

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**May 20, 2020
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

Board Members Present: S. Cairns, R. Cipolla, L. Dollin, A. Dubeau, G. Harvey, P. Koetsier, R. Milne, F. Pinto, P. Preager, S. Warnock, P. Willmott, L. Oehm, S. Kinsella, A. Kungl

Staff Present: C. Gardner, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:15am.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

3.1 Advocacy for Pandemic Plan for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Front-line Staff

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Approval of Minutes from April 15, 2020.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the April 15, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 Property Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the April 15, 2020 in camera minutes and one property issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health come out of in camera and report.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY P. Preager

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health approve the enclosed recommendations and authorize the Vice President Human Resources and Infrastructure to negotiate the renewal of the current leases at both 15 Sperling Drive and 80 Bradford Street in Barrie, Ontario.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

- 6.1 COVID-19 Update. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Response and Activities. Verbal Report. C. Gardner and C. Nisbet presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic noting global, national and local statistics. The epidemiology summary was reviewed including Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities, Retirement Homes, Group Homes and congregate settings.

Also reviewed was the age-specific incidence, case hospitalization and case fatality which identifies that the risk increases with age. The impacts on health care in Ontario was reviewed and the impact on LTC in the Ontario Central Region which notes the reduced rates of disease transmission in Simcoe Muskoka compared to areas to the south of SMDHU.

SMDHU will be monitoring the numbers closely as the economy reopens and the easing of restrictions. C. Gardner provided Board members an update on the testing numbers in Ontario as well as locally.

The continued challenges within SMDHU were discussed such as staff in the workplace, program suspension, mounting costs, mitigation strategies, continued

case and contact demands and assistance with infection control in congregate settings.

The revised modeling with projections for COVID-19 transmission for Ontario (produced by SMDHU) was reviewed, noting the need for on-going testing and physical distancing. There has been a substantial rise in cases and mortality in Simcoe Muskoka within the past month. C. Gardner noted that the pandemic will persist until we have a vaccine which is predicted to be late 2021.

Board members requested an update on the use of face masks and if they may become mandatory for the public. C. Gardner noted that at this time they are not and is not aware of an impending mandate.

C. Gardner discussed asymptomatic testing for front-line workers such as retail workers as the economy reopens. It is noted that no guidance has been received from the Province on this at this time.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

CARRIED

7. New Business

- 7.1 Selection of Auditor for 2020 Fiscal Year. Briefing Note. C. Gardner and K. Ellis Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided information regarding the selection of the auditor for the 2020 fiscal year, noting that the Board of Health is to annually appoint an auditor for the accounts of the Corporation, and that the current agency contract has expired.

The Board of Health previously utilized a competitive procurement process to establish a contract for auditing services with BDO Canada LLP for a five-year period, followed by an extended contract of two additional years for 2018 and 2019 as BDO was able to provide auditing consistency while the agency implemented its new financial system.

Board members discussed the current workload on staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic and determined that it is not feasible to enter into a Request for Proposal (RFP) process at this time giving the ongoing challenges of the pandemic.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit proceed with BDO as the auditor for 2020 in a one year extension to a maximum of up to a 5% increase.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

7.2 Audited Financial Statements. Board Report. K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg introduced K. Graham from BDO.

K. Graham presented an overview of the Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2019 and addressed the Board's questions.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY G. Harvey

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health receive the Auditor's Report and approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending December 31, 2019 as presented.

CARRIED

7.3 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2020. Briefing Note. C. Gardner and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the quarterly financial report for the period ending March 31, 2020 noting the impact of COVID-19 activities in the budget.

Board members reviewed the increased salary and benefit costs related to the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) and COVID-19. It was noted that SMDHU has received informal communications from the Ministry of Health that they are hoping to provide funding allocations for 2020 including details of one-time funding requests to health units in the late spring.

Motion 7.3

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health receive the first quarter financial reports for Mandatory and Related Public Health Programs and Services;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health receive the fourth quarter expenditure report for 100% funded initiatives with a year-end of March 31, 2020;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health support the development of a revised 2020 Budget for Mandatory and Related Public Health Programs and Services as a response to the financial implications of COVID-19.

CARRIED

7.4 Advocacy for Pandemic Pay for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Front-line Staff. Briefing Note. C. Gardner presenting.

G. Harvey declared a conflict on this item.

C. Gardner discussed the recent advocacy related to pandemic pay for SMDHU front-line staff which would maintain equity among all of our front-line staff who have responded to the pandemic. It was noted that Board members were contacted by email on May 4th and supported a letter to the Minister of Health from the Board Chair requesting that all front-line staff for public health be provided this additional compensation.

B. Parker identified that all essential employees were to be notified by the Ministry of this by May 15th and SMDHU has not yet received this notice.

Motion 7.4

MOVED BY R. Milne

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

THAT the Board of Health receive this report and its appended letter to the Minister of Health as information.

CARRIED

8. Advocacy

- 8.1 Basic Income and Household Food Insecurity during COVID-19. Briefing Note. L. Simon, C. Shoreman and C. Bushey presenting.

C. Bushey noted that food insecurity is a very prevalent public health issue and has been ongoing for many years.

As a result of COVID-19, this number is predicted to increase as many individuals are facing precarious employment, have had their hours reduced or have lost their jobs altogether. Many are relying on food banks and other charitable programs. There is currently an opportunity to engage in increased awareness raising and advocacy for a basic income as both a short and long-term solution to household food insecurity, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Board members discussed alternative options for eliminating food waste as well as increased incentives for people to work when they are able.

Board members requested clarification on where these funds would come from. L. Simon noted that this would be an estimated cost of 24 billion dollars for the Province.

Board members requested that SMDHU staff report back on the issue of food waste (noting Second Harvest as an agency of interest on this topic) at a future Board of Health meeting.

Motion 8.1

MOVED BY P. Preager

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health write to the Prime Minister of Canada recommending the revision of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a basic income for all Canadians, during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health endorse the Ontario Dietitians in Public Health letter calling on the federal government to implement a basic income for all Canadians to address household food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Premier of Ontario, Simcoe and Muskoka MPs and MPPs and municipal councils, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association, and the Boards of Health in Ontario receive a copy of the Board's letter to the Prime Minister.

CARRIED

9. Announcements

10. Items of Education

POSTPONED: aPHa 2020 Annual General Meeting and Conference

11. Items of Information

- 11.1 BLG Article on Governance advice during COVID-19.
- 11.2 Letter from Dr. Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health for Middlesex-London Health to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for SMDHU re aPHa Resolution for Consideration at the June 2020 Annual General Meeting – Sufficient Public Health Funding
- 11.3 Province of Ontario News Release re Ontario Supports Job Creators as People Start Returning to Work.
- 11.4 Province of Ontario News Release re Ontario Plans to Resume Scheduled Surgeries and Procedures.
- 11.5 Letter from Carmen McGregor, President for aPHa to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re National Health Day – May 12, 2020.
- 11.6 Letter from Andy Mitchell, Board of Health Chair for Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Provincial Leadership in the Monitoring of Food Affordability and Food Insecurity.
- 11.7 Letter from Carman Kidd, Board of Health Chair for Timiskaming Health Unit to the Honourable Todd Smith, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services re Consultation for a new Ontario Poverty Reduction Strategy.
- 11.8 Email from Dianne Alexander, Director of Health Promotion and Prevention Policy and Programs Branch, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public

Health Ministry of Health re Update on Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017 Regulatory Changes.

11.9 aPHa Information Break April 22, 2020.

12. Date and Location of Next Meetings

- June 17, 2020 – Barrie Office
- September 16, 2020 – Barrie Office

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Motion 13.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:58am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner
Medical Officer of Health