

Board of Health

Minutes

March 18, 2026

9:15 am - 12:00 pm

Microsoft Teams / Mariposa Room

15 Sperling Drive, Barrie L4M 6K9

Chair: A. Kungl
Board Members In Person: R. Cipolla
Board Members Virtual: S. Cairns, B. Norris, S. Warnock, B. Stone, T. Walker, L. Oehm,
S. Kinsella, N. Nigussie, B. Gordon, H. Eves, J. Leduc, J. Smith,
S. Read

Staff Present: L. Simon

1. Call To Order

- The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m.
- H. Eves joined the meeting at 9:26 a.m. at item 5.2
- B. Gordon joined the meeting at 10:14 a.m. at item 7.1

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

A.M. Kungl read the land acknowledgment in full.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY B. Stone

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was no declaration of conflict of interest.

4. Consent Agenda

Motion 4.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY B. Stone

THAT the Board of Health approve the following consent agenda items:

4.1 Approval of Minutes from February 18, 2026

4.2 Agency Organizational Structure Change

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

CARRIED

5. In Camera

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the two consent items and discuss one governance item.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY T. Walker

THAT the Board of Health come out of In-Camera.

CARRIED

6. Advocacy

6.1 Proposed alPHa Resolution: Strengthening Hepatitis B Prevention in Ontario Through Vaccination in the First Year of Life

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon and Dr. O. Pico-Espinosa presenting.

Dr. L. Simon introduced Dr. O. Pico-Espinosa, Public Health and Preventive Medicine Resident.

Dr. L. Simon shared recent evidence has encouraged Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) to put forward a recommendation for the most effective approach for Hepatitis B vaccination, and that a Resolution has been drafted between SMDHU and Algoma Public Health for submission at the 2026 Association of Local Public Health agencies (alPHa) Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Dr. O. Pico-Espinosa reviewed the history and evidence that supports the approach to change the Ontario Immunization Schedule routine Hepatitis B vaccination to infancy (2,4 and 6 months of age). Hepatitis B vaccination is currently routinely offered by public health in schools to students in grade 7 (12 years of age).

The Board of Health discussed the process and timeline to further share this information, and seek support, to advocate to the Minister of Health. It was decided that communications would be best to consider following the outcome of the alPHa AGM.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health endorse the draft resolution on Strengthening Hepatitis B Prevention in Ontario Through Vaccination in the First Year of Life (**Appendix A**), with potential for subsequent minor modifications, to submit for consideration at the 2026 alPHa Annual General Meeting.

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 2024-2025 SMDHU Strategic Plan: 2025 Outcomes Scorecard

Briefing Note. J. Van Donkelaar and C. Hirschfeld presenting.

J. Van Donkelaar shared a presentation to review the 2025 Outcomes Scorecard which reports 23 targets achieved, 2 in progress, 2 not met and 1 inactive.

The Board was informed that the indicators in progress, not met and inactive are a result of the pending revised Ontario Public Health Standards and the relevant protocol as well as the fluidity of staff changes.

Dr. L. Simon shared that the Executive Committee reviewed 2024-2025 priorities and objectives, and while these indicators came to an end with the 2024-2025 strategic plan, some of the areas of work have been taken further in the 2026-2029 strategic plan and other areas remain operational within the agency.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY H. Eves

SECONDED BY B. Stone

THAT the Board of Health receive the Strategic Plan Outcomes Scorecard for 2025 as information.

CARRIED

7.2 One-Time Funding Requests in 2026

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon and J. Van Donkelaar presenting.

K. Thomas joined the Board of Health for this item.

Dr. L. Simon shared details within the briefing note that proposes two One-Time Funding Requests to be submitted to the Ministry of Health by Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, within the permitted categories.

J. Van Donkelaar shared that such One-Time Funding requests can be submitted to the Ministry of Health within the Annual Service Plan by March 31, 2026. Approvals from the Ministry of Health typically come later in the year.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY B. Norris

SECONDED BY J. Leduc

THAT the Board of Health approve the submission of the One-Time Funding Requests in Appendix A to the Ministry of Health via the 2026 Annual Service Plan submission process.

CARRIED

7.3 Indigenous Engagement Update: Letter of Relationship and Board Membership

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon, Dr. M. Quaye and S. Gill presenting.

Dr. M. Quaye provided an update on the status of direction to staff from the Board at their June 18, 2025 meeting:

- For staff to propose to the Indigenous Health Circle (IHC) partners the drafting of a letter of relationship between IHC and SMDHU's Board of Health.
- For staff to explore the potential for recruitment of Indigenous membership on the Board of Health for the further consideration of the Board in the future.

Dr. M. Quaye met with the Ministry of Health's Public Appointments, Agency Coordination & Corporate Initiatives to learn the process in which vacancies on the Board of Health are filled. It was advised that the Board of Health can express their interest to the Ministry of Health for a provincial appointee(s) with Indigenous insights; this approach is consistent with other messaging from alPHa.

Furthermore the Board Chair and/or Medical Officer of Health and CEO can pursue informal meetings with partners to discuss vacancies on the Board; however, no formal recruitment can occur.

S. Gill reported that a proposal for the drafting of a letter of relationship to the Indigenous Health Circle was accepted by them in December 2025. S. Gill shared components the letter of relationship will include. The Board will be informed once the letter of relationship has been drafted.

The Board of Health discussed the Health Protection and Promotion Act, Section 50 (agreement with council of band) and the potential for such an agreement in the future if requested by a local First Nations community.

The Board appreciates the definition of Indigenous includes First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

Motion 7.3

MOVED BY B. Gordon

SECONDED BY T. Walker

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health endorse the following next steps for 2026 under the Board's leadership:

- That the Board Chair and/or MOH/CEO may have informal discussions with a range of local Indigenous partners who might have interest in applying for a Board provincial appointment and offer them information about this process.
- That the Board Chair notify the Ministry of Health's Public Appointments, Agency Coordination and Corporate Initiatives Unit in writing of the Board's interest in Indigenous membership as a consideration for provincial appointments to the Board

CARRIED

7.4 Chief Nursing Officer Update

Briefing Note. C. Shoreman presenting.

C. Shoreman, Vice President Community & Family Health began the additional role of Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) in August 2025.

C. Shoreman shared a presentation that outlines the CNO role and responsibilities.

The Board shared their support and appreciation to C. Shoreman and all of the SMDHU nursing staff.

Motion 7.4

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

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

CARRIED

8. Items of Education

8.1 2026 SMDHU All Staff Day

Date: Tuesday April 21, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Liberty North, 100 Caplan Avenue, Unit 1, Barrie

Registration deadline: April 2, 2026. To attend, email

Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org

8.2 2026 aPHa BOH Section Election

Date: Tuesday May 5, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom virtual meeting

Registration deadline: April 17, 2026. To attend, email

Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org

8.3 Save the Date: 2026 aPHa Conference & AGM

Date: June 8 – 10, 2026

Reserve hotel accommodations for June 8 & 9th by emailing

Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org

9. Items of Information

9.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

- a. Letter from Michelle Rey-Lloyd, Director, Internal Affairs and Best Practice Guideline Centre and Janet Chee, Associate Director, Guideline Implementation & Knowledge Transfer

to Dr. Lisa Simon, Medical Officer of Health & CEO, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

Re: Welcome Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the global Best Practice Spotlight Organization (BPSO®) Designation program

- b. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health blog from Dr. Lisa Simon to SMDHU staff

Re: Announcement of New Vice President, Environmental Health Department

- Dr. L. Simon shared that M. Ruff was the successful external candidate to fill the Vice President, Environmental Health Department role and will join SMDHU on March 26, 2026.

- c. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health blog from Dr. Lisa Simon to SMDHU staff

Re: Upcoming Changes at Our Gravenhurst Office

- d. Signed Order in Council from the Honorable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Re: Sondra Read reappointment to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health effective March 16, 2026

- e. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health blog from Dr. Lisa Simon to SMDHU staff

Re: Facilities and Service Location Review

9.2 2026 Municipal Funding Letters

- a. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

to Mayor Alex Nuttall and Council, Corporation of the City of Barrie

Re: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health 2026 Funding Notice

- b. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

to Jeff Lehman, Chairman, District of Muskoka

Re: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health 2026 Funding Notice

- c. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
to Mayor Donald McIsaac and Council
Re: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health 2026 Funding Notice
- d. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
to Warden Basil Clarke and Council
Re: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health 2026 Funding Notice

9.3 Communications Shared by Other Health Units

- a. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Recommendation/Resolution Report
Re: Digital Dependence Support and Prevention in Pre-School and School Aged Children, 2026-02-05
- b. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Recommendation/Resolution Report
Re: Premise Licensing for WEC Municipalities, 2026-02-05
- c. Letter from Deputy Mayor Ron Black, Chair, Board of Health, Lakelands Public Health
to Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and Technology, Honourable Majorie Michel, Minister of Health, Health Canada and Honorable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, Government of Ontario
Re: Support for the Statement from Provincial/Territorial Chief Medical Officers of Health on Labelling of Alcohol Products and for Bill-202, An Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)
- d. Letter from Doug Lawrance, Chair, Board of Health; Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health and Marilyn Herbacz, Chief Executive Officer, Northwestern Health Unit

to The Honourable Rosemary Moodie, Senator
Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science and
Technology; The Senate of Canada

Re: Endorsement of Middlesex-London Health Unit Policy Position
on Alcohol Labelling

e. Algoma Public Health Board of Health Motion 2026-19

Re: Support For Transitioning To The Combined Dtap-HB-IPV-Hib
Vaccine Into Ontario's Publicly Funded Immunization Schedule To
Strengthen Early Protection against Hepatitis B

9.4 AI Scribe Pilot Study

a. Report and Presentation: Enhancing Public Health Disease
Investigations Through AI Scribe Technology:

A Pilot Study in Two Ontario Public Health Units. Report November
28, 2025. Presentation February 4, 2026.

To view an archived recording of this presentation click the
following link:

https://youtu.be/_Wm9e8Z3Zc8?si=G6SilwBtS1zJTcRm

10. Announcements

- Call for agenda items

11. Date of Next Meetings

- April 15, 2026
- May 20, 2026

12. Adjournment

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:34 a.m.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Lisa Simon

Medical Officer of Health