



County of Grey
595 9th Ave East
Owen Sound, ON
N4K 3E3
(519) 376-2205

February 11, 2019

Attn: Barb Fedy

Please accept the enclosed activity report and summary of expenses on behalf of the Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy (formerly the Grey Bruce Task Force on Crystal Meth and Other Drugs).

With the funding received from Grey County in 2018, the Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy continued to leverage matching funding from Bruce County and over 1000 hours of in-kind support from community partners to address substance related harms in Bruce and Grey counties.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at agovier@cmhagb.org or 519-378-7880.

Sincerely,

Alison Govier
Coordinator, Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy
Reducing Harms in Bruce & Grey

1. Overview of Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy

The Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy (Drug Strategy) is a partnership among organizations and community groups who agree to actively work together in good faith, to reduce substance-related harms in Bruce and Grey counties. The work of the Drug Strategy is coordinated by the Steering Committee and carried out by partner-driven Action Teams.

Vision: Improved quality of life of individuals, families and communities in Bruce and Grey counties by reducing the health and social harms associated with substances.

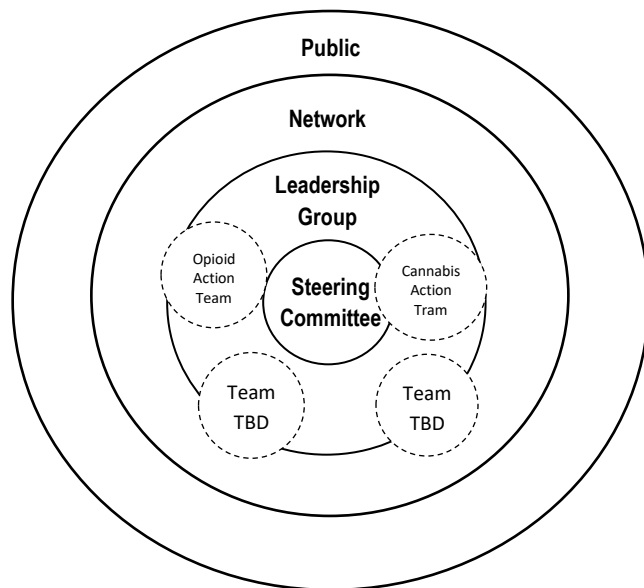
Commitment: Coordinate a comprehensive approach to addressing substance-related harms in Bruce and Grey counties by supporting policies, practices and initiatives that:

- Prevent or delay the use of substances,
- Reduce the harm for people who are using substances,
- Reduce the harms of substance use experienced by family members, and communities.

Guiding Principles: Members of the Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy recognize:

- Substance use and addiction as complex health issues.
- That reducing substance-related harms involves shared responsibility, requiring active participation of many sectors, including and beyond health.
- That all people have the right to deliver and participate in services and supports in an environment of mutual respect, compassion and dignity.
- That best practices in substance use and addiction services and supports include harm reduction and abstinence-based models.
- That balance must exist across prevention, treatment, harm reduction and enforcement with regard to resource flow and strategy initiatives.
- The importance of equitable representation of people with lived experience at all levels of decision-making.

Governance: The Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy is governed by a flexible form of affiliation that enables organizations and community groups to work together in Action Teams. The governance model supports a partnership where leadership is balanced; the work is action-focused; and coordinated self-interest is seen as the best way to secure resources, build on the strengths and asset of partners; all while maintaining autonomy and carrying out the shared goal of reducing substance-related harms in Bruce and Grey counties.



2. Summary of Activities and Outcomes (January – December 2018)

Objective #1: Build cross-sector engagement and alignment to address substance related harms in Bruce and Grey counties

Strategies:

- Convene multi-stakeholder discussions on issues related to substance use;
- Engage people with lived experience in the work of the Drug Strategy;
- Lead multi-sector strategic planning and priority setting;
- Develop a multi-stakeholder emergency preparedness plan for opioid overdose events;
- Develop a resource guide and presentation template for multidisciplinary community-based cannabis education forums for parents, educators and youth.

Outputs/Outcomes:

- 22 multi-stakeholder meetings focusing on current community issues such as reducing opioid overdose and addiction, preventing cannabis use among youth, and improving workplace drug policies;
- Over 50 engaged partners representing areas such as aboriginal health, youth justice, primary care, addiction treatment, harm reduction, housing, social services, private business, education, child, youth and family services and enforcement;
- Engagement from 20 participants of mental health and addiction group services in multi-sector strategic planning activities;
- Coordinated response to 3 overdose cluster events, including media releases to alert the public and harm reduction talking points for frontline staff who serve people who use illicit drugs;
- 10 community-based cannabis education sessions reaching 329 parents, caregivers and youth-allies across Bruce and Grey counties;
- Approximately 1000 hours of in-kind contribution from community partners.

Objective #2: Increase awareness and support to issues related to substance use in Bruce and Grey counties

Strategies:

- Circulate press releases to local media outlets with messaging that reframes substance-related harms as a health issue affecting all residents and families;
- Circulate quarterly newsletters to community partners highlighting relevant local trends, federal and provincial policy changes, training opportunities and Drug Strategy activities;
- Create spaces for health professionals and parents to engage in open dialogue about proven approaches for preventing cannabis use among youth;
- Host half-day workshop for employers on the topic of workplace drug policy, with a focus on cannabis legalization.

Outputs/Outcomes:

- 164 newsletter subscribers (57% increase from 2017);
- Media exposure through press releases and interviews with community radio and television stations;
- Increased understanding among participants of cannabis education sessions of why cannabis use is risky for young people¹, and increased understanding of how to talk to young people about cannabis use²;
- Participation from 23 public and private sector employers in a half-day workshop on workplace drug policy.

Objective #3: Enhance monitoring and evaluation of Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy initiatives

Strategies:

- Participation in provincial working group to develop an evaluation framework for municipal drug strategies;
- Development of baseline data report of substance use trends in Bruce and Grey counties;
- Conduct evaluations of Drug Strategy projects to improve learning and ensure accountability related to specific initiatives.

Outputs/Outcomes:

- *Evaluation Framework for Municipal Drug Strategies* (September 2018), created in partnership with the University of Toronto and the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario;
- *Data Report: Exploring trends in substance use and related harms in Bruce and Grey counties* (July 2018), created in partnership with Grey Bruce Public Health;
- Mini Evaluation: Community-based cannabis education sessions for parents in Bruce and Grey Counties (November 2018), created in partnership with Grey Bruce Public Health.

3. Next Steps

- Support Cannabis Working Group in coordinating “Weeding out the Risk” school-based cannabis education for students aged 14 to 18;
- Support Opioid Working Group in testing and validating Opioid Overdose Emergency Response Plan with one or more municipality;
- Support Opioid Working Group in expanding naloxone training to all municipalities in Grey and Bruce counties

¹ 94% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cannabis education sessions improved their understanding of why cannabis use is risky for young people.

² 74% of survey respondents agreed or strongly agreed that the cannabis education sessions increased their understanding of how to talk to young people about cannabis.

- Create new working group to explore challenges and opportunities for meaningfully engaging People with Lived Experience in service delivery, program planning and system level decision making;
- Develop an online presence for the Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy (website and social media).

4. Summary of Revenue and Expenditures (January – December 2018)

	Bruce County	Grey County	Total
Revenue:			
Total Revenue Received in the Year	20,000	20,000	40,000
Carried Forward from Previous Years	137,205	132,205	269,410
	157,205	152,205	309,410
Expenses:			
Coordinator salaries & benefits	39,342	39,342	78,684
Meeting expenses	1,064	1,064	2,128
Office supplies	717	717	1,434
Agency/Membership fees	-	-	-
Professional fees	397	397	794
Staff education	1,370	1,370	2,740
Staff travel	313	313	626
Telephone	358	358	716
Workshop expenses	1,127	1,127	2,254
Minor furniture and equipment purchases	1,034	1,034	2,068
Total Expenses	45,722	45,722	91,444
Balance Remaining at Year End (carried forward)	111,483	106,483	217,966