

Elgin & St. Thomas Health & Social Service Planning Group Survey

In September 2009, Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health and the Elgin-St. Thomas United Way created an online survey in an effort to gain a better understanding of the health and social service planning groups that currently exist within Elgin and St. Thomas. *Both organizations would like to thank all of those who participated.*

Survey information as of September 28th, 2009

- 52 Respondents
- 54 identified “planning groups”
- 10 respondents answered “no” and 42 respondents answered “yes” when asked “Do you belong to a planning group/committee”
- 29 respondents answered “yes” while the others did not respond to the question “Do you think Elgin County would benefit from a coordinated planning group?”
- Of the 29 respondents who answered “yes” to the above question, six respondents included the following comments:
 - For specific groups or sectors such as health and social services
 - With attention to integrated chronic disease prevention, management and self-management
 - I look forward to the results and any implementation that comes from them.
 - There are coordinated efforts happening in Elgin County. It would be imperative that the existing groups communicate with one another.
 - Social planning council has been identified as a need almost ten years ago by many people - did not happen - coordinating group that is talking oriented versus action oriented - no - action oriented yes - we have a lot of good networking happening already - a good newsletter amongst program deliverers would be a really good idea - if there was a planning group I would attend just not to miss out on something.
 - I think there is already planning groups in Elgin, so to give 1 of them the overall mandate would be best rather than start another planning group

Do you belong to any planning group/committee?	What is the purpose or mission of the group/committee?	How often do they meet?	How is the group/committee governed?	How is the group/committee funded?
Active Elgin	Increase physical activity in Elgin	As needed	Chair, and minute taker	Trillium
Adult Council for Employment, Education and Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To communicate, network, address gaps and advocate for services around employment, adult education and training opportunities ➤ Information, networking for agencies involved in education and employment for adults 	Quarterly	Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer	Each member association pays dues of \$75.00 to cover lunch expenses and to support initiatives.

After shock- Suicide awareness committee	The purpose is to provide resources and support to families who have lost someone by suicide. And to make the community more aware and more informed!	We meet 4 times a year on and off in West Lorne	No chair or vice chair...we have some specific roles.... but we are pretty relaxed.... it started as a family initiative but now we have community members also!	We run yearly fundraising events
Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and KIN Canada	Awareness and research Fundraising for cure or control of Cystic Fibrosis	Monthly McGinnis Landing Restaurant 66 Wonderland Rd n 1st Tuesday of each month 6:15 pm to 8:30 pm	Executive board of 12 members	Self
CEETAC	Serves as an advisory committee to Elgin County Economic Development Department	Quarterly	Has a chair	Few funds needed but County of Elgin funds any expenses
Central Community Health Centre	To establish a Community Health Centre serving St. Thomas, Central Elgin and Southwold Township meeting unserved needs and an under serviced population	At call of the chair	Monthly	
Child and Youth Integrated Service System Initiative	To plan care plans for HIGH needs children and families whose needs require a very unique approach due to the multi-problems they are experiencing	Was meeting monthly- now meets on an as needed basis	Chair	Funded through Elgin Co-ordination Council for Youth
Child wellness community planning group (western Elgin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Agencies and community partners come together to plan re: child wellness in western Elgin. ➤ Collaborate/inform about existing services for youth/children 	4 times per year	Committee chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ No funding -- committee members are representative from local agencies and partners ➤ Volunteer/agency led
Children and Youth Mental Health Elgin Project	Developing integrated mental health services for children and youth in Elgin County	Monthly at OECYC	Steering committee	MCYS and in kind contributions

<p>Community Council for Children and Youth in Elgin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Networking, sharing information ➤ The council responds to the need for coordination of services for children and youth in Elgin County. The council establishes a positive understanding and relationship between service providers. Through the coordination of service provision and the acknowledgement of the need for fiscally responsible planning, the children and youth of Elgin County are better served. ➤ To co-ordinate services for Children and Youth in Elgin County; ➤ For agencies and community partners to gather together to plan about ways to strengthen the mental health of children/youth 	<p>Monthly Basis between Sept and June. Location rotates through membership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Executive committee ➤ Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary ➤ Elections Held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fees by members ➤ Small membership fee currently ➤ Small membership fee \$25.00
<p>Elgin Child Care Advisory</p>	<p>To network with other agencies conducting similar services Co-ordinate services for children and families in licensed child care centres; promote and offer professional development opportunities for early childhood staff</p>	<p>Once/month</p>	<p>Committee chair and executive</p>	<p>Small membership fees; \$\$ from Ontario Works to offer professional development</p>

Community Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Collaborative planning in Elgin on four areas: transportation, health/mental health, poverty, children/youth ➤ To address issues and problems raised during Community Matters research project 	As needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Steering Committee ➤ Facilitated by United Way staff 	Funded through Trillium grant through United Way
Community Support Services Assoc.	To coordinate services and support one another and develop ease of referrals.	Quarterly, all over Elgin county	Chair	Its not funded
Morning Business Networking Group				
Elgin Women's Business Networking				
Council for adult education, training and employment	Share information, network	Quarterly	Committee chair, vice chair, treasurer, secretary	Membership fee paid by each member
CSCN-service coordination	Coordinate services for children, youth, families in Elgin County	Twice monthly	Committee with a chair	MCYS, transfer payments
Eat Fresh Buy Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To promote access to local food by producing a map of local growers ➤ Promote consumption of local produce ➤ To produce Elgin County Eat Fresh map annually ➤ Ultimately to promote Elgin agricultural sector and the local economy. ➤ Goal: to produce a map each year 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Several times a year, particularly in late winter in order to prepare the new map for the growing season ➤ Monthly ➤ 2 to 3 times/yr at Health Unit ➤ Usually meet at Public Health. ➤ Meet as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ It is an informal committee but does have a chair ➤ Staff lead ➤ Committee chair ➤ Shirl Kosky - usually calls the meeting, organizes agenda. Otherwise structure is ad hoc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Partners provide funding as well as the producers pay a fee in order to be on the map ➤ Healthy at Heart Elgin; St. Thomas Farmer's Market; West Elgin CHC; Elgin Federation of Agriculture; Elgin County ➤ ECFDC ➤ Partners contribute funds ➤ In the past Healthy at Heart Elgin has supported our committee when needed

Eldercare Workgroup	To support advise and move forward the eldercare strategic plan at West Elgin Community Health Centre in partnership with internal and external partners who have an interest in eldercare within the communities in our catchment area	To be determined by a consensus of workgroup members	There is a chair and a rotating recorder and is accountable to the Executive Director through the Community Health Manager	
Elgin / Oxford Planning Committee	To coordinate services for Developmentally handicapped individuals across the counties of Elgin and Oxford	Monthly in Tillsonburg	Chairperson elected from the membership	No funds attached
Elgin Advisory Committee for Young Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To coordinate planning efforts, to assess the currents needs and address them together in order to best serve young families. ➤ Focus on childcare spaces and access for all, and creating "hubs" of services. A one stop-shopping environment for families. 	Once per month in St. Thomas at a partner agency.	This group is governed by the City of St. Thomas, and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services.	Best Start initiative, through the Ministry of Children and Youth Services although there isn't funding available to offer any programming. All in-kind from participating agencies.
Elgin Elder Abuse Resource Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To respond, educate and prevent Elder Abuse in Elgin county ➤ The EEARC works with existing services to provide advice, assistance and guidance for reactive and proactive interventions to make Elgin County a place where the elderly can live free from any form of abuse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Quarterly, but sub committee's meet often bi-monthly or at call of chair ➤ The EEARC meets quarterly in St. Thomas. The location is shared between the STEGH and the CCAC office. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chairperson ➤ There is a Chair, vice chair, treasurer and secretary. All positions are elected by and from the membership on a bi-annual basis and may serve up to two consecutive two-year terms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Non-profit, however able to apply for grants etc. ➤ The EEARC sub-committees have written successful grant applications, we receive in-kind donations as well as honorariums for speaking engagements.

Elgin Funder's Network	To share information relevant to our funding programs, community trends, and common stakeholders.	Once or twice a year	No, just an informal network.	It's not...if we do end up doing a joint venture, we may all help out.
Elgin Health Services Council	To plan for the integration of Health Services within Elgin County	Every second month	Chair	Small budget for secretarial services through LHIN
Elgin Hospice Palliative Care Committee				
Elgin London Middlesex Cancer Services Network	An integrated network of cancer services to promote collaboration, education and communication amongst organizations for the benefit of the public and the communities we serve.	Meeting frequency is 3 times a year and meeting location will rotate amongst member organizations.	Co-chairs from two member organizations.	Member organizations will independently budget for Network activity/projects and secure sponsorship money from community businesses where able.
Elgin Mental Health and Addictions Network	To plan for mental health and addiction services in Elgin	Approximately every second month	Chair/Vice Chair	No funding that I am aware of - members pay for their travel and staff time to attend.
Elgin St. Thomas Nutrition Council	Promote nutrition in Elgin County.	Monthly for 7 months of the year.	Chair: Shirl Kosky	Elgin St. Thomas Public Health
Elgin Stroke Working Group	Stroke prevention, and care in Elgin County	4 times/year	Chair, recorder. Chair is the manager of the Southwest group	No funding- except for the paid position of the manager to coordinates

Elgin Workforce committee	To devise a plan to ensure Elgin county has a trained responsive workforce in the upcoming years and that citizens opportunities for employment are clearly defined	At the call of the chair	Co chairs	Voluntary membership
Elgin Alliance To End Violence	"We believe that all women and children have the right; to freedom from abuse, to safety, to dignity and respect. We are committed to ending violence against women and children by facilitating and planning for a coordinated, accountable community response that promotes social change and zero tolerance of violence."	Every other month	Violence Against Women	Unsure
Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To reduce/eliminate the incidents of pre-natal exposure to alcohol which result in FASD. Increase educational opportunities to make more people aware of the effects, treatment options for those affected and to prevent further incidents. ➤ We are a group representing service providers who wish to improve services for individuals and heighten prevention efforts re Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 	Monthly... new committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤A chair. New group. Volunteer members, school board, Mental Health /ministry of Health agency reps ➤We are a group representing service providers who wish to improve services for individuals and heighten prevention efforts re Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder 	It's not
Emergency Planning Group	The purpose of an emergency management program is to support public safety and the creation of disaster-resilient communities. Every municipality in Ontario is legislated to develop an emergency management program.			

<p>Focus Fairview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We are eliminating some barriers for this community like transportation. ➤ Community agencies have joined forces to offer access to services that the residents of this community need. ➤ The intent of this proposal is to bring much needed social services to Fairview Ave. that households may not otherwise access and which may assist the household members with their special needs. ➤ To provide the residents of 81-83-85 Fairview (22 public housing family units) with on-site information on, and education about, the myriad of issues that face low-income families (depression, parenting skills, addictions, family law, etc.) ➤ Increase knowledge about how to service low-income populations, and increase services to residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Monthly ➤ Meetings are held approximately every other month and are held at 11-83 Fairview Ave, St.Thomas. ➤ Usually monthly ➤ Bi-monthly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Student run through Elgin Counseling and Mediation. ➤ There is a committee with a chair. ➤ Currently informal governance ➤ Chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Grants and through programs offered by not for profit agencies ➤ Grants, volunteers. ➤ Housing Unit and utilities are provided by the Elgin and St. Thomas Housing Corporation (ESTHC). ESTHC has also provided some initial furnishings and equipment for the unit to assist with programming. Other social agencies in City of St. Thomas have provided staff and other items for programs undertaken. Grants have been applied for. ➤ Not currently funded
<p>Healthy at Heart Elgin</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve the health of Elgin County residents ➤ To address the issues of heart health throughout Elgin County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 4 times per year, or more depending on tasks ➤ Usually Quarterly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Chair, coordinator, and sub-committee ➤ Chair, with meeting facilitated by staff from Public Health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ OHHN- Ministry of Health Promotion ➤ Heart Health funds

Kin Canada	Kin Canada – the Association of Kinsmen, Kinette and Kin clubs is proud to be an all-Canadian service organization made up of outstanding community volunteers. From coast to coast, members are enhancing quality of life in their communities by promoting service, fellowship, positive values and national pride. The Association boasts a proud 89-year history dedicated to fostering lifelong friendships while “Serving the Community’s Greatest Need.”	Monthly at Community Living London 190 Adelaide St n 3rd Tuesday of each month 7 pm - 9 pm	Executive of 6 members	Self
LINC Service Providers	Information sharing with LINC (Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada) (Immigration Canada funded)	Quarterly or when necessary	Chair	No funding
Literacy Service Providers	To coordinate LBS (Literacy Basic Skills) funded programming in Elgin County	Every 2-3 months	Chair, Literacy Link South Central	No funding
Marketing Partners of Western Elgin	To promote economic development and tourism in Western Elgin	Monthly in West Lorne	Chairperson	Municipal Funding
Oxford Elgin Developmental Services Planning Table	Address issues/challenges supporting adults with developmental disabilities; sharing information with service providers/agencies updates, etc.	4-6 times per year alternating between Elgin and Oxford Counties	Chair	Members are employed by service providers/agencies funding by Ministry of Community & Social Services.
Raise Coalition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Substance prevention ➤ To increase awareness and prevention for youth’s use of illicit drugs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Once a month; Elgin County building ➤ Monthly at Elgin County Building/STEHU 	Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Volunteer; grants ➤ Assigned staff hours from community agencies; community donation; support from city hall

<p>Regional Stroke Strategy, Elgin Stroke Strategy</p>	<p>To facilitate, coordinate, implement and sustain the development of an integrated delivery system for best practice stroke care in Southwestern Ontario (Elgin County).</p>	<p>Southwestern Ontario Stroke Strategy Steering Committee meets 3X year; Elgin Stroke Strategy Working Group meets quarterly</p>	<p>Elgin working group- local committee chair/co-chair with facilitation and support from the SWO Stroke Strategy Thames Valley coordinator; local chair sits on SWO Stroke Strategy Steering Committee (SSSC); SSSC encompasses LHINs 1 and 2 with representation from across the region and across the continuum of stroke care; with Chair from within the region; a provincial report with recommendations for strengthening the role of SSSC is anticipated within the month. In general, the SSSC is advisory to the Stroke Strategy re priorities for addressing stroke prevention and care needs that cross the region and in some cases specific LHIN or sub-LHIN level needs</p>	<p>Facilitation is part of the mandate of the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Strategy, which is funded through HSAA agreement with LHSC. No specific funds allocated to the local stroke working groups within Thames Valley</p>
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South Service Provider Council (SWLHIN),	To provide input and advice to the LHIN on the planning for and integration of health services within the south planning area (Elgin, oxford, London - Middlesex	Every second month	Co-Chairs	SWLHIN contributes small amount to support secretarial work
South West Mental Health and Addictions Coalition	to plan for the integration of mental health and addiction services within the SW LHIN catchment area	monthly or more frequently depending on work	Chair/Vice Chair	currently no funding sources all members pay for their own travel and time
South West Primary Care Provider Network	To address strategic work of mutual concern/interest of South West Community Health Centres within area of Erie-St. Clair and South West LHIN	Monthly	Co-Chairs	Small amount contributed by each Community Health Centre in South West
Southwestern HIV/AIDS Community Planning Group	The HIV/AIDS Southwestern Ontario Community Planning Group will provide leadership and guidance to assist in the sustainability and implementation of the recommendations set out in the February 2006 Final Report - HIV/AIDS Community Plan - Southwestern Ontario	2-3 times per year	Committee Chair	N/A Each members contribute their own time.
St. John Ambulance	Provide First aid & CPR training as well as Medical First Response Services at Community Events	Bi Weekly. 656 Talbot St.	Committee made up of Various Positions	Donations
St. Thomas and Elgin County Study on Homelessness Steering Committee	To assess the need for homelessness services in St. Thomas and Elgin County and to put forth recommendations for realistic and practical solution. It is the aim of the study to improve community partnerships; to look at long-term solution in addressing community homelessness; to work towards tangible results for the homeless population; to increase knowledge of homelessness in order to reduce homelessness at the local level.	As required, at the call of the consultant and/or Elizabeth Sebestyen, Housing Administrator, City of St. Thomas. They meet at various available places, e.g. United Way Office, City Hall, etc.	Chair is Elizabeth Sebestyen - no other governing positions - just members	City of St. Thomas under Homelessness Partnering Initiative (HPI) - Outreach Communities component. This initiative is one of four components of the federal government's Homelessness Partnering Strategy (HPS)

St. Thomas Housing Committee	To advocate and work towards more and improved affordable housing in Elgin County.	Quarterly at Ontario Works offices	It is convened by the City Housing Coordinator - Elizabeth Sebestyen	No funding
Student Leadership Initiative	To plan for a collaborative service system across Mental Health and Education systems where effective care planning and intervention for children and youth with mental health issues involves both the appropriate mental health and education stakeholders and child and their family.	Monthly or more frequently based on the work	Project Consultant oversees and works with 4 facilitators	Funded through Ministry of Family and Children Services
Volunteer Elgin	Networking, planning of events for volunteers, co ordination role		Executive committee, members vote	Agencies pay membership
West Elgin Community Planning Group	Share information on activities and coordinate events for youth in West Elgin/Dutton Dunwich	Quarterly	At the lead of the WECHC	Variety of sources - participants represent their constituencies at the table
West Lorne Support Services	To coordinate agency services at the West Lorne Support Services office	Usually 3 or 4 times per year at the call of the chair at the office in West Lorne	Fairly informal but there is a committee chair	No particular funding for the group/committee as it involves agencies that provide services in West Lorne
Youth Safety Day Committee	Organize a day for youth with interactive presentations around safety issues	On an as needed basis - event runs every three years	Staff lead	West Elgin CHC and community donations