

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**December 15, 2021
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

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

Regrets: G. Harvey

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. Warnock

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 November 17, 2021.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the November 17, 2021 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Previous Minutes

5.2 Finance Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the November 17, 2021 in camera minutes and discuss one Finance issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2021 Risk Management report as information.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.3

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY R. Milne

THAT the Board of Health support the approval of a 2.5% grid adjustment for management and non-union members effective January 1, 2022.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 and Immunization Update. Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner and Mary Ann Holmes presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic discussing the new Omicron Variant of Concern (VOC) which was identified at the end of November

by the World Health Organization (WHO) in South Africa. This VOC has now been identified in many countries, including Canada and is growing daily.

Board members reviewed the statistics both provincially and within Simcoe Muskoka. The upward trend of hospitalizations was discussed as well as the types of acquisition.

MA Holmes provided an immunization update noting that community clinics will be operating until at least April 30th, 2022 to provide booster vaccinations for everyone eligible (currently age 50+ and will be expanded further in the near future) and vaccination of 5-11 year-olds. Additional clinics are being held on the weekends in locations such as schools in collaboration with a number of community partners to assist with this initiative.

C. Nisbet provided an update on SMDHU case and contact management and staffing plans for the holidays to ensure this work continues. Due to an enormous amount of daily cases, assistance from the provincial workforce (PWF) is very beneficial, however, they are not able to assist with Omicron cases at this time. The COVID-19 phone line call volume capacity was discussed and the strategies being implemented to respond to the very large volume of phone calls and voice messages.

Board members reviewed the recent communications issued to businesses, organizations and the community in Simcoe Muskoka related to capacity and gathering limits. It was noted that a new Letter of Instruction (LOI) and Section 22 Order have been developed and are anticipated to be released shortly. Board members discussed options to coordinate this messaging with local Mayors and Councils as a public campaign.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY R. Milne

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health receive this update as information.

CARRIED

- 6.2 2022 Draft Cost-Shared Budget and Schedules for COVID-19 and COVID-19 Recovery. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the draft 2022 Cost-Shared Public Health Programs budget which is based on direction received at the November 17, 2021 Board of Health meeting based on a 4.9% levy increase. This budget was also developed based on a provincial grant increase matching the municipal levy of 4.9% in keeping with advocacy from the Board to the Minister of Health.

Funding for all COVID-19 based activities (case and contact management and COVID-19 immunization) is assumed to be fully reimbursed by the Ministry of Health. Provincial funding for the COVID-19 Recovery budget is not fully guaranteed and Oral Health budgets are Cost-Shared except for the Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Plan (OSDCP) which is funded 100% by the Ministry of Health.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note for information and consideration in deliberation of the 2022 budget;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health authorize an additional hiring process immediately for the COVID-19 response for the remainder of 2021 and the duration of 2022 anticipating full provincial funding for this expense.

CARRIED

7. New Business

- 7.1 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Return to Office Planning. Briefing Note. Dr. Chizea Chibuike and Natalie Riewe presenting.

C. Chizea presented the Return to Office plan which is in preparation of the organizational recovery to support a successful transition of employees to work in the office. Board members reviewed the background work that has occurred to date and the objectives considered during the development of the plan. It was noted that the plan was developed using three criteria including community risk level, facility risk level and the agency's operational needs.

It was noted that COVID-19 will likely continue to pose a significant threat in the workplace. Currently, there are measures in place to ensure that employees are protected from COVID-19 transmission at work such as a Health and Safety Plan and COVID-19 Vaccination Policy.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health accept this briefing note along with the return to office plan as information.

CARRIED

8. Consent Agenda

Motion 8.0

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

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

- 8.1 Health and Safety Annual Reporting. Briefing Note. Brenda Hadley and Brenda Guarda.

CARRIED

9. Announcements

10. Items of Education

11. Items of Information

11.1 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care re Board of Health Reappointment Request.

11.2 Letter from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, President, aPHa to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care re Extending proof-of-vaccination requirements to control COVID-19.

11.3 Email from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director of aPHa re Ontario's Public Health System: Response and Recovery: A Survey of COVID-19 Caselaw Video.

11.4 Letter from John Brassard, MP for Barrie-Innisfil and Doug Shipley, MP for Springwater-Oro-Medonte.

to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health, the Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and the Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier re Support for Proposed Supervised Consumption Site.

11.5 Letter from Gary McNamara, Board Chair and Nicole Dupuis, Chief Executive Officer from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

re COVID-19 Vaccine and the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

11.6 Letter from Mayor Sally Hagman, Board Chair from Algoma Public Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier, Minister of Health and Long-Term Care.

re Request for Annualized IPAC Hub Funding and Increase in Provincial Base Funding for Local Public Health.

11.7 Public Health Sudbury & Districts - Annual Report 2020.

11.8 Thank you letter from a staff member.

12. Date of Next Meetings

- January 19, 2022
- February 16, 2022

13. Adjournment

Motion 13.0

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:51am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health