

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**June 17, 2020
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

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, S. Kinsella, A. Kungl

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

1. Call to Order

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

1.1 Welcome to Celeste Loewe, Public Health and Preventative Medicine Resident

1.2 Welcome to Shelby Stanojev, Family Medicine Resident

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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 20, 2020.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the May 20, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 Personnel Issue

5.3 HR/Finance Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the May 20, 2020 in camera minutes, one Personnel issue and one HR/Finance issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

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

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 Appointment of Auditor for 2020 Fiscal Year. Briefing Note. C. Gardner and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided an update on the appointment of the auditor for the 2020 fiscal year. The Board of Health previously authorized SMDHU to engage in exclusive discussions with BDO to provide auditing services for the 2020 fiscal year at the May Board of Health meeting. This was in recognition of the operating constraints resulting from COVID-19 and was approved provided the cost of auditing services did not increase by more than 5% of the prior year's rate. This was in lieu of an RFP, which was deferred for future consideration to 2021.

BDO proposed an annual fee of \$35,450 before tax, representing a 2.5% increase over last year.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health appoint BDO Canada LLP to audit all accounts and transactions of the Board for the year ending December 31, 2020.

CARRIED

6.2 COVID-19 Update. Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Response and Activities. Verbal Report. C. Gardner and C. Nisbet presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update noting that the cases in Ontario were plateauing, however they are now on the rise again.

The numbers were reviewed globally, nationally and locally. Transmission is still occurring in Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) and Group homes and now we are also seeing clusters in large workplaces and farms. SMDHU presently has two farm outbreaks, a cluster at RVH and 2 in LTCHs.

Locally in Simcoe Muskoka the curve has flattened and is currently slightly inclining.

Currently within the Province, Toronto, Windsor-Essex and Peel Region remain in Stage 1 and all others are now in Stage 2 with many places opening such as patios, shopping malls, personal service settings and childcare services. It was noted that messaging is critical at this time to keep the numbers low.

C. Gardner and S. Rebellato will be participating in a Zoom interactive presentation with members of the business community tomorrow titled *Ask an Expert: COVID-19 Workplace and Business Safety in Simcoe Muskoka* which is intended to address questions and receive information regarding workplace safety and COVID-19.

C. Gardner discussed the current challenges and progress on dealing with COVID-19 including ongoing case and contact management and the need to prevent transmission in the opening of workplaces and public spaces. SMDHU is also working to maintain capacity, and repatriate staff to assist in their programs such as vaccinations, outbreak response, opioid response and reinstating the broader mandate.

Board members asked if coordination through the Province could be implemented to support retail. C. Gardner noted the event tomorrow for businesses and organizations as well noting his participation on the Public Health Measures Table and the ability to discuss with the Province the regional reopening plans.

Board members discussed assessment centers in smaller communities such as Gravenhurst and the options available such as mobile assessment centers. It was noted that C. Gardner is working with the Ontario Health Central Region to develop a Central Region Testing Strategy and there will be access to a bus that can facilitate a pop-up assessment centre where needed.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY F. Pinto

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

CARRIED

7. New Business

- 7.1 COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan. Briefing Note. C. Gardner, L. Simon and S. Rebellato presenting.

C. Gardner and S. Rebellato provided an update of the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) noting that due to impacts of COVID-19, update to the plan is required to assist SMDHU respond to the pandemic. The BCP is a scalable method to guide operations, which was developed in anticipation that transmission would be ongoing to some degree, and recur in future wave(s), over the next 18-24 months until a vaccine is developed, mass produced, and administered to the population. Accordingly, the plan is designed to allow for a resumption of priority health unit operations and programs while also permitting response to ongoing and future waves of COVID-19 spread.

It was noted that at the start of the pandemic all staff were redeployed to assist and are now being repatriated back to their original programs to continue the SMDHU mandate to the best of our ability. The BCP will be adjusted accordingly as the pandemic continues.

Board members discussed the potential for municipalities to obtain support from former SMDHU staff to advise on public health measures. It was noted there is a new provincial website with updated information for businesses to open safely.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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

CARRIED

- 7.2 Revised Cost Shared Mandatory and Related Programs. 2020 Draft Budget and Grant Submissions. Briefing Note. C. Gardner and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

C. Gardner noted that the 2020 budget had been previously approved by the Board of Health at their February meeting prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the updated budget noting the inclusion of the funding of extraordinary COVID-19 expenses and the details of the SMDHU COVID-19 Business Continuity Plan.

SMDHU has received communications from the Ministry of their plans to provide funding allocations for 2020 including details of one-time funding requests to health units in the early summer.

On March 25, 2020 the provincial government announced that the province is investing up to \$100 million in additional funding for the public health sector to support extraordinary costs. Also in March, the government announced that health units would receive the same amount of mitigation funding approved in 2020 in 2021 to support municipalities during Public Health Modernization.

C. Gardner noted there is the potential for future advocacy for pandemic pay, reserves and future planning, and the noted risks for planning for 2021.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health approve the revised 2020 draft budget for Cost-Shared Mandatory and Related Programs at \$38,394,100 as appended.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve an additional draw of up to \$551,947 of the Contingency Reserve to manage COVID-19 activities and enable delivery of public health programming in Simcoe Muskoka.

CARRIED

8. Announcements

9. Items of Education

10. Items of Information

- 10.1 Letter from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to Peter Preager re Thank you for serving on the SMDHU Board of Health
- 10.2 Email from Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's office re Acknowledgement of letter regarding basic income during COVID-19 and beyond
- 10.3 Email from MP Doug Shipley to Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Support for basic income during COVID-19 and beyond letter
- 10.4 Letter from Carman Kidd, Board Chair for Timiskaming Health Unit to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and the Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance re Support for Basic Income for Income Security during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond
- 10.5 Letter from Helen Angus, Deputy Minister from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Pandemic Pay Eligibility
- 10.6 Letter from Carmen McGregor, President for alPHa to Jane Philpott re Welcome to alPHa as the Special Advisor to support the design and implementation of the new Ontario Health Data Platform

10.7 Letter from Mitch Twolan, Board Chair for Grey Bruce Health Unit to Bruce Lauckner, Transitional Regional Lead West, Ontario Health re Ontario Health reporting inaccuracy COVID-19 Enhanced Surveillance of Long-Term Care

10.8 aPHa Information Break, May 20, 2020

10.9 Letter from Carmen McGregor, aPHa President, Trudy Sachowski, Board of Health Sections Chair and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Council of Ontario Chair to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Boards of Health – Order in Council Appointments

11. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- September 16, 2020 – Barrie Office
- October 21, 2020 – Barrie Office

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

Motion 12.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned 11:35 am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau
Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner
Medical Officer of Health