

Mental Health and Substance Use Leadership Committee –

May 26, 2026, 3:30 – 5 PM.

Private Meeting

Roll Call: *Laura Conboy, Mike Blakcburn, Wendy Fisher, Shawn Quigley, Ellyn Clost-Lambert, Rae McDonald, Kristy Luffman, Dr. Megan Brunet, Melissa West, Cheryl Snider, Anita Peter, Maggie Farmer*

Regrets: *Valerie Arsenault, Adam Andrecyk, Chelsie Boucher, Shawn Lowe*

Minutes: *Wendy Fisher*

1. WELCOME

Laura Conboy extended a welcome to committee members, including Associate Superintendent Mike Blackburn who has assumed the mental health portfolio from retired superintendent Scot Gillam.

As part of her commitment to reconciliation, Laura recognized Dr. Jamaica Cass, recently named a 2025 Order of Ontario appointee.

2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda by Megan Brunet. Motion seconded by Ellyn Clost-Lambert.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes by Rae McDonald. Motion seconded by Shawn Quigley.

4. COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

Shawn provided a high-level overview of the Youth Diversion annual report prepared for LDSB, including updates on Kairos services and MEND. Kairos referrals increased by 11% from the previous year, while referrals to police and youth appearances in court for shoplifting decreased. Shawn noted an increase in educators seeking classroom-based support. The Rebound program did not operate this year.

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Shawn also initiated a discussion about engaging families in their homes rather than expecting them to attend events, and the importance of bringing sectors together to better support families.

5. 2026-2027 ACTION PLAN BRAINSTORM

Laura invited committee members to provide feedback on priorities for the 2026–2027 Action Plan. She also highlighted PPM 169 priorities related to family engagement, social-emotional learning, suicide prevention protocols, and attendance. Laura will consider these priorities when developing the action plan for next year. The 2026-2027 Action Plan will be posted on the LDSB website by September 2026.

6. STUDENT CENSUS UPDATE

Ellyn Clost-Lambert provided an update on the LDSB Student Census. 66% of students in Grades 4-12 participated in the survey. Updates have been shared with staff and Trustees.

7. EDUCATIONAL SERVICES CRISIS LINE

Ellyn provided the Committee with a summary of Educational Services crisis line data from September 2021 to June 2025. This data reflects students identified as being in crisis and experiencing thoughts of suicide as per the LDSB Suicide Response Protocol. Over the four-year period, students in Grades 6, 7, 8, and 10 had the highest rates of suicide interventions, with Grade 10 showing the highest rate overall. Students with special education needs are overrepresented in the data.

Laura advised that Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) will be provided to administrators in June 2026 as part of their summer learning.

8. GRADE 7 & 8 MENTAL HEALTH & TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUMS

Melissa West provided the Committee with an overview of the student symposiums held in Fall 2025 and May 2026. In May 2026, all Grade 7 and 8 students from Calvin Park PS, Ernestown Intermediate and LaSalle Intermediate participated in technology symposiums which included sessions focused on finding balance in the digital world, mental health and technology, and healthy and critical media use.

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The Committee discussed whether to continue offering student symposiums in the coming year and possible topics for consideration. Shawn wondered if there may be opportunities to partner with the Unnamed Youth Symposium in fall 2026.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Laura adjourned the meeting. Committee members were thanked for their participation this year. Meeting dates for the 2026-2027 school year will be sent out in September 2026.

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