Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING PLANNING: The Municipalities of Bruce and Grey

MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEETING: Community Safety & Well-Being Planning, Advisory Committee

DATE: September 15, 2026

TIME: 1:00 PM to 2:45 PM

LOCATION: Virtual, Grey County MS Teams

CO-CHAIRS: Members of the Steering Committee
Alexis Cook (Coordinator)
Anne Marie Shaw (Community Services, Grey County)
Ian Hanney (Human Services, Bruce County)
Jane Hartley (Victim Services Bruce Grey)
Keegan Wilson (Inspector, South Bruce OPP)
Jason Weppler (Grey Bruce Health Unit)

RECORDER: Patti McNabb (Grey County)

ATTENDEES: Alexis Cook, Jason Weppler, Jane Hartley, Amy Rier, Beth Aubrey, Beth Blackwell, Cassondra Dillman, Chad Zimmerman, Cheree Urscheler, Craig Ambrose, Dane Nielsen, Dave Zago, Francesca Dobbyn, Ian Hanney, Jeremy Mighton, Jessica Kenyon, Jill Sampson, Jim Ellis, Jodi Ward, Joel McAllister, Jon Farmer, Josh Gibson, Kaela Sales, Keegan Wilson, Kevin Cornell, Liam Nicholls, Lori Cunningham, Lynn Silverton, Marilyn Rosner, Marla Barfoot, Mike Kirby, Monica Singh Soares, Nicole Martin, Pam Coulter, Patti McNabb, Rob Atkinson, Rob Martin, Sarah Cowley, Scott McKay, Shane Watson, Stephen Musehl, Susan Sakal, Steven Travale, Taylor House, Toni McGregor, Tracey Collins, Vivian Kennedy.

ITEM
1. Welcome and Introductions • Jason Weppler (Grey Bruce Public Health & Steering Committee Member)
• Jason welcomed everyone to the meeting and cited land acknowledgements.
2. Provincial & Local Updates **Anne Marie Shaw**
• Grey County staff attended AMO conference and made a delegation to Ministry of Education (MED) requesting additional Early Learning and Child Care spaces. The request also included review of the income testing guidelines as well as support for Early Childhood Educator (ECE) recruitment. • Lutheran Social Services is having ground breaking celebration for 40-unit building being built. • 40-unit building in Dundalk nearing final approvals and should be shovel ready in the near future. **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:** • There were no questions or comments.

3. Coordinator Updates
Alexis Cook

- Update provided on the CSWB Plan including CSWBP Community Well-Being Survey 2026, Statistics Canada 2021 census, Public Health Ontario snap shots, CCHS, Ontario Study Drug Use and Mental Health Survey
- **Children's Heath Day** – June 20th, 2026 was successful in increasing youth and parents'/caregivers knowledge of mental health and physical health resources in the community, increase youth and parents/caregivers understanding and knowledge of ways to keep youth healthy both physically and mentally. The day provided a fun, low-barrier event for all youth and their families with data sources from Mental Health Commission of Canada, Government of Canada, Government of Ontario, local experts, and Canadian Institute for Health Information. There were over 750 participants. The event was sponsored by Chapmans Ice Cream.
- **CSWBP Student Placements**: plan is to provide support for the next 5-year plan through improved coordination amongst tables including removing duplication and streamlining services. Initiative will also enhance understanding between partners and existing tables. Initiative ongoing throughout September and October.
- **STAR Training**: there were 50 members who attended Anti-Oppression and Case Conference training in June 2026.
- **Municipal Community of Practice (CoP)**: this initiative is on hold until after the fall election. Looking to restart in early 2027.

Next Steps:

- Host two BScN students to complete the Grey Bruce table review and infographic development from priorities of the update to the plan.
- Continue on-going training and onboarding for STAR
- Begin planning 2027 Children's Health Day event
- Continue with the update to the CSWB plan

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

4. Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (STAR) Update
Alexis Cook

- So far in 2026 there have been 24 Situations with 22 successfully closed.
- Study flags from January 1 – Sept 14, 2026 were reviewed, as well as high level risk priorities and protective factor grouping for the same time period.
- Top 3 Services mobilized were mental health supports, victim support, and social assistance.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- There were no questions or comments

5. Action Table Updates
Committee Chairs

Poverty and Income (Alexis Cook on behalf of Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force)

- The **Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP)** has completed the 2025 tax season clinics with some organizations extending services for year-round tax filing services to allow residents to access the national dental program and other benefits such as Canadian Disability Benefit. Tax filing is now available through referrals from SOS (Grey County), and COAST (Bruce County). CVITP-Program_Why-Do-We-Do-It-March-2026.pptx

- Status updates on **Income & Employment Security Action Group, Community Voices and RentSafe OS** initiatives were provided.
- **RentSafe OS** is working in partnership with RentSafe Ontario on a Collaboration for Climate Resilience in Low Income Rental Housing results will be included with an Ontario-wide Report in December 2026.
- **Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities**: A series of education webinars on seniors retiring on low-income were provided in partnership with Open Door Policy. A dedicated website page includes Resources for Seniors with Low-Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force.
- **2026 Living Wage rate for Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Simcoe** economic region will be calculated in partnership with Ontario Living Wage Network and released in November 2026
- Plans will be started for new volunteer recruitment and getting ready for the 2026 Tax Season (2027).
- The PTF will host an **All-Municipal Candidates Poverty 101 Election Education session** on September 18th from 10AM – 11:30PM.

No questions or comments

Addictions/Substance Use (Alexis Cook on behalf of Community Drug & Alcohol Strategy)

- The ***Parents like Us*** resource guide (written by loved ones for loved ones) is completed and available online with printing currently underway: https://greybruce.cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/CMHAGreyBruce_PLU_GreyBruceSON.pdf
- The Coordinator posting has closed and interviews are underway with hopes of having a new Coordinator implemented within the next couple of months.

No questions or comments

Housing & Homelessness (Alexis Cook on behalf of Homelessness Response Steering Committee)

- **The Coordinated Access Guide** is in the final editing stages. Work continues on researching data for the cost of homelessness project.
- **Encampment & BNL Referral protocol:** both Grey and Bruce have protocols in place
- **Winter Planning:** Grey and Bruce counties are in the planning stages for the winter season and emergency shelter response. Safe n Sound (SnS) will be opening its new overnight location in December
- **Homelessness and Coordinated Access Education Forum:** annual coordinated access and by-name list training will be provided to front line staff.
- **Homelessness Response** provides an opportunity for front line staff to present and collaborate on challenging cases. Space is provided for peers to support each other, offer resources and options to directly support households

Next Steps:

- By-Name List training
- Coordinated Access Guide publication
- Review Homelessness & Encampment Response Protocol

Mental Health (Scott McKay – Mental Health Networking Action Table)

- A **strategic plan** has created and completed a strategic plan.
- **Service pathway identification walk in/crisis/urgent access plan** has been completed. Now looking at implementing phase 1 in October 2026 for Walkerton, Hanover and Kincardine.
- **Joint training and education opportunities** planning includes ASIST and Motivational Interviewing
- **Suicide and Crisis Prevention campaigns** are in progress. There is funding to provide free ASIST training as well as some assisted-funding training spots.
- **First draft of the partner scorecard** has been completed

Next Steps:

- Committees established for each initiative of the strategic plan will continue to meet until the

work is complete.
No questions or comments

Crime Prevention (Alexis Cook on behalf of Crime Prevention Action Table)

- **Cannabis & Driving Resource and Education:** very successful initiative – reached 3 million people.
- **Human Trafficking Town Halls:** two final townhall events scheduled for October 8th in West Grey (at the Community Arena), and October 21st in Saugeen First Nation (at the Rec Centre)
- **Short-Term Rental Anti-Human Trafficking Resource:** successful in receiving grant opportunity to print the resource. Resources were delivered to all Municipalities and police services for easy access for residents. A spring session will be considered in the spring for Hanover.
- **Hate Crime Working Group:** initiative is in progress, waiting on final IT changes for the reporting tool and then launch to the public.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Jon Farmer provided an update on a recent group that presented recently to City of Owen Sound council promoting their position that Canada should only be host to white people. Alexis noted that there is no prioritized projects currently underway to address increasing white supremacist activity based on a recent presentation by an unfamiliar group to Owen Sound City Council. Alexis will share this with the Crime Prevention Action Table.
  https://www.owensoundcurrent.com/p/dominion-society-puts-city-of-owen

6. General

- **Alexis Cook, Coordinator**

Communications Update:

- Please email Alexis if you do not have a contact on the CSWBP email distribution list for media releases & social media content.

Updated Plan Data Review and Updated Plan PKI Review

Feedback was requested to feedback received from the survey, secondary data sources and key performance indicators.

Crime Prevention

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no insurance charges for road safety are included to reflect the impact on victims when involved in a motor vehicle accident with someone who doesn't have insurance. Question regarding residents using e-bike within KPI's – high incidents are being noted Data hasn't been available from community partners for inclusion within the GBV/IPV/Sexual violence indicator.

Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – is there any consideration for alcohol, tobacco, vaping or cannabis use KPI's in addition to KPI's for overdoses due to illicit drug use? Scott advised these can be added to the KPI's

Housing and Homelessness

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no comments or concerns

Mental Health

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no comments or concerns

Poverty and Income

- Survey Feedback – no comments or concerns
- Secondary Data Sources Feedback – no comments or concerns
- KPI Feedback – no comments or concerns

If there is any additional feedback or concerns, please advise Alexis by September 29 to allow sufficient time to be incorporated.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS:

- Please reach out to Alexis as soon as possible if you have comments, concerns or additional feedback.

7. Open Discussion

- Alexis confirmed that all new municipal members as a result of the election, will be provided with relevant committee documents, updated terms of reference, and provided full orientation of the committee mandate and responsibilities.
- Feedback from councils in welcome via committee member.
- The importance of sharing terms of reference with the new appointees with clearly defined role of council appointees vs. staff was noted.
- As well, understanding what to report to Council coming out of these meetings and the Municipal CoP was noted.

Should you have any questions throughout the course of this project, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members:

- Ian Hanney ihanney@brucecounty.on.ca
- Anne Marie Shaw annemarie.shaw@grey.ca
- Jane Hartley Jhartley@victim-services.com
- Keegan Wilcox Keegan.Wilcox@opp.ca
- Jason Weppler J.Weppler@publichealthgreybruce.on.ca

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 15th, 2026

VIRTUAL – Grey County Microsoft Teams (details to follow)

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Addictions/Substance Use
Action Table Lead: Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy (CDAS)**Progress Update**

Action Table Key Objectives:

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Develop an anti-stigma social media campaign.	Social Development	Advance strategic priority #5: Reduce stigma associated with substance use and its impact, through evidence informed training, education, and communications.	Anti-stigma Harm Reduction Working Group meetings and research on anti-stigma content and campaigns.	**On Pause until new coordinator is hired**
Parents Like Us Adaptation Project	Prevention	To adapt a parent-created resource to knowledge, tools, and resources to parents' caregiving youth who are using substances. Will entail engagement of community members in the adaptation process to make sure the document reflects Grey Bruce. This project advances CDAS strategic priorities #2 (prevent and/or delay youth substance use) and #5 (reduce stigma and its impact through evidence-informed education, training, and communication.	CDAS strategic plan; Steering Committee input and reflections; Parents Like Us Adaptation Toolkit	**Complete- available online and printing currently occurring https://greybruce.cmha.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/CMHAGreyBruce_PLU_GreyBruceSON.pdf**

Big Brothers Big Sisters Youth Council Partnership	Social Development/Prevention	Two purposes: to help include a youth voice/perspective for the Parents Like Us Project, along with aligning with CDAS Strategic Priority #2 (preventing youth substance use) along with Year 2 strategy direction (parenting with youth-focused organizations)	CDAS Strategic Plan	**Complete**
Letter to the Editor – CDAS Response to Owen Sound Current Editorials	Social Development	To respond to editorials published in the Owen Sound Current that talk about the visibility of substance use/homelessness along with the idea of having a Supervised Consumption Site in Owen Sound. The goal is to give the public an official response from CDAS in regards to system in place along with the positive work that is happening.	Owen Sound Current Articles; Input from CDAS Committees around information to include in response	**Complete**
Peer Advisory Committee (PAC) Reinvigoration Project	Social Development/Prevention	Grant provided by Community Foundation Grey Brue to expand capacity and functionality of PAC, along with increasing visibility of CDAS overall. Projects created by PAC members will align with CDAS strategic priority #5- "reducing stigma and its impact through evidence-informed education, training, and communication".	CDAS Strategic Plan;	**On Pause until new coordinator is hired**

Municipal Election Candidate Resources	Social Development/Prevention	To create a short guide for municipal election candidates around CDAS priority issues in order to educate and inform their platforms.	CDAS Strategic Plan	**In-Progress**

Next Steps:

- Distribute paper copies of Parents Like Us resource
- Hire a new CDAS coordinator to continue the work of the strategic plan

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Overarching Themes
Action Table Lead: CSWBP Coordinator

Action Table Key Objectives: Address Overarching Strategic Goals & Support Action Tables

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
New CSWB 5-year plan	Social Development, prevention	-To collect data and community feedback on the next 5-year CSWB plan -To develop the next 5-year CSWB plan with clear KPI, community and partner collaboration	-CSWB 2026 community well-being survey -Local data -Partner feedback	In progress, survey data has been analyzed with secondary data sources. Final review of data occurring prior to moving to draft
Municipal CoP	Social Development, Prevention	-Foster collaboration and relationship building between Municipalities and CSWBP Share best practices and resources	-Strong cities -Federation of Canadian Municipalities	-On pause until Municipal elections conclude in the fall
Relationship building	Social Development, prevention	-Develop new relationships with community groups, organizations etc. to align with and support the work of CSWBP	N/A	-On-going

On-going on-boarding of STAR members, trainings, document development etc.	Risk Intervention	-Increase participation in STAR -Increase in service provider knowledge of this resource -Increase in AER lowered for situations -Increase in multidisciplinary collaboration -Increase in AER knowledge and consensus group decision making -Meet IPC requirements in new document	- Risk Tracking Database (SOLGEN) -Situation Table CoP	-In progress, no end date - New members being on-boarded consistently
Monthly Media Releases + Social Media posts	Social Development/Prevention	-Increase community members knowledge and understanding of CSWBP -Highlight the great work of CSWBP and its action tables	-CSWBP Action Tables -CSWBP Plan	-In progress, no end date - September/October Media release will focus on Human Trafficking Town Halls
On-Going Grant Applications	N/A	-To financially sustain the work of the CSWBP	-Government of Canada -Government of Ontario -Bruce Power -Community Foundation Grey Bruce -Private Grants -MCCSS -Public Health Agency of Canada	-In progress, no end date
Vital Signs Report	Social Development + Prevention	-Provide support and insight for the Community Foundation Vital Signs report	-STAR data -Local community data	Complete, launched to the public

BScN Student Placements	Social Development + Prevention	Supporting the next 5-year plan through: • Improved coordination amongst tables- including removing duplication and streamlining services • Enhance understanding between partners of existing tables	-Grey Bruce Tables, committees & groups	Ongoing- Students to join in September + October

Next Steps:

- Continue monthly social media + media releases
- Finalize data and key performance indicators for the update to the CSWB plan
- Continue searching for grant opportunities and long-term opportunities to support the work of CSWB
- Continue on-going training and skill development for STAR
- Begin planning for the 2027 Children's Health Day
- Host two BScN students to complete the Grey Bruce table review

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Reduction of Chronic Homelessness
Action Table Lead: Homelessness Response Steering Committee

Action Table Key Objectives:

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Coordinated Access Guide	Risk Intervention	To develop a local guide for coordinated access ensuring service providers are aware of the structure for homelessness as well as the opportunity to provide support in a triaged manner.	None	Complete
The Real Cost of Homelessness Project	Social Development	Identify the cost of homelessness in partnership with CMHA, Grey and Bruce County, GBHS and Safe N Sound.	Cost of health services Cost of emergency shelter	Research stage
Encampment Protocol	Risk Intervention	Communication with municipal by-law around encampments and provide opportunities for outreach and engagement	# of encampments GIS data	In progress

		Awaiting Provincial direction before finalization of formal protocol for private and public land Bruce County draft protocol to be piloted in Q2 2026		
By-Name List Referral & Prioritization	Intervention/Social Development	Improvement to the BNL referral form to be more trauma-informed to be reflected in an accurate prioritization for access to resources & housing. New Referral form rolled out early Q2 – ongoing training	Various	Complete

Next Steps:

- Homelessness Response Steering Committee to undertake review of current services map and identify increased opportunity for referral pathways between programs and housing options.
- Educational and communication strategy to increase awareness.

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2023 – Q4 Progress Update
Priority Area: Mental Health
Action Table Lead: Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addictions Network Table

Action Table Key Objectives: Improve quality and access to local mental health services across the lifespan.

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
14th Street Transitional Supportive Housing Program and Recovery and Wellness Centre	Social Development & Prevention	Provide affordable housing and mental health and addiction supports for individuals on BNL. Enhance addiction treatment and high intensity supports for local population	• Number of individuals on BNL • ED visits • ALC rates	Completed
Partners to gather system level data from their respective databases for Network Table review and action planning.	Social Development & Prevention	Address identified gaps and/or enhance local mental health and addictions supports	• Number of individuals on BNL • ED visits • ALC rates	Completed
Develop Grey Bruce MH&A Network Scorecard	Social Development & Prevention	Set Network Table targets and deliverables on key indicators and track progress on a quarterly basis.	• Wait Times • Length of Stay	In progress

			• Client Survey Results • Staff Wellness	
Joint Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Network Training Plan	Social Development	Prioritize training for staff to be completed across organizations to ensure consistency and quality of services. Identified Motivational Interviewing and ASIST as current focus.	• Staff Wellness • Client Survey Results • Reduced ED visits • Staff survey results	Complete
Implement Measurement Based Care	Social Development & Prevention	To track treatment progress, personalize care, and guide treatment decisions based on objective data.	• Client Survey Results • Assessment Outcomes • Length of Service	On hold
Revise Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addictions Terms of Reference to allow for improved input from other community partners.	Social Development	To bring other voices and perspectives to the Network Table.	• Meeting Minutes • Project Outcomes • # of Projects Completed	Completed
Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Plan	Social Development & Prevention	To develop a comprehensive plan to improve mental health services across the lifespan.	• Committee meeting minutes • # of projects completed	Completed

			• Project outcomes	
Expand Walk in/Crisis/Urgent Access across Grey Bruce	Social Development & Prevention	To work together as partner agencies to staff walk-in mental health clinics across Grey and Bruce counties, making the best use of our shared resources to improve access and support for people in our communities.	• # of individuals served • # of referrals • Program waitlists	Phase 1 clinics begin on October 1st 2026
Suicide and Crisis Prevention Campaign	Social Development & Prevention	To increase suicide awareness, reduce stigma related to mental health and suicide, improve early identification of suicide risk, and strengthen community capacity to respond effectively through education, training, and collaboration.	• # of individuals trained • # of training sessions delivered • # of social media views • # of resources distributed.	In progress

Next Steps:

Continue working on “In progress” action items.

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026 – Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Crime Prevention
Action Table Lead: Crime Prevention Action Table

Action Table Key Objectives: Drug Trafficking, Human Trafficking, IPV/GBV, Road Safety and Hate Crimes

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Short Term Rental Resource on Human Trafficking partnership with Anti-Human Trafficking Committee	Prevention	-To provide all STR licensees with information and resources on human trafficking -To educate Municipal staff and Licensees on the importance of the human trafficking information -To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking	-Local and Provincial police data bases -Peer reviewed literature supporting initiatives -People with lived experience -Government of Canada	-Completed -Available on the CSWBP website: Resources - Community Safety and Well-Being Planning -Printed copies now available for each Municipality requests to be made to acook@brucecounty.on.ca -Developing promotional material for local businesses/tourist attractions
Cannabis and Driving Resource & Education partnership with Regional Road Safety	Prevention	-To partner with all licensed dispensaries in Grey, Bruce and Saugeen First Nation to provide educational resources	-Government of Canada -OSDUHS Report -CAMH	-Complete -Extra Resources still available for members

		-To reduce the number of individuals driving impaired by cannabis -To increase the awareness of the risks of driving impaired by cannabis	-OSAID -Local and Provincial Police Resources -People with lived experience -MADD	-Education occurred this summer by Crime Stoppers partners at various community events
Human Trafficking Town Halls in partnership with VPGB, Rising Angels, Bridging Gap AHT	Prevention & Social Development	-To provide community members with education and resources on human trafficking -To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking -To amplify the voices and experiences of those with lived experience	-People with lived experience/ local survivor led organizations -Local and Provincial Police data bases -Local Shelter + Victim Services Data Government of Canada -The Joy Smith Foundation	-Fall HT events occurring October 8th in West Grey and October 21st in Saugeen First Nation
Building a Bigger Wave Snapshot-Police & Victim Services Data	Prevention	-To provide local data on IPV/GBV to assist in developing initiatives with VPGB	-local and Provincial police data bases	-In progress, data is complete from Police/ Victim Services - awaiting meeting with Violence Prevention Grey Bruce
Hate Crime working group	Prevention	- Increase knowledge and access to support for victims of hate crimes -Reduce incidents of hate crimes -Improve data collection on incidents of hate crimes	-Local police and provincial data bases -Victim Services data -Community partners	In progress, in the final stages of the Hate Crime Reporting tool going live to the public
New CSWB plan indicators and priority areas	Social Development+ Prevention	-Use local data to determine the priorities and KPI's for the next 5-year CSWB plan	-CSWBP 2026 Survey -Local and provincial police data bases -Stats Canada data -Community partners data	Complete- awaiting feedback from Advisory Committee to finalize

			-Community & Urban Safety Monitoring and Evaluation Toolkit	

Next Steps:

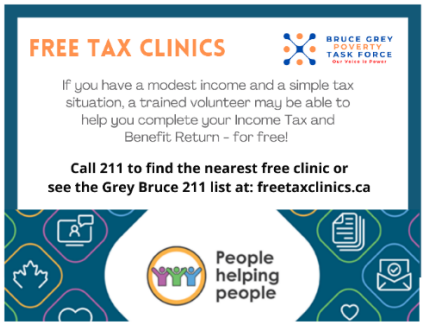
- **Launch Hate Crime Reporting Tool + promotional materials**
- **Continue to promote the STR HT resource to owners, businesses & the general public.**
- **Collaborate with Violence Prevention Grey Bruce on the Building a Bigger Wave Snapshot data release to the public**
- **Finalize data and KPIs for CSWB plan update**
- **Host Human Trafficking town halls in the fall in West Grey and Saugeen First Nation**
- **Continue road safety education at local events this summer including handing out resources and providing education with cannabis & alcohol goggles**

Grey Bruce CSWBP
Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

2026– Q3 Progress Update
Priority Area: Income and Poverty
Action Table Lead: Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Action Table Key Objectives: To Facilitate Community Partnerships to Advocate for Poverty Reduction and Elimination

Action Tracking:

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Lead Community Volunteer Income Tax Program (CVITP) Network to identify gaps in service and identify locations "where people are at" to provide more services. Improve awareness, understanding and services provided among services providers, governments and community members.	**Social Development**	Strengthen services provided by Network of Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program partners. Gaps in services for year-round tax filing and geographic locations were identified for 2025 Tax Season and solutions applied in 2026. CVITP tax services were extended to the end of Dec 2026. 	Support to Community Income Tax Services – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	2025 Tax Season CVITP program was supported by 17 CVITP organizations in 2026 and extended service to Dec 2026. **Ongoing.** 2025 Tax Season roundtable debrief with CVITP organizations (17) will be held in Fall 2026.

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
		.		IESAG will host a review of referral system on 15 Sept 2026. **In progress.**
Annually update information in the 211 database on available free income tax services and monitor gaps in service.	**Social Development**	*Promotion and social awareness on GB CVITP tax clinics/services and volunteer recruitment.* *Increase number of people accessing income tax services.* Data from CRA informs us that 41,400 people are eligible for the program in Grey Bruce. Less than 10% are using the free service. However, all promotion of the program must be balanced against volunteer capacity. Therefore, we shall be analyzing the referral system, volunteer capacity and the barriers to filing taxes at an IESAG meeting on Sept 15th. *Support individuals in accessing income through taxes and other income supplements that can only be achieved through filing taxes.* An analysis of the volunteer recruitment in 2025 will be done in Oct/Nov 2026 after analysis of the intake and referral process for year-round tax filing services is done in Sept 2026. Volunteer recruitment shall look at capacity within Grey Bruce and strategies for onboarding, training and retention for 2026 Tax Season (2027).	Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Launches 2025 Tax Clinic Volunteer Drive – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force www.freetaxclinics.ca Press Release: Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Returns Over $10.4 Million to Local Residents – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Data was collected for 2025 tax season and released on numbers of returns and financial impact. Bruce County CVITP supported 5 communities, filed 551 returns, helped 521 people for a total benefits and returns of **$1,059,375.66.** **Completed.** Volunteer needs and recruitment will be analyzed and promotion started for 2026

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
				Tax Season (2027) in Oct/Nov 2026. **In progress.**
Improve awareness, understanding and services provided among services providers, governments and community members.	**Social Development**	*Organize initiatives arising from recommendations from GB CVITP Annual Gathering in Fall 2026.* Monitor the increasing access of services through digital technically and support points of access to income tax services through IESAG meetings and partnerships with COAST and SOS outreach services.	Poverty-Task-Force-Ltr-on-Automatic-Income-Tax-Filing_28-Nov-2025.pdf Poverty-Task-Force-Ltr-on-Automatic-Income-Tax-Filing_28-Nov-2025.pdf	Barriers and opportunities with Automatic Filing and Auto-Enrollment to tax benefits analysis were completed and submitted to MPs offices and the Federal government. **Completed** Overall debrief with GB CVITP Network to be planned for Oct/Nov 2026.

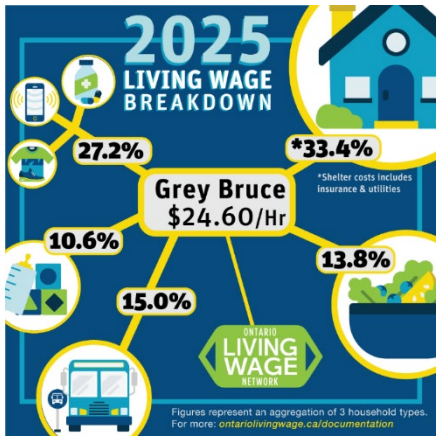
Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
				In progress.
Improve awareness, understanding and services provided among services providers, governments and community members.	**Social Development**	Seniors Retiring on a Low-Income webinar series (6) will be carried out to increase knowledge of social workers/navigators and seniors on retirement income and the increased income/benefits of tax filing as a senior. Other financial information for seniors have been identified and plans are coming together for future series of events using the same online setup throughout the library system in partnership with Beaver Valley Outreach Seniors Program (Town of Blue Mountain).	United Way of Bruce Grey and Community Partners Launch Financial Literacy Workshops to Support Seniors Living on Low Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force New Online Resources Help Grey Bruce Seniors Make the Most of Their Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Seniors Retiring on a Low-Income webinar series (6) was initiated in Q1-2026 and completed in Q2-2026. **Completed.** Meeting summaries, Q& A session, slides, resources and training videos are posted on a new Seniors' Resource page on PTF website. **Completed.**

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Analyze income/employment factors affecting people with low income in our rural communities and best practices for response as Income & Employment Security Action Group/PTF.	**Social Development**	**Strengthen Voices** Create safe spaces for meaningful learning to engage communities with data/information and build relationships toward solutions. The Poverty Task Force represented rural communities and joined the Income Security Advocacy Centre on a panel to advocate for an increase in social assistance rates for rural households as part of an Ontario-wide report release. 100 people registered and 75 attended the event.  This report was shared with our Grey Bruce MPPs and supports the work of AMO and ROMA on advocacy for increases to social assistance rates in Ontario.	BGPTF_IESAG-Presentation_ISAC_Report_16-June-2026.pdf In-Their-Own-Words_A-Recipient-Informed-Case-for-Fixing-Ontarios-Social-Assistance-System_ISAC-Report_March-2026-1.pdf In Their Own Words: The State of Social Assistance in Ontario – Report Launch and Community Discussion – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Review and feedback on report from rural perspective from IESAG members. This feedback was incorporated into panel presentation by Poverty Task Force at an Ontario-wide community discussion. **Completed.**
		A panel of experts have been selected to provide basic awareness and education to municipal candidates on	Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force – Our voice is power.	Pages are being updated to increase our

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
		social determinants of health, all levels of government response/coordination, and community policing.  This is an online event, open to municipal candidates only (not a public debate session) and at present, 40 candidates are registered. A recording of the session will be shared with all candidates afterwards.	Food Security – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	advocacy and policy content as we prepare for the 2026 municipal elections. **Ongoing.** All Municipal Candidate Education Session scheduled for Sept 18th. **In progress.**

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
				
Contribute to community conversations on housing and income solutions with an health equity approach.	**Social Development**	Create safe spaces for meaningful learning to engage communities with data/information and build relationships toward solutions. Increased number of people with grounded expertise engaging in meaningful way with PTF working groups and income solution campaigns. On July 9th, the Owen Sound City Council approved a new Vital Services By-law and updates to the Property Standards By-law addressing mould and pests on July 9th, 2026 based on recommendations put forth by RentSafe OS and Community Voices.	PTF Collective Impact Framework 2026 Community Voices – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force RentSafe-Survey-Report_FINAL_Nov-7-2024.pdf RentSafe Update: From Local Research to	8 Community Voices' members meet monthly. **Completed and Ongoing.** RentSafe Owen Sound Roundtables will be held on Sept 29th at Community Impact Lab/Sydenham Campus and on Oct 19th/20th in

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
		 	Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force	Toronto with Community Voices members participating as tenant representatives. **In Progress**

Actions	Planning Framework	Objectives	Data Sources	Status
Work with United Way of Bruce Grey as lead agency to calculate and promote Living Wage for Grey Bruce.	**Social Development**	**Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities** Promote meaningful dialogue and policy advocacy for income solutions such as Guaranteed Basic Income and Living Wage. Grey Bruce Living Wage 2026 calculation work to be calculated and released in Nov 2026. Increased number of employers certified as Living Wage Champions in Grey Bruce is tracked on Ontario Living Wage Map in 2026. A strategy for employer engagement on living wage certification needs to be developed by employment agencies of Income & Employment Security Action Group.  *Promote best practices and draw on expert knowledge to create, adapt and scale initiatives that fit with our rural context.*	Living Wage – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force Table of Employers - Ontario Living Wage Network Vital-Signs-2026-FINAL.pdf	Living Wage calculation has been used in many reports and briefs including the Vital Signs 2026 Report which PTF contributed to writing. To be released on June 17th, 2026. **Completed.** As of June 10th, 2026 we have 11 employers certified in 13 locations. Grey Bruce Living Wage 2026 calculation work began for planned release in Nov 2026. **In progress.**

Next Steps:

- Community Income Tax Program clinics ended April 30th, 2026 and volunteers were extended for online filing until Dec 2026.. A GB CVITP Network roundtable is being planned in the Fall 2026. A review of the referral system through MP Alex Ruff's office will be carried out at IESAG meeting on Sept 16th. Orientations with hospital and CMHA case workers will take place on Oct 8th.
- Living Wage calculation for 2026 is underway and will be released in November 2026.
- A strategy to engage with employers will include information on how to become certified Living Wage employers to begin in Q3-2026.
- RentSafe Owen Sound Collaboration Climate Resiliency Project Roundtables are planned on Sept 29th in Owen Sound and Oct 19th/20th in Toronto. Environmental scan reports are in draft format for discussion at both roundtables before publication.
- RentSafe Owen Sound Collaborative is working on housing standard mapping and bylaw review with Owen Sound By-Law, Fire Department and Grey Bruce Public Health. Next up is the consideration of a Renovictions Bylaw. Members of RentSafe Tenant Advisory Committee are in place.

Grey Bruce CSWBP

Community Safety & Well-Being Planning

CSWBP Advisory Committee Meeting
September 15th 2026
Steering Committee Members

Meeting Purpose & Overview

- Provincial & Local Updates
- Coordinator Updates
- Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (S.T.A.R.) Updates
- Action Table Updates
- Communications
- New Plan Data Review
- Wrap up

PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL UPDATES

COORDINATOR UPDATES

Update to CSWB Plan

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development & Prevention

Objectives:

- Strengthen community partnerships
- Respond to emergency community needs
- Improve accountability and outcomes

Data sources:

- CSWBP Community Well-Being Survey 2026
- Statistics Canada 2021 census
- Public Health Ontario Snap Shots
- CCHS
- Ontario Studeny Drug Use and Mental Health Survey



Status: In progress

Children's Health Day- June 20th, 2026

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development & Prevention

Objectives:

- Increase youth and parents/caregivers knowledge of mental health and physical health resources in the community
- Increase youth and parents/caregivers understanding and knowledge of ways to keep youth healthy both physically and mentally
- Provide a fun, low-barrier event for all youth and their families

  Data sources:
  - Mental Health Commission of Canada
  - Government of Canada
  - Government of Ontario
  - Local experts
  - Canadian Institute for Health Information

  Status: Successfully occurred on June 20th with over 750 participants!





CSWBP Student Placement(s)

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development/Prevention

Objectives:
Supporting the next 5-year plan through:

- Improved coordination amongst tables- including removing duplication and streamlining services
- Enhance understanding between partners of existing tables

Data sources:

- Grey Bruce tables, committees, and groups

Status: On-Going. BScN students from Georgian joining in late September and October



STAR Training

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- Increase understanding of and participation in STAR
- Increase AER lowered for situations brought forward
- Increase AER knowledge and consensus group decision making

  Data sources:

  - Risk Tracking Database (SOLGEN)
  - Situation Table CoP

  Status: On-Going

  Anti-Oppression and Case Conferencing training occurred in June 2026 with 50 members attending



Municipal CoP

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development/Prevention

Objectives:

- Foster collaboration and relationship building between Municipalities + CSWBP
- Share best practice resources and practices

Data sources:

- Strong cities
- TED talks
- Best practice resources change from topic-to-topic

Status: On hold until elections cease and new members are sitting- Looking to restart in early 2027

** Please email Alexis to join this meeting**



Next Steps

- Host two BScN students to complete the Grey Bruce table review
- Continue on-going training and on-boarding for STAR
- Begin planning 2027 Children's Health Day event
- Continue with the update to the CSWB plan



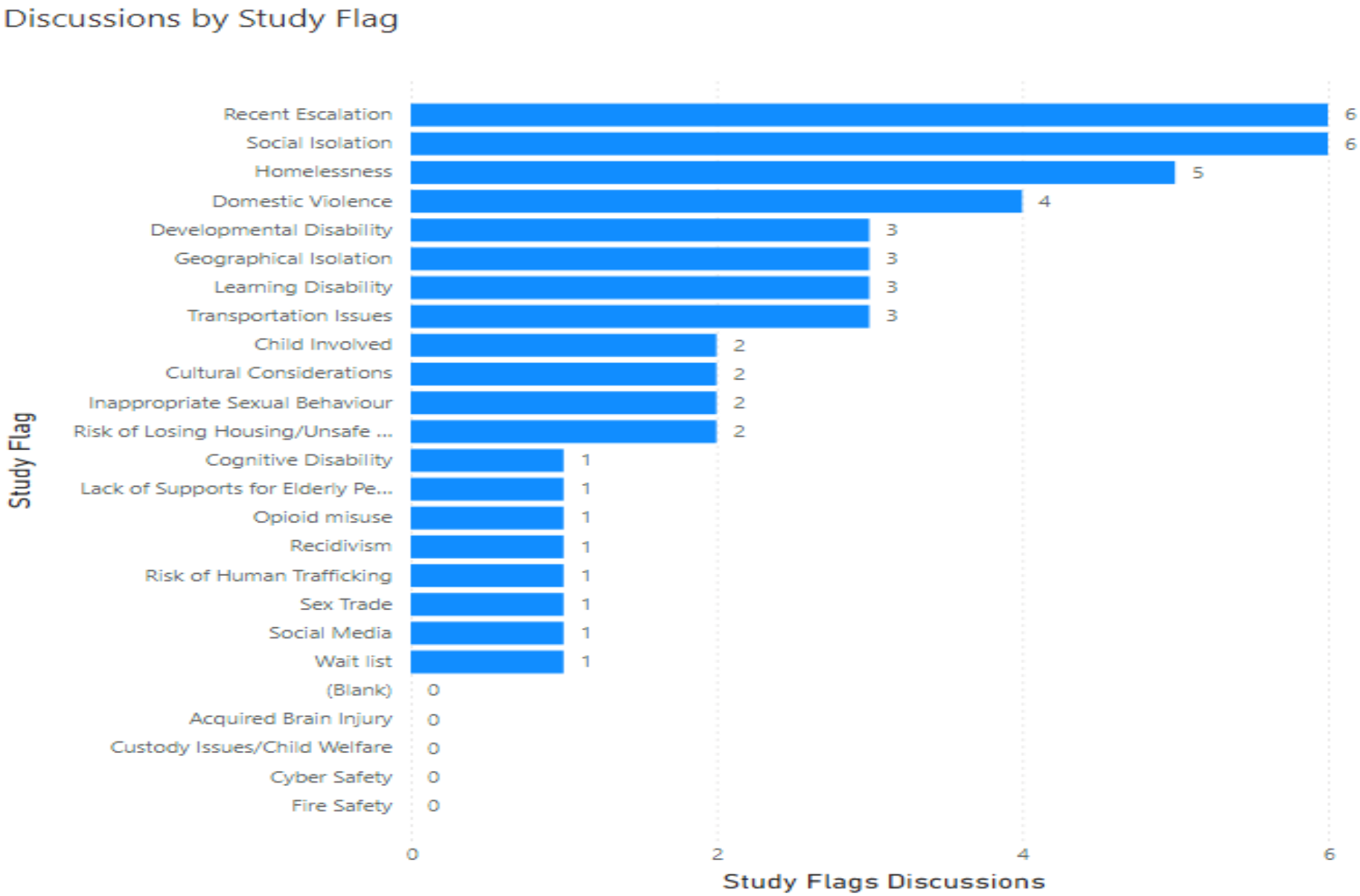
Situation Table for Acutely Elevated Risk (STAR)

Situation Updates- 2026

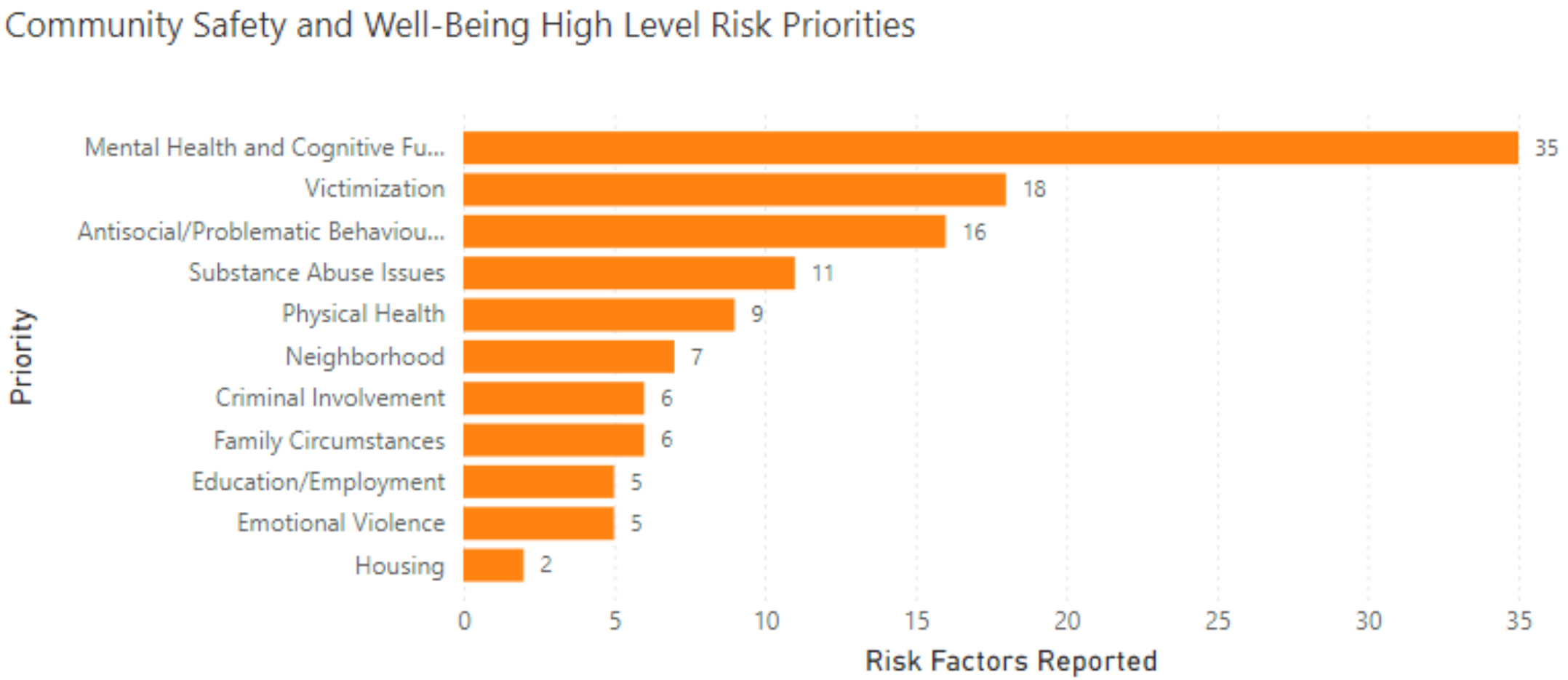
24 Situations

- **71% met AER (17/24)**
- **22/24 closed**
- **21/22 (95%) had their AER lowered**
- **1/22 (5%) did not have their AER lowered (Client relocated outside of area)**

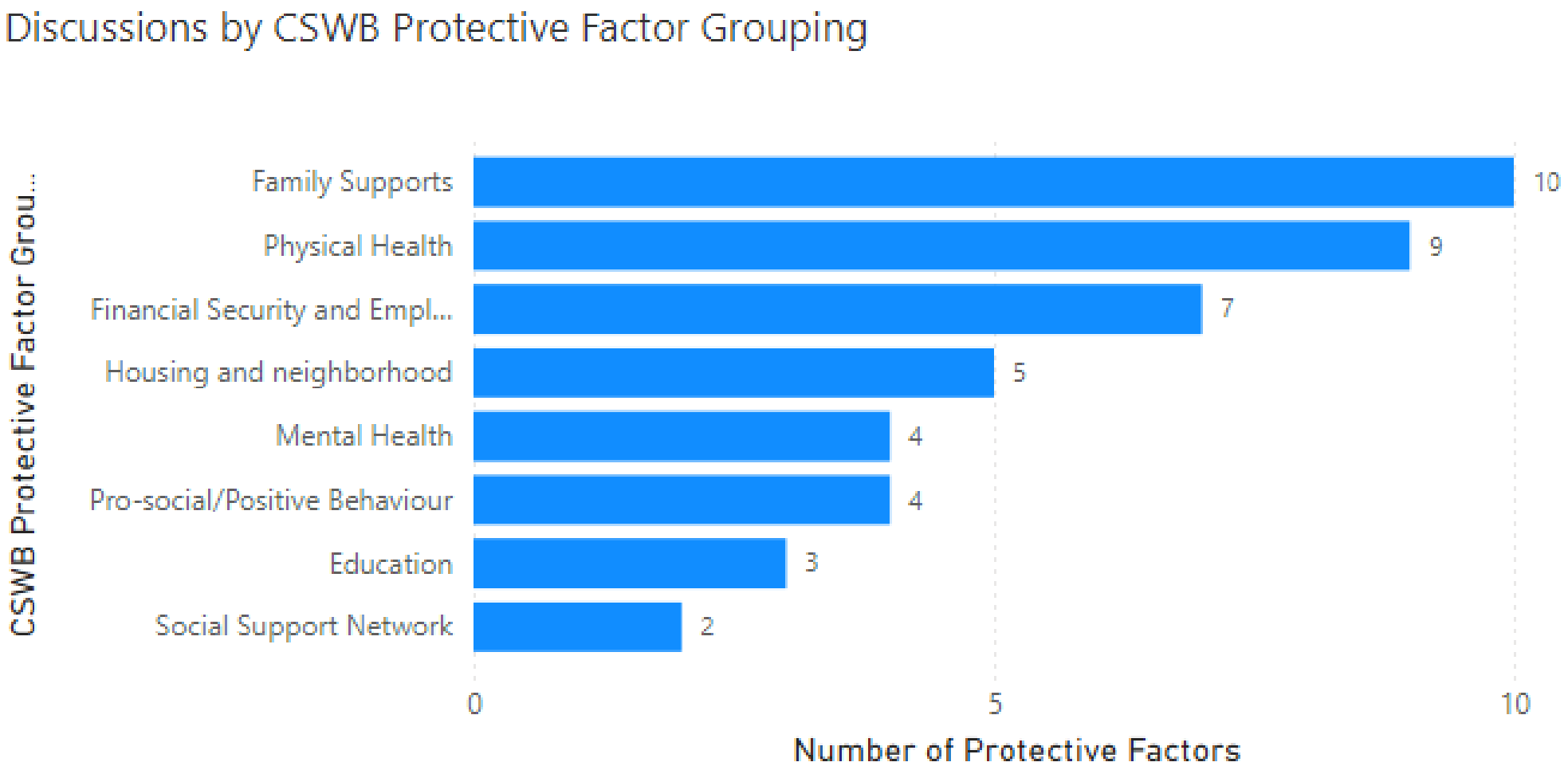
Study Flags (Jan 1, 2026– Sept 14, 2026)



CSWB High Level Risk Priorities (Jan 1, 2026– Sept 14, 2026)



Protective Factor Grouping (Jan 1, 2026– Sept 14, 2026)



Top 3 Services Mobilized

1. Mental Health

2. Victim Support

3. Social Assistance

Action Table Updates

Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Poverty and Income

Increasing Income through Tax Filing

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Network

- CVITP registered organizations have completed the 2025 Tax Season clinics, and some CVITP organizations have extended services for year-round tax filing services to access the national dental program and other benefits such as Canadian Disability Benefit. Tax filing is now available through referrals from SOS (Grey County) and COAST (Bruce County) in partnership with Bruce County Public Library and the United Way of Bruce Grey volunteers in 2026. CVITP-Program_Why-Do-We-Do-It-March-2026.pptx

- A review of the referral/intake process with social agencies and CVITP volunteers/partners will be held on Sept 15th, 2026, to examine the existing system, barriers and opportunities for improvement.

Status: In Progress

- In 2025, eligibility was a modest income of $35,000 for individuals, $45,000 for couples, plus $2,500 for each dependent. This has increased up to $5,000/person in 2026. Tax filing is available until Dec 2026. CVITP volunteers can file simple tax returns for the past 7-10 years.

- 17 CVITP registered organizations in Grey Bruce completed 3,368 tax returns ($3,100 average x 3,368 = $10, 440,800) in 2025. $10,440,800 was returned to residents in Grey Bruce for the year ending 31 December 2025. (Using an average of $3,100/tax return). In addition to refunds and benefits, the program saved residents an estimated $421,000 by providing free tax filing services — money that would otherwise have been paid to private tax preparers. Press Release: Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Returns Over $10.4 Million to Local Residents – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

- Despite this impact, only a fraction of those eligible are currently accessing the program. In Grey Bruce, an estimated 41,400 people qualify for CVITP services, highlighting both the scale of need and the opportunity for growth. (CRA Statistics, Aug 2025)

Status: Completed for 2024 Tax Season (2025) and In Progress for 2025 Tax Season(2026).

Strengthening Voices

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Income & Employment Security Action Group, Community Voices and RentSafe OS

- Monthly space for engaging with partners focused on increasing income, reducing precarious work, advocating for income solutions and facilitating partnerships.

Status: Completed

- Most recently, we have participated on a panel to advocate for an increase in social assistance rates for rural households as part of an Ontario-wide advocacy. BGPTF_IESAG-Presentation_ISAC_Report_16-June-2026.pdf Read the full report: In-Their-Own-Words_A-Recipient-Informed-Case-for-Fixing-Ontarios-Social-Assistance-System_ISAC-Report_March-2026-1.pdf

Status: Completed

- Bi-monthly safe space created for Community Voices and the RentSafe Owen Sound Collaboration allows tenants, landlords and housing support agencies to engage on priorities for people with lived experience or grounded expertise of poverty and to advocate for healthy, rental housing and climate change equity. The Power of Community-Led Transformation Task Force Blog – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: Completed

- Most recently the Owen Sound City Council approved a new Vital Services By-law and updates to the Property Standards By-law addressing mould and pests on July 9th, 2026 based on recommendations put forth by RentSafe OS and Community Voices. RentSafe Update: From Local Research to Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: Ongoing

Increasing Income through retaining healthy, affordable housing

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

RentSafe Owen Sound Collaboration and RentSafe Ontario projects

- RentSafe OS is working in partnership with RentSafe Ontario on a **Collaborating for Climate Resilience in Low-Income Rental Housing**.
- A Regional Environmental Scan on climate resilience and rental housing has been completed for discussion on September 29th at a roundtable in Owen Sound hosted by RentSafe OS. This will be combined with an Ontario-wide Report to be completed by December 2026.

Status: Completed

- The September 29th Roundtable in Owen Sound will be held at the Community Impact Lab/Sydenham Campus and a second roundtable hosted by RentSafe Ontario will be on Oct 19th/20th in Toronto. Registration is open for both roundtables. RentSafe Update: From Local Research to Stronger Rental Housing Standards in Owen Sound – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: In Progress



Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Seniors Retiring on a Low-Income

- The Poverty Task Force identified financial literacy, tax filing assistance, benefits navigation, and retirement planning education as important tools for reducing poverty among seniors.
- In partnership with Open Door Policy, the PTF delivered a series of education webinars on seniors retiring on a low-income. Seniors Retiring on Low Income_ Report_ 27 July 2026. In 2026, 26 social services workers, social navigators and librarians from 12 organizations and 42 seniors participated in this financial literacy series.

Status: Completed

- Resources from the training to seniors and social workers/librarians are available, including a series of training videos that were developed from the webinars. A dedicated website page includes Resources for Seniors with Low-Income – Bruce Grey Poverty Task Force

Status: Completed

Seeking Income Solutions for Strong Communities

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development

Grey Bruce Living Wage

- 2026 Living Wage rate for Bruce-Grey-Huron-Perth-Simcoe economic region will be calculated in partnership with Ontario Living Wage Network and released in November 2026.

Status: In progress

- Actively promoting the benefits of becoming a certified Living Wage employer in Grey Bruce. Currently have 10 certified employers in 13 locations in Grey Bruce (June 2026).

Status: In progress

Next Steps

- Grey Bruce Community Volunteer Income Tax Program Network (CVITP) is operating until the end of Dec 2026 through referrals via SOS and COAST and other social agencies to a few CVITP partners who file taxes year-round.

- A review of the referral/intake process with social agencies and CVITP volunteers/partners will be held on Sept 15th, 2026, to examine the existing system, barriers and opportunities for improvement. Data will be collected at the end of the year from CRA/CVITP on the number of households supported to file taxes.

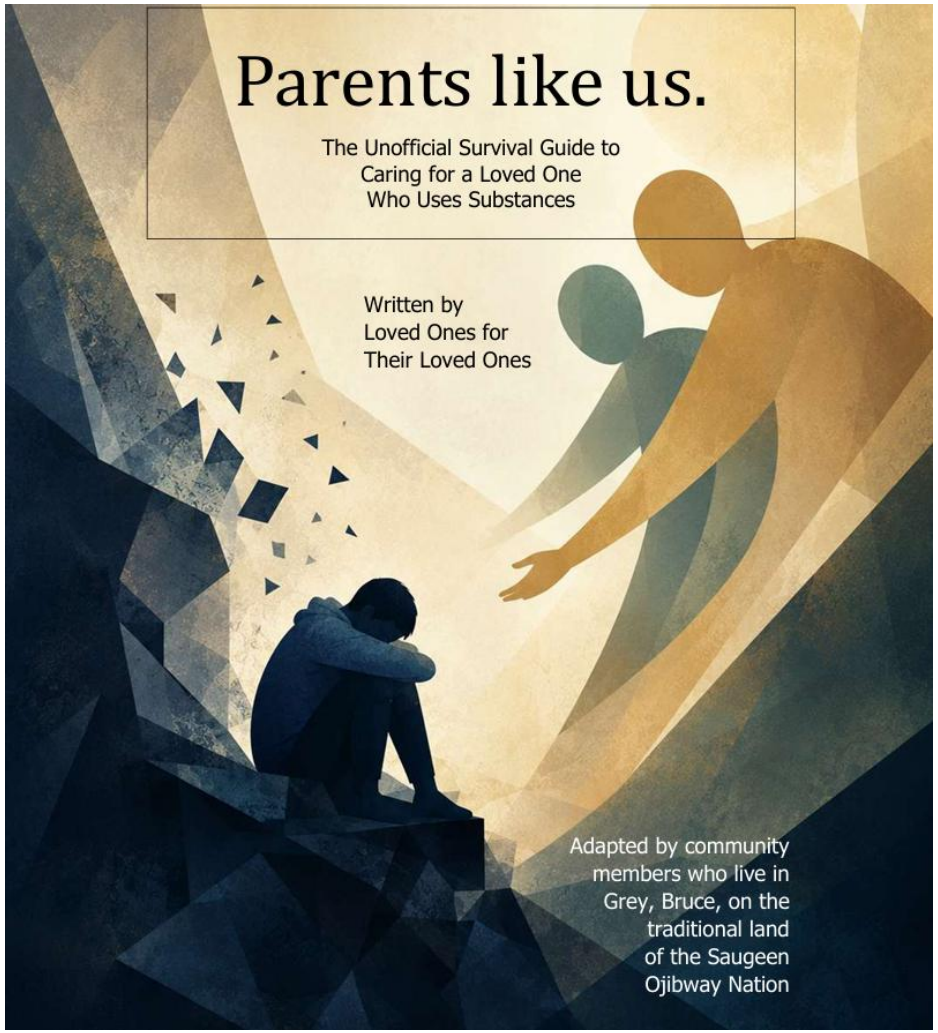
- Plans will be started for new volunteer recruitment and getting ready for the 2026 Tax Season (2027).

- The Poverty Task Force will host an All Municipal Candidates Poverty 101 Election Education session on September 18th from 10am-11:30pm. Panelists will speak on the Social Determinents of Health, government engagement (federal, provincial and municipal) in responding to social needs such as social assistance programs, affordable housing, transportation, etc. and community policing.

Community Drug and Alcohol Strategy

Addictions/Substance Use

Caregivers Guide



CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development & Prevention

Objectives: Advance strategic priority #5: Reduce stigma associated with substance use and its impact, through evidence informed training, education, and communications. To adapt a parent-created resource to knowledge, tools, and resources to parents' caregiving youth who are using substances. Will entail engagement of community members in the adaptation process to make sure the document reflects Grey Bruce. This project advances CDAS strategic priorities #2 (prevent and/or delay youth substance use) and #5 (reduce stigma and its impact through evidence-informed education, training, and communication.

Data sources:

- Anti-stigma Harm Reduction Working Group meetings and research on anti-stigma content and campaigns.
- CDAS strategic plan; Steering Committee input and reflections; Parents Like Us Adaptation Toolkit

Status: Completed and available on-line, printing currently occurring

New Coordinator

- The posting has closed and interviews will begin this week; we hope to have the new coordinator join us in the next month or so



Next Steps

- Hire a coordinator and on-board the successful applicant to resume the work of the CDAS strategic plan

Homelessness Response Steering Committee

Housing and Homelessness

Coordinated Access



CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Coordinated Access Guide

Development of a local guide ongoing to provide service agencies with information on pathways within the system tying in the By Name List and homelessness supports.

The Real Cost of Homelessness

The steering committee is working on a project to identify the different levels of support and the cost associated with addressing the chronically homeless individuals on the by name list. This is to support knowledge on the problems and to better understand the levels of supported transitional housing needed for our community.

Status: In progress

- Bolstering the Coordinated Access guide in the final editing stages and work is happening on researching data for the cost of homelessness project

Encampments & BNL Referral

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention/ Social Development

Homelessness & Encampment Response Protocol

A homelessness and encampment response protocol has been developed and will be piloted with emergency services, local community partners and municipalities between April and June.

GIS Data – used to track encampments

By-Name Referral and Prioritization Update

New Referral form implemented and circulated to front line agencies along with opportunity to refresher training on the By-Name List and it's benefits. On-going training for service providers.

Status: Encampment Procol being Piloted in Bruce County, GIS tracking is in progress

Winter Planning

CSWBP Planning Framework: Intervention

Bruce and Grey Counties fall/winter outreach

As the temperatures decrease, we often see an increase in people moving from encampments to access emergency shelter services. Bruce and Grey Counties are in the planning stages for the winter season and emergency shelter response.

Status: Review & Planning Stage

Homelessness & Coordinated Access Education Forum

CSWBP Planning Framework: Education

Coordinated Access & By-Name List Training – annual training provided to front-line staff.

Status: Planning

Homelessness Response

Grey Bruce Front Line Unhoused Response Committee

- Provides an opportunity for front-line staff to present and collaborate on challenging cases. This committee provides a space for peers to support each other, offer resources and options to directly support households.
- The committee focuses on matching clients to housing resources dedicated to the By-Name List.
- Attendees will review and update the Grey Bruce By Name List to maintain real-time data.

Status: In progress

- Reviewing recent needs assessment and intake call volume

Next Steps

- By-Name List Training
- Coordinated Access Guide publication
- Review Homelessness & Encampment Response Protocol

Mental Health Networking Table

Mental Health

System-level Alignment and Planning

CSWBP Planning Framework: Social Development/Prevention

- Grey Bruce Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Plan (Completed)
  - Service Pathway Identification Walk in / Crisis / Urgent Access: Plan completed. Looking at implementing phase 1 in October 2026: Wiarton, Hanover, Kincardine
  - Joint Training and Education Opportunities Plan: ASIST and Motivational Interviewing identified as priority trainings for network partners
  - Suicide and Crisis Prevention Campaign (In progress)
    - Over $100k of grant money received for this initiative
    - Work plan in progress
  - MHA Partner Event: Plan to approach OHT to align with their partnership table
  - Partner Dashboard/Scorecard: First draft completed. The following measures will be tracked on scorecard:
    - Contact-to-intake wait times
    - Intake-to-program-start timelines
    - Readmission rates
    - Transition planning from youth to adult services
    - Client perception-of-care measures (measures TBD)
  - Measurement Based Care (paused)
  - Development of a 5-20 Year Grey Bruce MHA Roadmap (In progress)

Next Steps

- Committees established for each initiative of the Strategic Plan will continue to meet until work is complete.

Crime Prevention Action Table

Cannabis & Driving Resource + Education

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- To partner with all licensed dispensaries in Grey, Bruce and Saugeen First Nation to provide educational resources to those purchasing cannabis in stores
- To increase the awareness of the risks of driving impaired by cannabis
- To reduce the number of individuals driving impaired by cannabis in our community



Data sources:

- Local and Provincial Police data bases & Resources
- Peer-reviewed literature supporting initiatives
- CAMH
- OSDUHS Report
- OSAID

Status: Complete. Additional education occurred this summer at community events with cannabis impairment goggles + resources

Human Trafficking Town Halls

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- To provide community members with education and resources on human trafficking
- To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking
- To amplify the voices and experiences of those with lived experience

Data sources:

- People with lived experience/ local survivor led organizations
- Local and Provincial Police data bases
- Local Shelter + Victim Services Data
- Government of Canada
- The Joy Smith Foundation

Status: In progress

- October 8th 2026 in West Grey at the Community Arena
- October 21st 2026 in Saugeen First Nation at the Rec Centre



Short-Term Rental Anti-Human Trafficking Resource

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention

Objectives:

- To provide STR licensees/business owners with information and resources on human trafficking
- To increase the number of community members who are able to identify human trafficking

Data sources:

- Local and Provincial Police data bases
- Peer-reviewed literature supporting initiatives
- People with lived experience
- Government of Canada
- The Joy Smith Foundation

Status: Document complete

- Successful in a grant opportunity to print the resource, resources were delivered to all Municipalities and police services for easy access for residents



Hate Crime Working Group

CSWBP Planning Framework: Prevention
Objectives:

- To provide the community with reporting options outside of police (collecting more accurate data + connecting folks to direct support)
- To provide the community with education on hate crimes + where to seek support

Data sources:

- Local and provincial police data bases
- Victim Services data base
- Community groups

Status: In progress, awaiting some final IT changes for the reporting tool and then will be launching to the public



Next Steps

- Launch hate crime reporting tool
- Host two human trafficking townhalls in West Grey and Saugeen First Nation
- Begin to prepare for long-weekend education for youth
- Begin to prepare social media and education plan for 2027 start of tourism season for STR HT resources

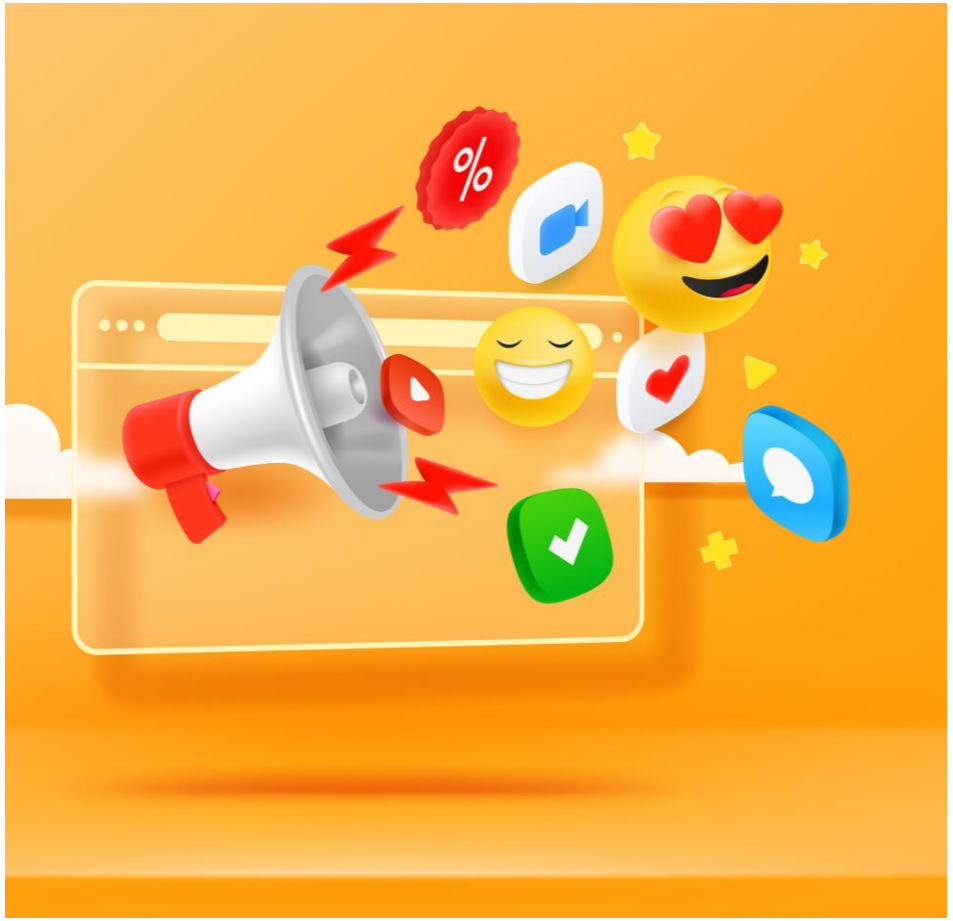


General

Communications

- September media/social media release:
  - Announcing dates/locations for Human Trafficking Town halls in West Grey and Saugeen First Nation

- Please email Alexis if you do not have a contact on our email distribution list for media releases + social media content



CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

What we heard from the survey:

- 79% of respondents feel somewhat safe or very safe in the community
- 46% of community members indicate that the community has lower rates of crime compared to other communities, 42% indicate the community has about the same rates of crime
- 76% of respondents view policing as a key component of community safety and well-being
- Community members referenced mental health services, housing support, crisis response teams, food security initiatives and broader community investment are effective approaches to reducing crime
- 70% of respondents trust most or trust all police services in the community

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

What the data tells us:

- Transport accidents are the second highest leading cause of death for 15–24-year-olds and the third highest leading cause of death for 25–44-year-olds in Grey Bruce
- From 2017-2024 Grey Bruce residents were 1.5x more likely to visit the emergency department for motor vehicle collision injuries than Ontario residents
- Grey Bruce residents between 2017-2024 were over 3x more likely to visit the emergency department for off-road vehicle collision injuries than Ontario
- Violence Against Women Shelters received 3,570 crisis calls for support in 2025
- Grey Bruce police report 1663 domestic violence incidents, 257 sexual violence incidents, 6 human trafficking incidents and 0 domestic homicides/femicides from 2024-2025
- Victim Services Grey Bruce responded to 1,203 referrals and supported 1,635 individuals during the 2025-2026 year
  - Approximately 60% of referrals (708) were related to gender-based violence (domestic violence, sexual assault, criminal harassment/stalking and human trafficking)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

Key Performance Indicators:

- IPV/GBV/ Human Trafficking (Annual)
  - # of domestic violence incidents reported to police
  - # of sexual assaults incidents reported to police
  - # of human trafficking incidents reported to police
  - # of femicides/domestic homicides
- Hate Crimes/Incidents (Annual)
  - # of hate crimes reported to police
  - # of hate incidents reported to police
  - # of hate incidents reported to hate crime reporting tool (and qualitative data of trends)
- Road Safety (Annual)
  - # of distracted driving charges
  - # of speeding charges
  - # of stunt driving charges
  - # of no insurance charges
  - # of serious injury/fatal collisions
  - # of impaired charges

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Crime Prevention

Key Performance Indicators:

- Drug Trafficking (Annual)
  - # of Possession charges
  - # of Possession arrests
  - # of Fatal Overdoses
  - # of Non-fatal Overdoses
- Victim Serviced Demand (Annual)
  - # of referrals
  - # of individuals supported
  - Occurrence types
- Community events & education (Annual)
  - # of joint initiatives
  - # of individuals, organizations and businesses reached through education
  - % of increase in knowledge (pre and post education)
- Community perceptions (5-year)
  - % of residents who trust all or most of police
  - % of residents who think the role of policing in safety is important or very important
  - % of residents who feel safer with an increased police presence

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

What we heard from the survey:

- 37% of respondents indicated that harmful substance use and addictions were a top priority
- Themes emerged around increased action for prevention, access to treatment and service coordination
- Respondents identified the need for increased support for individuals and families affected by addictions
- Illegal drug use emerged as the most significant concern in this domain, identified by 58% of respondents
- Residents also identified access to addiction services, including waitlists (46%), alcohol use (43%) and youth substance use (38%) as priorities

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

What the data tells us:

- Accidental Poisonings are the leading cause of death for 15–44-year-olds from 2013-2023 in Grey Bruce
- Western Region grade 7-12 students had a significant increase in the non-medical use of prescription opioid pain relievers in 2023 compared to 2019
- Grey Bruce has a 1.3x higher rate of emergency department visits of injuries due to unintentional poisonings compared to Ontario
- Age-standardized rate (per 100,000 people) for emergency department visits for conditions entirely attributable to cannabis in Grey Bruce are 103.3 compared to Ontario at 76.6
- 28.4% of Grey Bruce residents exceed the low-risk drinking guidelines for chronic disease, compared to Ontario at 17.3%. Grey Bruce rates are the second highest out of all public health units.
- 24.5% of Grey Bruce residents 18+ regularly heavily drink compared to Ontario at 18.4 %
- The percentage of residents 12 and older who smoke daily in Grey Bruce is 17.1% compared to Ontario at 9.0%
- Grey Bruce has seen a 226% increase in the number of opioid-related overdoses from January-June in 2026 compared to the same time frame in 2025
- In 2025 Grey Bruce lost 16 lives to opioid toxicity which shows a 39% decrease in deaths since 2024

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Harmful Substance Use/Addictions

Key Performance Indicators:

- # of non-fatal overdoses (annual)
- # of Fatal overdoses (annual)
- # of people/organizations reached through education initiatives (annual)
- # of cross-sector initiatives, referrals and/or coordinated efforts (annual)
- # of advocacy actions undertaken and policy changes/investments influenced (annual)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Housing and Homelessness

What we heard from the survey:

- Housing and Homelessness emerged as the second-highest ranked community improvement area
- Housing affordability was the dominant concern in this area, identified by 65% of respondents
- Residents highlighted the availability of housing (47%), access to housing (44%), housing quality and safety (43%) as important priorities
- 42% of respondents also indicated homelessness as a top priority area for improvement
- Community members view housing challenges extending beyond affordability, with broader concerns related to availability, accessibility, safety and supports for individuals experiencing housing instability
- Residents indicated a strong need for action and investment in safe, affordable and appropriate housing

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Housing and Homelessness

What the data tells us:

- Over 1 in 3 Grey Bruce tenants are paying unaffordable rent, compared to only 1 in 10 homeowners who cannot afford their housing costs
- In 2025 the average monthly rent for a 1-bedroom rental was $1,500 and a 2-bedroom rental was $1,800. A single room's monthly rental cost was $1,100.
- As of June 30, 2026, 4207 households are on the subsidized housing waitlist in Grey Bruce
- In 2021, 16.5% of households in Grey Bruce had subsidized housing compared to Ontario with 13.7% of households receiving subsidized housing
- In Grey Bruce rental vacancy rates sit at 1.6% compared to the recommended healthy amount of 3% by the province
- In 2025, 214 households experienced homelessness for the first time in Grey Bruce

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Housing and Homelessness

Key Performance Indicators:

- % change in chronic homelessness (point in time measure) (annual)
- Affordable Housing Deficit- Gap between the core housing need and number of affordable units across Grey Bruce (annual)
- # of Net new affordable housing units- new affordable housing units created- (CMHC affordable, county partnership units) (annual)
- # First Time homelessness inflow (annual)
- % of returns to homelessness (annual)
- # of people/organizations reached through training/education initiatives (annual)
- # of cross-sector initiatives, referrals and/or coordinated efforts (annual)
- # of advocacy actions undertaken and policy changes/investments influenced (annual)
- % from survey affordability, access, safety etc. as need for improvement for housing (5-year)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Mental Health

What we heard from the survey:

- Over half of respondents indicated the need for improvements for accessing and for the availability of mental health services
- 50% of community members highlighted the following mental health conditions as priorities: depression, anxiety and bipolar disorder
- Findings show residents are not only concerned about mental health challenges themselves, but about the affordability and coordination of supports to address them
- Respondents highlighted concerns related to suicide, emotional and psychological trauma as top concerns within the community

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Mental Health

What the data tells us:

- Suicide is the third highest leading cause of death for 15–24-year-olds with males having 4x more deaths than females due to suicide
- Suicide is the second highest leading cause of death for 25–44-year-olds with males having 5x more deaths than females due to suicide
- 40.6% of Western Region grade 7-12 students reported fair or poor mental health in 2023, an increase of 12.5% since 2019
- In 2023-2024, the most marginalized Grey Bruce youth (15-29) were 2.4x more likely to visit the emergency department for injuries related to self-harm
- Keystone Child, Youth & Family services supported 1884 unique clients in 2024-2025
- Across all CMHA Grey Bruce's mental health and addictions programs 3,290 individuals in 2024-2025 were supported
- Brightshores Health system supported 63,312 visits for mental health and addictions in 2024-2025

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Mental Health

Key Performance Indicators:

- # EMS Behaviour/Psychiatric responses (annual)
- % of incident psychiatric ED visits as first-contact visits (annual)
- # of repeat mental health and addictions ED visits within 30 days (annual)
- Time from referral to first contact (annual)
- # of staff/volunteers/community members trained in SafeTalk (annual)
- # of staff/volunteers/community members trained in ASIST (annual)
- # of people/organizations reached through education initiatives (annual)
- % of residents who rank areas of mental health access and availability as improvement areas (5-year)

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Poverty and Income

What we heard from the survey:

- Residents indicated that poverty and income was the number one area for improvement with concerns related to wages, social assistance rates, cost of living pressures and financial insecurity
- Community members emphasized the need for improvements to childcare availability and affordability
- 60% of respondents highlighted the need for improvements for the ability to pay their bills and meet basic needs
- Over half of community members expressed concerns related to being able to enjoy life and participate in leisure activities, especially for youth
- Community members indicated that affordability challenges are not only influencing their economic well-being but also their health, social participation, housing stability and overall quality of life

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Poverty and Income

What the data tells us:

- In 2025 living wage in Grey Bruce was $24.60 per hour, the second highest in Ontario
- The median individual income is $36,000 per year while living wages income is $47,970 per year. The median individual income is 25% less than living wage.
- The Ontario Works financial assistance is only $8800 per year which is only 18% (1/5) of what is needed per year of a living wage
- Ontario Disability Support Program financial assistance is only $16,986 per year which is only 35% (1.75/5) of what is needed per year of a living wage.
- 12.3% of older adults are living on low income (apprx 5800 seniors)
- 18% of households in Grey Bruce from 2021-2023 are experiencing food insecurity
- 13.2% of Grey Bruce children (0-17) are living in low income which is higher than Ontario
- Grey Bruce's unemployment rate is 9% compared to Ontario's at 12%

CSWB Plan Update- Data + KPI Review

- Poverty and Income

Key Performance Indicators:

- # and % of eligible residents connected to income and financial supports (annual)
- # of cross-sector initiatives addressing SDOH (annual)
- # and % of initiatives that include people with lived and living experience (planning/decision making) (annual)
- # of advocacy actions undertaken and policy changes/investments influenced (annual)
- # of community members and organizations reached through education and awareness activities (annual)

Timeline of CSWB Plan Update

- Information Gathering & Consultation
  - May 2025- June 2026
  - Complete
- By-Law/Agreement Update
  - July 2026- January 2027
  - In progress
- Plan Development
  - June 2026- October 2026
  - In progress
- Draft Plan Review
  - October 2026- November 2026
  - Not started
- Final Plan Creation & Review
  - December 2026- January 2027
  - Not started
- New Plan Adoption & Follow-up
  - February – March 2027
    - Not started

Open Discussion

Wrap Up
Next Meeting: Tuesday December 15th 2026

THANK YOU!

The Steering Committee greatly appreciates your ongoing support!

Should you have any questions about today's discussion, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Steering Committee members noted here:

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