

MINUTES

LAMBTON SENIORS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lambton Shared Services Centre (Boardroom)/ MS Teams

January 23, 2024

Committee Representatives	
COL County Council	Councillor Dan Sageman
Municipality of Brooke-Alvinston	Jeannette Douglas
Township of Dawn-Euphemia	Heather Childs
Township of Enniskillen	Mary Lynne McCallum
Municipality of Lambton Shores	Bill Weber
Village of Oil Springs	Cathy Martin
Town of Petrolia	Sherry Hamilton
Town of Plympton-Wyoming	Maggie Eastman
Village of Point Edward	Lois Lafond
City of Sarnia	Jamie Dillon
Township of St. Clair	Avril Helps
Township of Warwick	Jodi Campbell
Navigating Senior Care Lambton	Arlene Patterson

Present: Bill Weber (Chair), Mary Lynn McCallum (Vice-Chair), Sherry Hamilton, Lois Lafond, Heather Childs, Jodi Campbell, Jamie Dillon, Avril Helps, Maggie Eastman, Anita Trusler (COL staff/recorder), Matthew Butler (COL staff)

Regrets: Dan Sageman, Arlene Patterson, Cathy Martin

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Land Acknowledgement

B. Weber called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

B. Weber read the County of Lambton land acknowledgement statement.

Guest Presentation: Julie Harries, Health System Integration Lead, Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team

J. Harries presented an update on the Sarnia-Lambton Ontario Health Team (SL OHT). The slide presentation will be shared with committee members for reference. Information about the SL OHT, including their strategic plan, is available on their website at <https://www.sarnialambtonoht.ca/> J. Harries also shared that community members can sign up to the new 'ConnectMyHealth' app

to access hospital records. Due to personal health information requirements, the application requires two-factor authentication. Details are available at <https://info.connectmyhealth.ca/home>

Discussion:

B. Weber shared that partnership and communication are key priorities for the Seniors' Advisory Committee and asked how the Committee can help the SL OHT get the word out about the SL OHT and available services. J. Harries acknowledged the challenge of understanding what the new SL OHT is when there are other family health teams and community health centres in the community. It can be very confusing for seniors to understand. The biggest thing the Committee can do is get involved in things like EXPO planning and the Patient and Family Advisory Committee.

L. Lafond indicated interest in getting involved and shared that when she signed up for Connect My Health, she had to purchase an authenticator application that had a fee. This is a barrier for many seniors. J. Harries will look further into this and will recommend secure authenticator applications that are available at no cost.

A. Helps asked for clarification regarding Home and Community Care being combined under one umbrella with Ontario Health. J. Harries confirmed the 14 Home and Community Care agencies formerly under the Local Health Integration Networks are being combined under a single entity with Ontario Health. Local agencies will go through a procurement process to provide home and community care services to their local Ontario health teams.

J. Dillon asked if there is any way to get information about the SL OHT (advertising, handouts) on buses that are used by seniors. J. Harries appreciated the suggestion and will take it back to the SL OHT for consideration.

B. Weber asked for more information about [811 Ontario](#). J. Harries clarified that 811 Ontario is the new Telehealth Ontario. The number connects callers to a registered nurse, day or night, for free, secure and confidential health advice.

B. Weber asked how Lambton compares with Emergency Department (ED) wait times and closures. J. Harries responded that Lambton is well situated with one hospital group. The focus is on human resources and ensuring there are enough skilled workers in our community to support the needs of an aging population. A. Trusler shared the link to the provincial website that reports wait times <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario> (note that Bluewater Health data is not currently available due to the recent Cyberattack).

S. Hamilton asked if the SL OHT is working with Lambton College on strategies to address health human resources challenges (citing the recent closure of the

Registered Massage Therapy program). J. Harries shared that the SL OHT is looking to work with the college to advocate for more programs.

2. Approval of the Agenda/Additions

Amendment: J. Harries attended as guest presenter in place of N. Neve, Executive Lead, who had to attend another meeting.

#1 (J. Campbell/J. Dillon): That the agenda for January 23, 2024, be approved as amended.

Carried.

3. Approval of the Minutes from December 19, 2023

#2 (M. McCallum/L. Lafond): That the minutes from December 19, 2023, be approved as presented.

Carried.

4. Business Arising from the Last Meeting

4.1 Update on action items from the December 19th LSAC meeting.

i) Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton Spring Campaign – Library Kiosks

A. Trusler confirmed that County staff are working with Library services and the Sarnia-Lambton OHT to ensure resources and necessary communication products are created for the April – June campaign of Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton and Lambton Seniors' Advisory Committee.

ii) RTOERO Future of Aging Summit (May 15-17, 2024)

A. Trusler updated committee members that the County will cover the cost to send a LSAC representative to the Summit. A. Trusler shared a recommendation on behalf of Councillor Sageman that Chair B. Weber attend the Summit on behalf of the Committee if he is amenable. B. Weber confirmed that he is amenable to attending in-person.

#3 (L. Lafond/S. Hamilton): That B. Weber attend the RTOERO Future of Aging Summit as a representative of the Seniors' Advisory Committee.

Carried.

4.2 Age-Friendly EXPO Planning Committee

J. Dillon updated the committee that meetings are going well. There is a strong group working on the 2024 EXPO event. The planning committee is currently working on transportation and confirming venue details. J. Dillon was able to secure security for the event and is reaching out to local contacts regarding sponsorship.

S. Hamilton has taken on responsibility for overseeing transportation needs for people to attend the EXPO. She shared challenges with getting municipal sponsorship for the May event given that budgets for 2024 have already been submitted and grant applications for future events don't open until late spring-summer. There will be opportunities to apply for funding for a 2025 EXPO event when grant funding applications open.

B. Weber asked if committee members have investigated carpool and rideshare options to get seniors from rural communities to the EXPO. S. Hamilton flagged concerns about liability risks associated with carpooling. S. Hamilton will continue to push for transportation options. The biggest challenge is for individuals who live south of the 402 and east of Sarnia.

Further discussion ensued regarding transportation and municipalities coming together to build a transportation network. A. Helps indicated it would be appropriate for her to go to her mayor to advocate for transportation needs. S. Hamilton agreed that each LSAC Committee member can advocate transportation needs to their municipalities. Committee members suggested that it would be beneficial to learn more from County staff regarding transportation planning.

#4 (J. Dillon/M. Eastman): That Jason Cole, General Manager of Infrastructure and Development, be invited to the March 26th LSAC meeting to provide an update on intercommunity transit planning.

Carried.

5. New Business

5.1 New COL staff support – Matthew Butler, Supervisor of Health Promotion

A. Trusler updated committee members that she has accepted a new position as Crisis System Navigation Program Manager with Lambton Emergency Medical Services. M. Butler will be taking over the COL staff support role after today's meeting.

6. Standing Items

6.1 Committee roundtable

A. Helps shared that Thompson Gardens in Corunna is hosting a Seniors Living Fair on February 6th from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. She will be representing LSAC and distributing handouts from Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton. L. Lafond offered to attend as a second representative of the committee. A. Trusler shared that Lisa Leggate, Communications and Marketing Coordinator for the COL, is creating a LSAC poster that can be used at the Seniors Living Fair to promote LSAC.

J. Douglas received a letter from the Four County Transportation Group. Transportation services are offered Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Seniors require a medical note to qualify for transportation and this is a barrier due to the costs associated with medical notes. J. Douglas will follow-up to assess community interest and identify the cost related barriers.

A. Helps shared that with the new 988 line for mental health crisis, the Family Counselling Centre has shut down their distress line. There is concern that this might have an impact on the Community Navigator phone line. A. Trusler offered to follow-up with the SL OHT to confirm if there are any direct impacts to the Age-Friendly Sarnia-Lambton Community Navigation phone line.

J. Dillon thanked A. Trusler for her support to LSAC and wished her success in her new role with the County.

7. Next steps/Action Items

Next meeting scheduled for March 26th at 9:00 a.m. (virtual MS Teams meeting link and in-person option at County of Lambton Administration Building, Wyoming, Committee Room 1)

8. Adjournment

B. Weber adjourned the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

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