

Traditionally, WE LIP hosts 3 in person council meetings per year. This year's Spring Council meeting was scheduled to take place at the end of April, however, due to COVID-19, we were forced to cancel and consider when and how to reschedule.

In the midst of government restrictions on large gatherings, it was decided that the meeting would transition to the first ever virtual WE LIP Council meeting to be held on May 21, 2020. The interactive video conference format allowed over 50 attendees to safely participate. One positive outcome of this platform was that it allowed for the session to be recorded, making it possible for council members who were unable to participate during the live meeting, to view the meeting at their convenience.

Although COVID-19 has presented significant challenges, it has caused WE LIP to re-evaluate how to move forward in fulfilling contract deliverables. Our work has shifted slightly, but the WE LIP continues to be a main source of information sharing. With that in mind, the agenda included the following items:

1. **[WE LIP COVID-19 Resource Page](#)**: A WE LIP webpage hosted on the Workforce WindsorEssex website was created to house COVID-related information, with a focus on resources that will be useful to the newcomer population
2. **Windsor-Essex County Health Unit COVID Survey Results**: In partnership with WE LIP, WECHU conducted a survey to gain a better understanding of needs and concerns related to service providers' services and clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. Marc Frey, Planning and Strategic Initiatives Manager, WECHU, presented the summary of responses and WE LIP Council members were asked to provide feedback to a follow-up survey. Having the WE LIP Council participate in this important work will ensure that the newcomer voice is heard and that resources and guidelines are created in culturally appropriate and accessible ways.
3. **We Speak Initiative**: COVID-19 has magnified the need for safe, appropriate interpretation in healthcare settings. Health service providers can use the 1-866-WE-SPEAK number to register and gain access to centralized interpretation services in various modalities (live, phone, video).

