

Board of Health Briefing Report

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
Date: January 29, 2020
Topic: **Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Planning: Public Health Involvement**
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RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Timiskaming Board of Health:

- Receive “*Community Safety and Well-Being: Public Health Involvement*” for information;

Overview

Most municipalities in Ontario are required to develop and adopt community safety and well-being plans, working in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee, by January 2021. This planning is intended to support a collaborative approach to addressing local priorities through the implementation of programs/strategies in social development, prevention, risk intervention and incident response. By engaging in the CSWB planning process, communities are to be able to save lives and prevent crime, victimization and suicide. This approach is intended to allow 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.¹

Although public health has not been specifically named within the requirements of the CSWB, the objectives of the CSWB are consistent with those of public health, and Timiskaming Health Unit is ideally positioned to actively support and/or participate in the development and implementation of CSWB(s) in Timiskaming.

Ontario Public Health Standards (2018) and Timiskaming Health Unit Strategic Plan 2019-2023 Links

This work directly aligns with the Policy Framework for Public Health Programs and Services (Figure 1) and thus contributes to meeting requirements and expected outcomes in the Ontario Public Health Standards (2018).

Figure 1 Policy Framework for Public Health Programs and Services ([Ontario Public Health Standards, 2018](https://www.mscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSOPPlanningFramework.html))

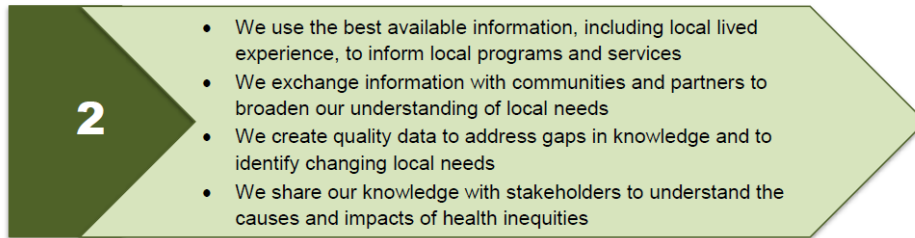
Goal	To improve and protect the health and well-being of the population of Ontario and reduce health inequities			
Population Health Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved health and quality of life • Reduced morbidity and premature mortality • Reduced health inequity among population groups 			
Domains	Social Determinants of Health	Healthy Behaviours	Healthy Communities	Population Health Assessment
Objectives	To reduce the negative impact of social determinants that contribute to health inequities	To increase knowledge and opportunities that lead to healthy behaviours	To increase policies, partnerships and practices that create safe, supportive and healthy environments	To increase the use of population health information to guide the planning and delivery of programs and services in an integrated health system

¹ Government of Ontario. *Community Safety and Well-Being Planning Framework: A Shared Commitment in Ontario*. Accessed online January 27, 2019.

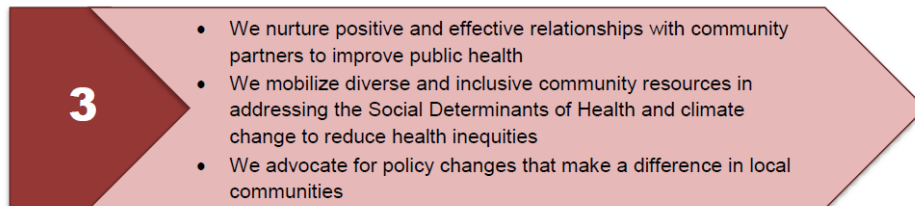
<https://www.mscs.jus.gov.on.ca/english/Publications/MCSCSSOPPlanningFramework.html>

Engaging with multiple sectors to support CSWB planning, implementation and monitoring also supports THU 2019-2023 strategic directions 2 and 3:

We create, share and exchange knowledge



We collaborate with partners to make a difference in our communities



Background

New legislative requirements related to CSWB planning came into force on January 1, 2019, as an amendment to the *Police Services Act, 1990 (PSA)*, and municipalities have two years from this date to develop and adopt a plan (i.e., by January 1, 2021).²

The CSWB’s stated goal is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services’ community safety and well-being planning framework (Figure 2) outlines four areas to ensure local plans are efficient and effective in making communities safer and healthier.¹ The social development domain includes long-term investments to improve the social determinants of health (SDoH) and well-being, addressing complex social issues such as poverty, mental health, and housing using an integrated, multi-sectoral approach and including quality of life outcome indicators.¹ While planning should occur in all four areas, the framework document concludes that the

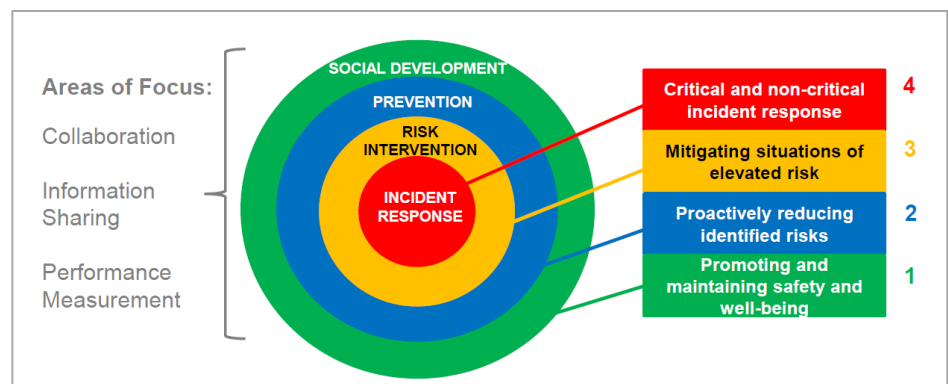


Figure 2 CSWB Planning Framework (MCCSCS Slide Deck 2019)

² Frequently Asked Questions: New Legislative Requirements related to Mandating Community Safety and Well-Being Planning. Accessed online January 27: <https://www.buildingbarrie.ca/10341/documents/19168>

majority of investments should be spent on developing or enhancing strategies to reduce the number of individuals, families and communities that reach the point of requiring an incident response.¹

The CSWB framework domains of prevention and particularly social development overlap and intersect with goals, expected outcomes and domains of Public Health (Figure 1). Ontario Public Health Standards (2018) mandate local Boards of Health to engage in public health practice that results in decreased health inequities such that everyone has equal opportunity to attain their full health potential without disadvantages due to socially determined circumstances. As many factors and upstream actions for addressing health equity and the SDoH lie outside the purview of the public health sector, Boards of Health are required to engage in multi-sectoral collaboration with municipalities and relevant stakeholders to contribute to effective local strategies that decrease health inequities. Boards of Health are also required to implement a program of public health interventions that address risk and protective factors related to well-being and to reducing the burden of preventable injury and substance use.

As part of legislation, municipalities are required to work in partnership with a multi-sectoral advisory committee to develop and adopt community safety and well-being plans. According to the Ministry's [Frequently Asked Questions document](#), the role of an advisory committee is "to bring various sectors' perspectives together to provide strategic advice and direction to the municipality on the development and implementation of their CSWB plan. Multi-sectoral collaboration is a key factor to successful CSWB planning, as it ensures an integrated approach to identifying and addressing local priorities. An ideal committee member should have enough knowledge about their respective sector to identify where potential gaps or duplication in services exist and where linkages could occur with other sectors. The committee member(s) should have knowledge and understanding of the other agencies and organizations within their sector, and be able to leverage their expertise if required."

According to the [CSWB Framework](#):

- "Member agencies and organizations recruited to the advisory committee should have knowledge of and supporting data about the risks and vulnerable populations in the area to be covered under the plan, as well as have established stakeholder relations. Members must have the authority to make decisions on behalf of their respective agencies/organizations regarding resources and priorities, or will be empowered to do so for the purposes of developing the plan.
- Members of the implementation team(s) should be selected based on their knowledge about the risk factors and vulnerable groups associated with the priority, have access to more information about them, have established stakeholder relations with the vulnerable groups to effectively carry out the project, experience with developing and implementing local strategies, and have the specialized knowledge and technical capacities to specify objectives, set benchmarks and measure outcomes.
- It is important to include community leaders/organizations that advocate for the interests of the vulnerable populations on both the advisory committee and implementation teams. It is also important to ensure representation from diverse communities and equity, inclusion and accessibility in the planning and implementation of initiatives."

In terms of how to plan, the steps and actions outlined in the CSWB framework document are familiar to public health. Local public health is required to monitor trends over time and increase the use of population health information and use a systematic, evidence-informed decision making process in the planning of interventions and in integrated health systems to respond to current and emerging local needs. Timiskaming Health Unit is also linked to a network of local public health agencies who are collaborating with stakeholders on CSWB planning and implementation in varying capacities.

Timiskaming Health Unit is well suited to four key aspects of the CSWB process: 1. access to and capacity to effectively share data, including social determinants of health; 2. access to and capacity to analyse and

determine local applicability of evidence-based interventions to address identified CSWB priorities; 3. knowledge and experience in identifying, communicating and monitoring outcomes; and 4. Facilitating and supporting collaborative processes, meetings and community-based planning.

Local Initiatives Next Steps

To prepare for the CSWB process, Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) staff have participated in regional training provided by the Government of Ontario, developed an inventory of locally available data that relate to the CSWB, included an offer of support CSWB planning in the Spring 2019 'Health for All' Municipal Newsletter, and allocated staff time within the 2020 program year to support communities in this work. Based on knowledge of local municipal resolutions requesting that the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) be approached to assume the lead role in developing a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for municipalities in the District of Timiskaming, THU senior management has reached out to the DTSSAB CAO to indicate our interest and readiness to participate and support. THU will also look for opportunities to encourage any municipality, collaborative group of municipalities or First Nations communities within the Timiskaming Health Unit area that may be developing a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan to include Timiskaming Health Unit as a member of their CSWB Advisory Committee and related Implementation and Monitoring Team(s).