



**MINUTES**

Community Drug Strategy for the City of Greater Sudbury  
 Steering Committee Meeting  
 Tuesday, October 13, 2020  
 3-4 P.M.  
 Online

**Co-chairs:** Shana Calixte, Public Health Sudbury & Districts  
 Daniel Despatie, Greater Sudbury Police Service

**Recorder:** Laurie Willett Daoust, Public Health Sudbury & Districts

**Present:** Josée Joliat, Katie Junkin, Public Health Sudbury & Districts  
 Natalie Aubin, Daniel Molke, Health Sciences North  
 Dennis Quenneville, Rebecca Poulin, Melissa Roney, EMS  
 Amber Fritz, Réseau ACCESS Network  
 Joel Boivin, Sudbury Action Centre for Youth

#	Item	Description of Outcome	Individual Responsible for Further Action and Deadline
1.0	<b>Call TO ORDER/ROLL CALL</b>	The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.	
2.0	<b>PURPOSE OF THE MEETING</b>	No agenda was provided. COVID-19 has had a large impact on people (re: isolation, etc.). The committee was called to discuss heightened suspected opioid-related incidents in the community to determine the next steps.	
3.0	<b>DISCUSSION</b>		
3.1		<p>S. Calixte shared that the opioid surveillance dashboard will be updated this week. She also shared that a drug alert was issued on September 26.</p> <p>She recapped the strategies discussed in the previous minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make drug alerts less vague. Can we say “suspected death” and indicate that the information would need to be clarified by the coroner's report at a later date?</li> <li>• Reflect on the purpose and target audience for the drug alerts.</li> <li>• We need to create different messaging for different audiences. The target audiences that were identified are people who use drugs, support</li> </ul>	

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		<p>people or people surrounding people who use drugs, and newcomers in the community. Some felt that some of the current messaging is too wordy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider issuing two drug alerts: one targeted message for agencies and a general PSA.</li> <li>• Messaging for agencies would include: what you can do to help, clear step-by-step instructions (caring, practices, etc.).</li> <li>• Have a peer review the drug alert to make recommendations.</li> <li>• In other communities, \$5 Tim Horton’s gift cards are being offered to encourage people to return their used needles. One gift card is given, no matter how many needles are returned. This interaction promotes discussion and connection (outreach).</li> <li>• Hotline through Toronto used to check in with people for overdoses</li> <li>• Implement a communication/hand-off system/platform for outreach workers</li> <li>• Think of targeted messaging, such as bus shelter, needle disposal bins, public library, etc.</li> <li>• Create a budget for harm reduction messaging for the steering committee.</li> </ul> <p>D. Molke explained that they no longer have the opportunity to distribute naloxone kits as their programming has switched to virtual. J. Boivin shared that more kits being distributed through SACY. A. Fritz shared that they distributed 450 kits in September. D. Quenneville shared that paramedic services will soon be distributing kits, with an expected date of January 2021. People will simply be able to ask an attendant for a kit at any time.</p> <p>J. Boivin shared how new products are affecting people. The products contain more variety; therefore, people are using more naloxone. He shared that people are slowly responding to COVID-19 protocols (wearing masks, hand wipes, etc.)</p> <p>N. Aubin shared high numbers of people coming into the emergency department for substance-related incidents, but not necessarily opioid-related. Some of these patients are as young as 14 years old. She would like to see the group implement some of the strategies discussed. D. Molke</p>	

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		<p>asked if there was a strategy the group could implement to keep messaging fresh and top-of-mind.</p> <p>S. Calixte shared that the application for SCS is ongoing, and the group hopes to finalize the document by the end of the month. However, the location is still outstanding. The committee is meeting on Friday and should have more to share on Tuesday at the Steering Committee meeting.</p> <p>A. Fritz shared that their agency held focus groups regarding SCS location. The results showed that the site should be downtown due to accessibility and that people are eager to get SCS in our community. The group discussed brick and mortar versus mobile locations.</p> <p>J. Boivin discussed the need for messaging around safe supply. N. Aubin shared that Micheal Roach is looking at provincial options for consideration. We would need lots of support to get local physicians on board to start prescribing safe supply. North Bay is moving forward with becoming a 'safe supply community'. A. Fritz shared that Dr. Andrea Sereda, in London, Ontario, has been running a safe supply program for years and has recently received millions in funding from the federal government. She has done several webinars on the subject. Reaching out to her would be wise. South Riverdale has also just received federal funding for two safe supply programs as well. Other contacts include Gillian Kolla and Nancy Rai in Toronto. S. Calixte shared that the Steering Committee will consider adopting a position statement to support safe supply at the meeting on Tuesday. J. Boivin asked if we should support a mobile Overdose Prevention Site like STOP until a permanent SCS can be put in place. This will be revisited at the next Steering Committee meeting.</p> <p>R. Poulin discussed the possibility of funding for a bundled model of care program targeted to the homeless population. The Niagara region was successful in receiving this funding.</p>	<p>S. Calixte will invite staff from STOP to attend the Steering Committee.</p> <p>R. Poulin will reach out to agencies for guidance and advice.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS</b>	Discussion at the Steering Committee Meeting on October 20.	
<b>11.0</b>	<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	The meeting was adjourned at 3:53 p.m.	

