase of police-reported hate crime in Ontario. The Ministry is requesting proposals that focus on bringing together different sectors to combat hate motivated crimes in Ontario.
  - Completed applications, along with all supporting documentation, must be





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## Action Coalition Update

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>May 12, 2026</b>
<b>Action Coalition:</b>	<b>Oxford Mental Health &amp; Addictions Action Coalition (OMHAAC)</b>
<b>Representative:</b>	<b>Peter Heywood</b>
<b>Update:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OMHAAC met on March 3, 2026.</li><li>• Completed the annual review of the OMHAAC Terms of Reference.</li><li>• Reviewed Southwestern Public Health's opioid poisoning alert threshold process and agreed OMHAAC should take a stronger role in community awareness.</li><li>• Strategy refresh: literature review and updated recommendations are underway; draft refreshed strategy anticipated by the end of Q2, with summer reserved for revisions and formatting.</li><li>• Planet Youth (data collection completed in January; data reports received in April. Oxford community forum scheduled for May 14; focus groups/forums to prioritize interventions for late summer/early fall).</li></ul>
<b>Challenges, opportunities &amp; metrics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public awareness and communications: OMHAAC identified a need for broader community communication beyond alerts (e.g., trends, human impact) and is developing a draft communication plan to strengthen public messaging.</li><li>• Strategy refresh planning: key performance indicators (KPIs) will be explored later in 2026 as part of the community drug strategy refresh; draft recommendations are expected for June with revisions/formatting over the summer.</li></ul>



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## Action Coalition Update

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>May 12, 2026</b>
<b>Action Coalition:</b>	<b>DART</b>
<b>Representative:</b>	<b>Ashley Brown</b>
<b>Update:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The DART Operations Table has recently begun incorporating practice cases into meetings to bring a more practical lens to discussions around resources, collaboration, and coordinated responses. This approach is helping members better understand how services intersect in real-world situations.</li><li>• DART continues to support learning opportunities across the network. We are coordinating a presentation from the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario on May 25th to provide guidance on information-sharing, consent, and ethical collaboration across agencies.</li><li>• A DART Operations working group is also leading the release of our Strangulation Prevention Campaign. This initiative included an in-person event on May 4 at the Woodstock Theatre featuring presentations from the Ontario Provincial Police and the St. Joseph's Health Care London Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Treatment program, as well as an online alternative coming up on May 21st. On top of these training opportunities for frontline workers to strengthen community response to strangulation-related violence, the campaign will also include a youth-focused social media component to bring awareness to the issue.</li><li>• DART leadership is prioritizing the development of the Oxford Femicide</li></ul>

	Prevention Table. A dedicated working group is currently finalizing the Operating Agreement, after which the focus will shift to establishing core membership, reviewing practice cases, and building our coordinated prevention framework.
<b>Challenges, opportunities &amp; metrics</b>	