

CGS LEADERSHIP SUMMIT ON THE DRUG TOXICITY CRISIS

Framework for Fall 2023 Summit

Background/Issue

Sudbury and districts (i.e. City of Greater Sudbury, districts of Sudbury and Manitoulin) has the third highest opioid overdose mortality rate of any public health region in Ontario for the year 2022 at 55.4 per 100,000 population compared to the provincial average of 17.6 per 100,000 population; this is not dissimilar to other northern Ontario public health units. The drug toxicity death rates in Greater Sudbury remain far above the provincial average despite the actions of multiple agencies and members of the [Community Drug Strategy](#). Initiatives have included: prevention ([stigma](#), resilience), harm reduction services ([needle and syringe programming](#), naloxone distribution, supervised consumption services), treatment and recovery programs, and enforcement, in addition to a system of [drug warnings](#) and [opioid surveillance/dashboard](#). This is a complex issue requiring an all-of-community approach.

Purpose

The summit is designed to be a forum for community leadership* to examine the current magnitude of and response to the drug toxicity crisis in Greater Sudbury, with the goal of determining actionable next steps, processes and structures to mitigate harms and ensure accountability.

Overview of Summit Process

1. **Current status** update
2. **Current response** summary
3. **Best practices** review
4. **Gap analysis** and **commitments** to next steps

**Community leadership is broadly defined and includes the leadership of those affected by substance use. See Appendix for motions in support of Leadership Summit.*

Drug Toxicity Crisis Leadership Summit Planning Committee (LSPC)

Terms of Reference

July 20, 2023

Role

The Leadership Summit Planning Committee (LSPC) is established by and reports to the executive sponsors from CGS and PHSD (Ed Archer and Dr. Penny Sutcliffe or delegates). The executive sponsors in turn ensure that the coordinating group led by Councillor Lapierre is kept apprised of progress through routine reporting.

The LSPC is responsible for overall summit planning, including recommendations to the executive sponsors on:

1. Summit objectives
2. Summit program including agenda, content, speakers, process (e.g., facilitation)
3. Documentation of summit proceedings and outcomes/commitments
4. Pre-summit workshops/activities to prepare for the meaningful advancement of agenda items
5. Logistics (e.g., timing, location, food, budget, revenue sources, registration, etc.)
6. Ensuring a planning and execution process that respects cultural and inclusion/diversity expectations, including persons who use and are affected by substance use

7. Participant invitee list
8. Communications plan (pre, during, post-event)

The LSPC may make recommendations on the hiring of resource persons (e.g., facilitator, event organizer, etc.) to achieve their mandate.

The LSPC may establish working groups to achieve their mandate.

The LSPC may make recommendations on the establishment of advisory groups (e.g., Indigenous, persons with lived/living experience, etc.)

Membership

- Co-chairs from CGS and PHSD
- Expertise from each of the Community Drug Strategy pillars: prevention, harm reduction, enforcement, treatment
- Addictions medicine and research
- Indigenous service providers and community members
- Municipal social services
- Community service providers
- Lived/living experience with substance use and/or affected by

Meetings

- Meetings will be hybrid including both in person and via TEAMS.
- Meetings will be held every two weeks in respect of the short planning timeline, with alternates identified as back up due to summer vacations.
- With consensus of the co-chairs meetings may be more or less frequent.
- Additional deliberations may be conducted via email between meetings as required.
- To ensure continuity and effectiveness, delegates must be able to engage and make recommendations or decisions, as appropriate, at meetings.

Lines of Accountability and Communication

- The LSPC is accountable for its work to the executive sponsors as above, and through the LSPC co-chairs.
- The LSPC will take a consultative approach to its work, engaging members and stakeholders as appropriate, with decision making based on consensus. Where consensus is not possible, this will be reported to the executive sponsors.

Financial and Administrative Policies:

- Service, travel, and meeting expenses for members of organizations participating on the LSPC is on a non-remunerative basis.
- Remuneration may be made available for persons for whom lack of such support would be a barrier to participation.

Appendix: Motions

CDS Executive Committee motion

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Community Drug Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury (CDS-CGS), has considered the May 24, 2023, deliberations and recommendation of its Steering Committee concerning the escalating drug crisis and need for a leadership summit;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Executive Committee strongly endorse the need for a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis; and

FURTHER THAT the Executive Committee strongly support a Fall 2023 summit that is jointly organized by the City of Greater Sudbury and Public Health Sudbury & Districts; and

FURTHER THAT given the all-of-society complexity of the drug toxicity issue, the Executive Committee strongly supports that such a summit be planned and executed based on principles of inclusion and diversity, including the involvement of persons who use and are affected by substances; and

FURTHER THAT the Executive Committee of the CDS-CGS request City Council for Greater Sudbury to endorse and support a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis.

CARRIED May 30, 2023

CGS Council motion

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is experiencing the highest drug toxicity mortality rates in the province;

AND WHEREAS elevated mortality rates are worsening in Greater Sudbury despite numerous multi-sector substance-use prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement efforts;

AND WHEREAS addressing this complex crisis requires an intensification of leadership action commitments from multiple fronts to reverse the trend and save lives;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Community Drug Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury (CDS – CGS) strongly endorsed the need for a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis

AND FURTHER THAT the Executive Committee, in recognition of the all-of-society complexity of the drug toxicity issue, strongly supported that the summit be planned and executed based on principles of inclusion and diversity, including the involvement of persons who use and are affected by substances;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Greater Sudbury endorse the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the CDS – CGS for a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis, and request an information update, no later than the October 10, 2023, Council meeting, which would include describing:

- Terms of Reference
- Planned summit objectives,
- An approach for documenting practices in other communities that could be adapted for use here to reduce morbidity
- Details such as location options, timing, and potential costs/financing requirements
- Expected summit outcomes and other relevant information pertinent to the execution of this summit.

AND FURTHERMORE, that City staff provide support for this effort as required

CARRIED June 13, 2023

Board of Health motion

WHEREAS the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts sounded the alarm on the local and regional opioid crisis in 2021 (motion 14-21); and

WHEREAS Northern Ontario is experiencing the highest drug toxicity mortality rates in the province and despite the engagement of a multisector Community Drug Strategy, the rate for Sudbury and districts is worsening; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Public Health Standards requires boards of health to “reduce the burden of preventable injuries and substance use through the development and implementation of public health interventions informed by collaboration with health and social service partners”; and

WHEREAS addressing this complex issue requires all sectors to be fully engaged to investigate and commit to intensified and innovative approaches to reverse the mortality trend and save lives; and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee of the Community Drug Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury (CDS-CGS), strongly endorsed the need for a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis; and

WHEREAS the Executive Committee, in recognition of the all-of-society complexity of the drug toxicity issue, strongly supported that the summit be planned and executed based on principles of inclusion and diversity, including the involvement of persons who use and are affected by substances;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health endorse the recommendations of the Executive Committee of the CDS-CGS and direct the Medical Officer of Health to ensure Public Health engagement in organizing a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis.

CARRIED June 15, 2023

GSPS motion

That the Board endorse the recommendations of the Community Drug Strategy – City of Greater Sudbury (CDS-CGS)’s Executive Committee to support the Medical Officer of Health in organizing a local leadership summit on the escalating drug toxicity crisis.

And further, that the Board support the engagement of Greater Sudbury Police Service leadership staff to join in this summit and participate in its organization through their roles in the Community Drug Strategy.

And further, that the Board identify Board Member(s) to join in the summit.

CARRIED June 21, 2023
