

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**November 16, 2022
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

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

Regrets: S. Kinsella

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

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

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 October 19, 2022.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the October 19, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 Finance & HR Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the October 19, 2022 in camera minutes and discuss one Finance/HR Issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

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

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 COVID-19, Influenza and RSV Update. Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner and Dr. Colin Lee presenting.

C. Gardner discussed the 'triple threat' of COVID-19, influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) that is occurring in Ontario and the ongoing danger of new COVID-19 variants emerging. Since May 2022, mortality has reduced around the world however it is important to note that the ongoing mortality rate from COVID in Simcoe Muskoka is similar to most prior waves.

The local Community Risk Level is currently high with a slight reduction over the last week and hospitalizations are very high due to COVID-19.

The Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), Dr. Kieran Moore recently held a press conference on the triple threat of COVID-19, Influenza and RSV, and in particular the pressure on pediatric hospital admissions. Due to this, surgeries are being reduced to accommodate admissions. It was noted that we do not have local data on RSV levels of transmission as it is not a reportable disease, however provincial data does show a significant increase.

The standard messaging to the public on how to stay protected remains on the SMDHU website with our COVID-19 Community Risk Level, with our weekly COVID-19 and influenza surveillance bulletin, and now with additional messaging on the "triple threat" as characterized by the province.

C. Lee discussed the hospital capacity issues and the vaccination uptake for both influenza and COVID-19. Masking is being encouraged to blunt transmissions in indoor public settings, including schools and childcare settings.

There was discussion around the potential for a Section 22 Order to be issued to local schools to implement a mask mandate. The Medical Officer of Health

(MOH) does have the authority to do this, however, unlike the Letters of Instruction under the Reopening Ontario Act that was discontinued by the province in the spring, this can be appealed. It was noted that MOHs are monitoring the situation closely, however any mask mandates would be more effect if they were to be implemented provincially.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health receive this presentation as information.

CARRIED

- 6.2 Legionella Outbreak in Orillia. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Dr. Colin Lee, Dr. Steven Rebellato and Karen Kivilahti presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update of the Legionella outbreak investigation in Orillia that began in September 2022 and was declared over on November 8, 2022. During the investigation, 27 cooling towers at 17 sites in Orillia were investigated. Cooling tower testing determined that a strain of Legionella found in the Orillia Rotary Place was a genetic match with one case of Legionnaires' disease among the total cluster of 35 cases.

With the initial declaration of the outbreak Public Health Alert was communicated to health care practitioners to monitor test and report any cases of Legionnaires' disease in patients, and a communication was provided to businesses and organizations in Orillia with known cooling towers requiring that they shut down (when possible) and remediate.

Board members were provided background on Legionella bacteria which is a respiratory infection commonly found in natural freshwater environments; however, their presence can become a health concern in water systems, such as cooling towers. People can contract Legionnaires' disease when they inhale aerosolized water droplets containing the bacteria.

It was noted that SMDHU staff are continuing to work closely with Public Health Ontario regarding the broader implications of this outbreak and the potential for advocacy for system change for issues such as a registries, safety plans and enforcement. It is anticipated that the potential for additional advocacy on this topic will be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY R. Milne

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

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

CARRIED

6.3 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2022.
Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the year-to-date expenditures and revenues which is required to be brought forward to the Board of Health on a quarterly basis.

Board members reviewed the cost-shared budget which is currently in a \$2.2M surplus position. It was noted that there is increased revenue in the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program due to its resumption earlier than anticipated, and an increase in the number of individuals assessed and treated within the HSO program.

It was discussed that the salary costs for the cost-shared budget are under spent by approximately \$1M due to a combination of several factors which include:

- Cost-shared PHNs that accepted a temporary contract as a COVID-19 School-Focused Nurse (SFN) which is a 100% provincially funded initiative.
- Deliberate decision to leave several cost-shared FTE positions vacant in the first 3 quarters as repatriation from COVID-19 to OPHS program was expected, although repatriation was much slower than anticipated.
- Redeployment of new hires/filled positions to COVID-19 and COVID-19 immunization during Wave 7 and COVID-19 the bivalent vaccine campaign which are both 100% ministry funded.
- Deliberate decision by management to not back-fill all cost-shared positions that were redeployed to COVID-19 as the ministry only provided 38% of the COVID-19 funding request on May 2, 2022, therefore there was a risk of a very large COVID-19 deficit with year-end forecasts.
- OPHS operations that did not fully resume until mid/Q3 2022.

It was also noted that in-person staff development costs are lower than expected as most remain virtual and mileage costs remain low.

The technology expenses are slightly favourable as several technology purchases will be processed in the last quarter including an upgrade of Microsoft 365 security to the highest level to minimize email phishing attack risks. Planning is also underway to purchase equipment to enable hybrid meetings in SMDHU buildings and other required technologies

Motion 6.3

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

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

- Mandatory and Related Public Health Programs and Services
- COVID-19 Extraordinary One-time (outbreak management)

- COVID-19 Immunization One-time
- School-Focused Nurses Initiative One-time
- Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) (100% Ministry of Health funding)

CARRIED

- 6.4 Request for Quote: Purchase of Agency Vehicles. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided an update of the Request for Quote (RFQ) process to the Board indicating that no dealerships responded to the original RFQ, therefore it was revised reducing the request to be one or more Chrysler Caravans and to dealerships outside of the Simcoe Muskoka area. Unfortunately, no vendors submitted quotes for the updated RFQ either. Following that, staff contacted local dealerships directly and learned that there is no inventory available for Chrysler Caravans within a 2,000km radius. It was identified that the Chrysler Pacifica was available which can meet the criteria for purchase to be used by staff for public health programming.

Board members discussed the criteria that was used to complete these searches as well as the geographical area and provided feedback.

Motion 6.4

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health approve the purchase of 5 vans as outlined in Appendix A with a total purchase price of \$294,193.91.

CARRIED

7. Announcements

S. Cairns discussed the low uptake of masking in the community and strategies of how to promote masking. C. Gardner noted a press release related to the "Triple Threat" will be released shortly and will be forwarded to the Board once released.

8. Items of Education

9. Items of Information

- 9.1 News Release: Health unit concludes investigation into Legionnaires' disease outbreak in Orillia.
- 9.2 News Release: Local COVID-19 Community Risk Level moves from moderate to high.
- 9.3 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.

to the Mayors and Council-Elects for the Cities of Barrie and Orillia, Simcoe County and the District of Muskoka re Background information on the mandate of the Board of Health.

- 9.4 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the members of the Innisfil Council and Bradford West Gwillimbury Council.

re Condolences of the deaths of Constable Morgan Russell and Constable Devon Northrup of the South Simcoe Police Service.

- 9.5 Email to the Board of Health members re the Board Provincial Appointment Schedule.
- 9.6 Letter from Gary McNamara, Board of Health Chair and Dr. Kenneth Blanchette, Chief Executive Officer of the Windsor Essex-Huron County Health Unit.
to the Honorable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier re Inclusion of Language Interpretation and Translation Services to the Healthy Smiles Ontario Fee Guide.
- 9.7 Public Health Sudbury & Districts' 2021 Annual Report: Strong and Steady in Uncertain Times.
- 9.8 Renfrew County and District Health Unit Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026: Our Journey Forward.
- 9.9 aPHa Information Break – October 18, 2022.
- 9.10 Thank you letter from the Canadian Mental Health Association for a donation in memory in member of a staff family member.

10. Date of Next Meetings

- Feb 1, 2023
- February 15, 2023

11. Adjournment

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:03am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health