

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**May 18, 2022
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

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

Regrets: G. Harvey, S. Warnock

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

1. Call To Order

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

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

2. Approval of the Agenda

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

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 April 20, 2022.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the April 20, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

- 5.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 and Agency Recovery Update. Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner, Natalie Riewe and Colleen Nisbet presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update of the pandemic noting that globally the level of mortality has dropped tremendously, however, there continues to be high levels of transmission and a significant number of cases occurring over the past month.

Provincially, there is a continuation of cases, however hospitalizations are declining. Omicrons subvariants are continuing to dominate in Ontario which are highly transmissible, however not as severe.

It was discussed that we are now in the recovery phase of the 6th wave with declining levels of COVID-19 in wastewater surveillance. Board members reviewed the current statistics provincially and across Simcoe Muskoka.

C. Nisbet provided an operational update including deploying and repatriating staff, recruitment, provincial support and scalable COVID-19 activities. Immunization plans for the summer and fall were reviewed and strategies to manage future COVID-19 surges.

N. Riewe provided an update on recovery activities that are occurring throughout the health unit as well as the renewal of programs. Board members reviewed these details and provided feedback.

The return to office plan was reviewed which was originally presented to the Board in December 2021, however implementation was placed on hold. Since that time, a staff evaluation survey was completed, the implementation plan is being finalized and a communications plan is being developed. The Work from Home policy is also undergoing revisions.

Board members discussed the lack of Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) being completed during COVID-19 and the strategies to respond to questions related to modifying these should they arise.

Motion 5.1

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health receive this update as information.

CARRIED

- 5.2 2022 Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented this item noting that on May 2, 2022, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) Board of Health Chair and Medical Officer

of Health were informed via letters from the Minister of Health and Chief Medical Officer of Health of the base funding for 2022, as well as details about various one-time funding allotments. Board members reviewed the budget information which indicated that funding is limited to a 1% increase in the Ministry Grant above 2021 for mandatory programs, resulting in a shortfall of revenue vs. the 2022 budget of approximately \$474,000. It was identified that strategies have been in place to mitigate this such as vacant positions which will now be eliminated.

The Ministry supported the SMDHU budget request of enhancing the Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) from \$2M for operations to \$2.6M and continued support as per the past 3 years for SMDHU activities specific to Indigenous Engagement with a \$90K grant. SMDHU also requested approximately \$6.4M for COVID-19 General programs (case and contact and outbreak management) and received \$2.4M which is 38% of the budget request.

Board members discussed the current and future staffing needs. It was noted that more information should be received from the Ministry following the provincial election.

The Ontario Health Team liaison item was discussed and due to a lack of funding SMDHU has not been able to commit due to competing demands and are hopeful this can be reestablished in the future.

Motion 5.2

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2022 Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement briefing note as information and consideration of 2022 financial status of the health unit.

CARRIED

6. New Business

- 6.1 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending March 31, 2022. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided an update on the financial status of the agency as of March 31, 2022. Board members reviewed the information including the Cost-Shared Mandatory program funding which increased by only 1% year-over-year representing a \$474K shortfall in 2022.

It was noted that management has prepared for the reduced Ministry Grant utilizing vacancy management for positions that would be dependent on a Ministry Grant larger than 1%. The Board approved budget was established on a 2.9% Ministry Grant.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY R. Milne

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 (case and contact management)
- COVID-19 Immunization One-time
- School Focused Nurses Initiative One-time
- Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (100% Ministry of Health funding)

CARRIED

6.2 2022 alPHa Resolutions for Consideration. Report. Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

C. Gardner reviewed the 2022 alPHa Resolutions which will be presented at the upcoming Annual General Meeting on June 14, 2022.

Board members reviewed the Resolutions and discussed if there are any specific recommendations that could be brought forward to the upcoming Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) conference once passed. C. Gardner noted that once approved these Resolutions are public documents and can be shared as needed.

Board members discussed the possibility of providing more local messaging on Opioids. C. Gardner and L. Simon discussed the work that has been occurring over the years including the Simcoe Muskoka Opioid Strategy which began in 2017, as well as other strategies and programs that provide education on this topic throughout Simcoe Muskoka.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health receive this report as information.

CARRIED

7. Announcements

A. Dubeau discussed the award ceremony that was held at Georgian College where she and N. Riewe accepted the Community Partner award on behalf of the agency.

L. Dollin discussed the local watershed committee noting that the Ogemawahj Tribal Council have requested to join which represents six First Nation members in the area.

8. Items of Education

- 8.1 aPHa 2022 Annual General Meeting, Conference, Section Meetings, and Optional Pre-Conference Workshop. June 13 & 14, 2022.

9. Items of Information

- 9.1 Staff Blog re Health Unit is Recipient of Georgian College Award.
- 9.2 News Release re Gail Hunt announced as President and CEO of Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre.
- 9.3 News Release re Dr. Nadiya Sunderji announced as new President and CEO of Waypoint Centre for Mental Health Care.
- 9.4 Letter from Gary McNamara, Chair of the Windsor-Essex County Board of Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Letter of Support – Response to the Opioid Crisis in Ontario-Wide.
- 9.5 Letter from Mayor Andy Mitchell, Chair for Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Provincial Opioid Crisis Response.
- 9.6 Letter from Ms. Sue Paterson, Chair of the Board of Health and Dr. Ian Arra, Medical Officer of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and the Honourable Michael A. Tibollo, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Mental Health and Opioid Crisis.
- 9.7 Letter from Mayor Andy Mitchell, Chair for Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Extension of Ontario Regulation 116/20, Work Deployment Measures for Boards of Health.
- 9.8 Email from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, aPHa President re aPHa Elections Primer for 2022.
- 9.9 Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA) re 2022 Ontario Election Priorities.
- 9.10 aPHa Update re Fitness Challenge and Registration for the 2022 Annual General Meeting, Conference, Section Meetings, and Optional Pre-Conference Workshop.
- 9.11 aPHa Public Health Matters Video

10. Date of Next Meetings

- June 15, 2022
- September 21, 2022

11. Adjournment

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

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

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health