

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**June 15, 2021
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

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

Regrets: P. Koetsier, R. Milne

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. Kinsella

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Approval of Minutes from May 19, 2021.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the May 19, 2021 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Previous Minutes

5.2 Legal Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the May 19, 2021 in camera minutes and one Legal issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health come out of in camera and not report.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan: Priority Activities. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Steve Rebellato presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update noting that due to the third wave of the pandemic, the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) continues to transition to account for ongoing community virus transmission, the initiation and evolution of vaccination clinics, and educating on and enforcing the provincial public health measures.

S. Rebellato noted that since the previous update to the Board there has been significant onboarding of new staff for program delivery in response to the pandemic. It is the goal to continue with the A level activities noting this has been incredibly difficult to achieve due to the enormous amount of staff repatriation.

Board member discussion included the upcoming influenza immunization program. MA Holmes noted that preparations are underway and SMDHU's role is to support the organizations that will be providing this vaccination such as pharmacies and primary care.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note as information regarding the COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan and priority activities of Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 Public Health Recovery Planning. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Natalie Riewe presenting.

C. Gardner presented on this item noting that the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to draw significant resources over the remainder of the year with vaccination efforts, a possible 4th wave and ongoing lower level of infection rates. It is expected that there will be opportunities to resume public health programs starting slowly over the 3rd and 4th quarters of this year, therefore, it is important for SMDHU to begin planning for this recovery.

The SMDHU executive management team has identified challenges and approaches for recovery and have identified an Agency Recovery Executive Lead (AREL) to assist with keeping track of these items and reporting to the Board of Health.

Board members discussed vaccine hesitancy and strategies to mitigate this. C. Gardner noted that SMDHU is currently working on a vaccine hesitancy campaign with multiple strategies to reach the different groups identified. MA Holmes mentioned that planning is underway to ramp down the mass immunization clinics beginning in July.

Board members discussed the potential for Public Health Modernization to reemerge in the future. C. Gardner noted that at this time there have been no announcements from the province on this.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY F. Pinto

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note as information;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health engage in discussion and provide input into the proposed approach required to prepare for the recovery of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit from the pandemic, and for our response to other contingencies later in 2021 and beyond.

CARRIED

7.2 COVID-19 Recovery Reserve. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update noting that the Board of Health approved the 2020 budget at its February meeting following the provincial direction that reductions in base funding from Public Health Modernization would be offset by \$1.4M in mitigation funding. The Ministry of Health increased mitigation funding to SMDHU by an additional \$839,000 in September 2020 which resulted in excess funds in the 2020 year. Further, the agency is considering post pandemic program requirements that will need short-term funding.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY G. Harvey

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health approve the establishment of a COVID-19 Recovery Reserve Fund which will not exceed a \$1.5 million annual balance with planned expenditures during 2021 to 2024 to address recovery costs, contingent on the province allowing the retention by the Board of surplus Mitigation Funding in 2020.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

- 7.3 Procurement of Temporary Air Conditioning Units for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg, Mary Ann Holmes and Bruce Parker presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update of the mass immunization clinics (MICs) and the need to ensure that they are sufficiently air conditioned to be safe for use. Most of the arenas being used for this purpose are not air conditioned and there are now challenges with excessively high temperatures with hot weather in some of these facilities. It has been determined that other health units across the province are having this same issue.

B. Parker noted that SMDHU staff are now investigating temporary air conditioning options as there are 3 facilities where this will definitely be required and 4 additional locations where this is still to be determined. It was identified that 3 draft quotes have been obtained, and a breakdown of the requirements and logistics were provided to the Board members.

MA Holmes noted there are strict guidelines for vaccines related to ambient temperature exposure as well as the safety of staff and clients due to extreme heat. It was identified that all possible options are being explored. Board members provided alternate suggestions such as contacting utility companies (ie. Hydro One) to request assistance.

Motion 7.3

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health delegate approval authority to the Medical Officer of Health to choose vendor(s) and expend the funds required for the rental of temporary air conditioners for the Mass Immunization Clinics that are not air conditioned, with a follow up report to the Board on the final details once completed;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health authorize the Medical Officer of Health to access up to \$500,000 of SMDHU Capital Reserve to pay air conditioning vendors pending potential reimbursement by the Ministry of Health.

CARRIED

- 7.4 Audited Financial Statements. Board Report. Karen 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, 2020 and addressed the Board's questions.

Motion 7.4

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health receive audited financial statements as information.

CARRIED

- 7.5 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2021. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented this item noting that the Ministry of Health has indicated that health units will be informed of their one-time funding (or partial approval pending review) for COVID-19 Extraordinary and COVID-19 Immunization in early July.

On a cash basis the agency has expended approximately \$2.5M towards the COVID-19 Extraordinary and COVID-19 Immunization programs in the first quarter of 2021. The province's plan of approving one-time COVID-19 funding in July is positive, however, the agency must manage cash flow pending deposit of ministry funding approvals. For this reason, the agency requires access to the SMDHU Contingency Reserve funds to mitigate cash flow with the most pressing issue being salaries and technology expenses.

The Ministry of Health has not indicated when health units will be informed of the funding for Cost-Shared programs, however, for the past 2 years this announcement has occurred at the AMO conference which this year is scheduled on August 15.

Motion 7.5

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health receive the first quarter financial reports for:

- Mandatory and Related Public Health Programs and Services
- COVID-19 Extraordinary One-time
- COVID-19 Immunization One-time
- School-Focused Nurses Initiative One-time
- Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (100% Ministry of Health funding);

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health authorize the Medical Officer of Health to access up to \$1.4M from the Contingency Reserve to manage cashflow;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health write to the Ontario Minister of Health advocating that the boards of health receive the mitigation funding from the Ministry of Health in 2022 that they received in 2021;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this letter be sent to the boards of health in Ontario, to our four obligated municipalities, to the MPPs of Simcoe Muskoka, to the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, and to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies.

CARRIED

8. Consent Agenda

A. Kungl discussed Dr. Adalsteinn Brown's presentation that was provided at the aIPHa Conference on the future of public health and requested if this could be available to all Board members. C. Gardner will inquire and circulate his speaking notes if available.

Motion 8.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health receive the following consent agenda items for information:

- 8.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Update
- 8.2 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Update
- 8.3 Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Plan (OSDCP)
- 8.4 Unpasteurized Milk Legal Proceeding
- 8.5 2021 aIPHa Annual General Meeting Outcomes

CARRIED

9. Announcements

Board members discussed the pop-up clinics occurring in their areas and promotional strategies to fill appointments slots.

The provincial booking system was discussed with MA Holmes noting that this system is separate from pharmacies and primary care. The Ministry is reviewing options to perform mass cancellations in the COVAX system as there are several duplications of appointments.

10. Items of Education

11. Items of Information

- 11.1 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Press Release re Dr. Charles Gardner receives unanimous support from Board of Health.
- 11.2 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair and Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Municipal Councils of Simcoe Muskoka re Thank you letter of contributions during the pandemic.
- 11.3 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health re Recognition of Leadership as the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario.

- 11.4 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to Dr. Kieran Moore, Medical Officer of Health for KFL&A Public Health re Congratulations on upcoming position of Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- 11.5 News Release from the Province of Ontario re Ontario To Appoint New Chief Medical Officer of Health.
- 11.6 Email from Colleen Kiel, Director, Strategy and Planning Branch of the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health re Ontario to Move to Step One of Roadmap to Reopen on June 11.
- 11.7 Letter from Mayor Andy Mitchell, Board Chair of Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Appreciation and Support on the decision to extend the current Stay-at-Home Order.
- 11.8 Letter from Ronald D. Cohn, President & CEO for the Hospital for Sick Children and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair for the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education re Return to School is an Essential Priority.
- 11.9 alPHa Information Break – May 18, 2021.
- 11.10 Letter from John Klinck, District Chair and Steve Clement, Health Services Committee Chair from the District Municipality of Muskoka to Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Letter of Appreciation.

12. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- Potential for July/August meeting
- September 15, 2021
- October 20, 2021

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 pm.

Motion 13.0

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:18am.

CARRIED

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health