



## Staff Report

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**Report To:** Rebekah Msuya-Collison, Chief Administrative Officer/Deputy Clerk

**From:** **Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager**

**Date:** December 18 2023

**Report:** CR06-2023

**Subject:** Community Safety and Well-Being Plan – Annual Update

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### **Recommendations:**

**That** South Huron Council receives the report of Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager re: Community Safety and Well-Being Plan – Annual Update.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with an update on the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for information.

### **Background and Analysis:**

#### **Background**

As a result of amendments to the *Police Services Act*, 1990, that came into effect on January 1, 2019, all municipalities across Ontario were required to develop and adopt a Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Plan (the "Plan") on or before July 1, 2021. To prepare the Plan, municipalities were required to establish a multi-sectoral advisory committee and to conduct consultations with members of the public. Municipalities also had the discretion and flexibility to develop joint plans with surrounding municipalities.

The Plan was required to identify priority risk factors and strategies to reduce these risk factors such as new services, or changing/coordinating

existing services, and set measurable outcomes. This allows municipalities to take a leadership role in defining and addressing priority risks in the community through proactive, integrated strategies that ensure vulnerable populations receive the help they need from the providers best suited to support them.

The Huron County Community Safety and Well-Being Working Group (the “Working Group”) was established in the fall of 2019 in order to develop a consolidated Plan for Huron County. Many of the preliminary issues identified (i.e. Affordable housing, transportation, mental health, substance misuse) are interdependent and multi-jurisdictional. It therefore follows that the Plan would benefit from input and guidance from multi-jurisdictional providers, and that a consolidated Plan for Huron County would be beneficial, noting overall risk factors while also identifying any risk factors and strategies specific to a particular municipality.

In February 2020, a survey was created and distributed throughout the County to assess each municipality’s well-being and feelings of safety of residents. The survey was administered by the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention on behalf of the Working Group as part of the development of the Plan. Community engagement sessions were planned but unfortunately not held due to the onset of COVID-19.

The cost of the Plan creation was also agreed to be divided equally among all 9 lower-tier municipalities.

Based on survey results and evidence-based research, the Plan identified the following four (4) priority areas for action based on their research and community engagement:

1. Mental Health and Addiction;
2. Housing and Homelessness;
3. Domestic and Family Violence; and
4. Community Security.

The Huron County Community Safety and Well-Being Plan was adopted by all 9 lower-tier municipalities on July 1, 2021. A copy of the Huron County Community Safety and Well-Being Plan is attached for reference at Appendix A.

It should be noted that while the Plan creation was mandated by the Ministry of Solicitor General, no information has been provided with respect to the role of the Plan moving forward. There has been no indication that funding for the Plan will be made available by the Province and no direction as to the ‘end goal’ for the Plan. More information from the Province is likely to be

released following adoption of the changes to the *Police Services Act*, in 2024.

As set out in the approved Plan and the Terms of Reference for the Oversight Committee, the following framework was established:

- **Oversight Committee** - An oversight committee with multi-sectoral representation and reflective of the community to guide campaigns and initiatives, and address four identified priority areas of action through providing expertise and knowledge and sharing information.
- **Municipal Working Group** – A working group consisting of designates of all 9 lower-tier municipalities in Huron County, the Working Group guides and directs key tasks required to complete the generic County wide Plan. The Working Group provides guidance to the Oversight Committee and operates as liaisons to their respective municipalities and Councils.
- **Municipal Implementation Team or Coordinator** – Appointed staff or coordinator responsible for the implementation of the Plan based on recommendations from the Oversight Committee and their own municipality’s needs and goals.

### **South Huron Council Priorities (2022-2026)**

In the spring of 2023, South Huron Council embarked on a process to assess ongoing commitments, identify new projects, and determine priorities that would best support the achievement of Council goals.

Community Safety and Well-Being was identified as a [Council priority](#) during the priority setting process.

### **Oversight Committee Meeting Summary for 2023**

South Huron representation on the Oversight Committee includes Deputy Mayor Jim Dietrich and Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager. Over the course of 2023, the Oversight Committee met four (4) times. Detailed descriptions of the meetings are described below in Table 1.

**Table 1:** Summary of 2023 Oversight Committee Meetings

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Overview</b>
March 22, 2023  (Inaugural meeting)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee orientation</li> <li>• Committee appointments</li> </ul>
May 24, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mapping high level discussion of actions/initiatives currently being undertaken and in which communities (participating lower-tiers) that relate to our 4 priority areas.</li> <li>• Discussion on future work of committee and next steps.</li> </ul>
September 25, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational session discussions related to priority areas</li> <li>• Committee membership discussion</li> <li>• CSWB media statement</li> <li>• 2023 projects and initiatives discussion</li> <li>• Priority area mapping review</li> </ul>
November 28, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Re-orientation (for new members and committee direction)</li> <li>• Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA) CSWB Update</li> <li>• Action plan for Oversight Committee (campaigns related to priority areas, indicators)</li> <li>• Review of proposed 2024 budget</li> </ul>

### **Working Group Meeting Summary for 2023**

South Huron representation on the Working Group includes Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager. Over the course of late 2022 and 2023, the Working Group met five (5) times. Detailed descriptions of the meetings are described below in Table 2.

**Table 2:** Summary of 2023 Working Group Meetings

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Meeting Overview</b>
December 5, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight Committee composition.</li> <li>• Oversight Committee Terms of Reference.</li> <li>• Social Media Schedule preparations.</li> </ul>
February 6, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Municipal and Sector appointments to Oversight Committee.</li> <li>• Municipal by-laws.</li> <li>• Oversight Committee Inaugural meeting discussion</li> <li>• Shared drive determined for resource sharing.</li> </ul>
June 1, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Oversight Committee minutes and priority mapping task.</li> <li>• CSWB funds for 2023.</li> </ul>
October 3, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Oversight Committee minutes.</li> <li>• Review of framework and roles for the Oversight Committee, Working Group and Implementation teams at municipal level.</li> <li>• Discussion on CSWB collective website for participating municipalities to house resources, campaigns, and indicator reporting.</li> <li>• CSWB Budget discussion for 2024.</li> </ul>
November 30, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of CSWB website and selection of creator and host.</li> <li>• Campaign considerations regarding ensuring collective approach.</li> <li>• Discussion on proposed CSWB budget for 2024 (held by municipalities).</li> </ul>

### **Social Media Communication Schedule**

In 2023, a Social Media Communication Scheduled was established by the Working Group to identify information messaging as related to the four priority areas that can be actioned by participating lower-tier municipal staff.

Attached at Appendix B is the Social Media Communication Schedule which outlines the 2023 items.

## Priority Area Mapping

In 2023, the Oversight Committee undertook a priority area mapping exercise for the four priority areas identified within the CSWB Plan.

The purpose of the priority area mapping exercise was to identify initiatives, campaigns and programs that exist county-wide related to the four priority areas. The exercise also identified redundancies and gaps across the county that exist within the priority areas.

Attached at Appendix C is the Priority Area Mapping which provides the updated list as determined by the Oversight Committee members, as of October 12, 2023.

## Additional 2023 Activities – South Huron

Outside of the identified messaging in the 2023 social media communication schedule, as determined by Working Group, South Huron also initiated the following communication items and information campaigns related to CSWB based on emerging feedback and conversations within the community:

- [Recognizing our Diversity](#) page creation on municipal website (June 2023) – Priority Area 4 (Community Security) and Priority Populations
- Homelessness information campaign (November 2023) – Priority Area 3 (Housing and Homelessness)
  - Homelessness homepage slider to municipal website with link directing to Huron County homelessness resources (November 2023)
  - Seven (7) individual social media posts (Facebook and Instagram) related to information regarding homelessness myths, supports and resources, by-name list, housing needs and emergency shelters and emergency basic need access (November 17 to November 29, 2023)
- Update to [Community Safety and Well-Being](#) page on municipal website (November 2023) – Overall CSWB Plan information.

Additional 2023 activities outside of communications, related to CSWB priority areas and priority populations include:

- Purchase (2022) and installation/use (2023) of Speed Spy (as actioned by the Police Services Board) - Priority Area 4 (Community Security).
- Amended [Corporate Flag Policy](#) as approved by South Huron Council on August 14, 2023, to include the identification of a community flagpole for the purpose of community flag flying - Priority Area 4 (Community Security).

- Strengthened partnerships and municipal support and facilitation through on-going discussions between the Municipality of South Huron staff and various organizations related to the 4 priority areas or priority populations. Some example organizations include:
  - Huron County Immigration Partnership;
  - Huron-Perth Children's Aid Society; and
  - United Way Perth-Huron.

## **2024 Action Plan**

At the November 28, 2023, meeting, the Oversight Committee identified 4 campaigns for 2024, each prioritizing one of the Priority Areas. Each municipality is expected to participate in all 4 campaigns so that shared messaging and information is distributed to all Huron County residents during the same time period in order to make the greatest impact. It should be noted that municipalities are not limited to these 4 campaigns and may create or participate in additional campaigns as their own municipality's needs and abilities dictate.

The campaign for the first quarter of 2024 relates to Mental Health and Addictions; the campaign for the second quarter relates to Domestic and Family Violence; the campaign for the third quarter relates to Community Security; and the final campaign relates to Housing and Homelessness.

Ad hoc committees have been created to gather messaging and information to be distributed to each municipality through the Oversight Committee and Working Group during each campaign. This will ensure that consistent and appropriate messaging is delivered across the County.

In addition to these campaigns, a general information campaign regarding the Community Safety and Well Being Plan (what it is, where to find information) will be undertaken throughout the year. A generic template identifying all 9 lower-tier municipalities has been drafted, which will allow for branded cohesive messaging to be distributed throughout the County by individual municipalities much in the same way as the election materials were prepared.

Currently, there is no 'one-stop-shop' for information regarding the Community Safety and Well Being Plan or the Priority Areas. The Oversight Committee recommended that a stand-alone website similar to websites created by other municipalities be established (see [Community Safety and Well-Being for Municipalities of Grey-Bruce](#)). This website would provide information on what the Plan is, how it was established, what the 4 priority areas are, who the members are, provide links to services and organizations relating to the 4 priority areas (as set out in the Priority Area Mapping Task), and provide updates as well as copies of any reports generated.

## **2024 CSWB Budget Allocation for South Huron**

At the South Huron Police Services Board meeting on October 10, 2023, it was recommended that the 2024 Police Services Board budget be considered and approved during Council's budget discussions. Within the proposed budget, \$10,000 is allocated to Community Safety and Well-Being.

At the Regular Council meeting on November 20, 2023, South Huron Council passed a resolution (#444-2023) for the consideration and approval of the 2024 proposed budget during Council budget discussions.

The proposed 2024 CSWB budget allocation was approved by the Police Services Board at their December 12, 2023, meeting.

The 2024 CSWB budget allocation is attached as Appendix D to this report.

## **Proposed 2024 CSWB Workplan for South Huron**

Once the proposed Police Services Board budget is approved, recommendations regarding a 2024 CSWB workplan will be brought to the Police Services Board in Q1 of 2024 for review and approval.

## **CSWB Updates**

A memo to the South Huron Police Services Board will be prepared following each Oversight Committee meeting to provide updates and information regarding upcoming campaigns.

South Huron Council will receive regular CSWB updates through the minutes of the Police Services Board, as well as an annual Staff Report to be prepared directly for South Huron Council.

## **Policies/Legislation:**

[Ontario Police Services Act \(2019\)](#)

## **Consultations:**

- Huron County Community Safety and Well-Being - Working Group Members
- Police Services Board
- Rebekah Msuya-Collison, CAO/Deputy Clerk

## **Related Documents:**

- Appendix A – Community Safety and Well Being Plan
- Appendix B – 2023 Social Media Communication Schedule



- Appendix C – Priority Area Mapping (as of October 12, 2023)
- Appendix D – CSWB Budget Allocation for 2024

Respectfully submitted,

**Stacey Jeffery, Community Relations Manager**

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	CR06-2023 - Community Safety and Well-Being - Annual Update.docx
Attachments:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Appendix A - CSWB-Plan-Huron---FINAL.pdf</li><li>- Appendix B - Social Media Schedule 2023.pdf</li><li>- Appendix C - CSWBP Mapping Task.pdf</li><li>- Appendix D - Proposed CSWB Budget 2024.pdf</li></ul>
Final Approval Date:	Dec 13, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

**Alex Wolfe - Dec 7, 2023 - 3:18 PM**

**Julia Warwick - Dec 8, 2023 - 4:14 PM**

**Rebekah Msuya-Collison - Dec 13, 2023 - 2:01 PM**