

**Board of Health  
Minutes**

**September 16, 2020  
9:15 am - 12:00 pm  
Teleconference**

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

Regrets: P. Koetsier, S. Kinsella

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. 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 August 19, 2020.

**Motion 4.1**

**MOVED BY** L. Dollin

**SECONDED BY** G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the August 19, 2020 Board of Health meeting.

**CARRIED**

**5. In Camera**

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 Property Issue

**Motion 5.0**

**MOVED BY** A. Kungl

**SECONDED BY** R. Milne

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the August 19, 2020 in camera minutes and discuss one Property issue.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 5.0.1**

**MOVED BY** S. Warnock

**SECONDED BY** P. Willmott

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

**CARRIED**

**6. Business Arising**

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

C. Gardner provided an overall situational update on COVID-19 globally, nationally and locally, identifying the substantial increase in cases, with a second wave in Ontario at this time.

Currently in Simcoe Muskoka there are 2 Long-Term Care (LTC) outbreaks and 1 workplace outbreak. The current cases in Simcoe Muskoka were reviewed noting the epidemic curve in relation to the provincial stage openings and the recent increase in cases both provincially and locally.

C. Gardner noted that at the recent media briefing it was recommended that social circles be adjusted to be limited to households only.

The opening of schools was discussed as Simcoe Muskoka recorded its first case yesterday with no close contacts identified. There have been quite a number of positive cases across the province since the opening. SMDHU has completed many activities in preparation as well as reorganized the organizational structure moving the School Health Program temporarily to the Clinical Service COVID-19 Program.

Board members raised a number of matters and questions, including clarification on the potential to hold Santa Claus parades. C. Gardner noted that these should be viewed as large scale events that should not be held this year, and also noted the need to modify or curtail other seasonal events through the fall and winter season.

Board members inquired about the Muskoka assessment centres and the challenges faced to meet the demands of the public seeking testing. It was noted that an additional centre in Huntsville is working to be established shortly.

**Motion 6.1**

**MOVED BY** R. Cipolla

**SECONDED BY** S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

**CARRIED**

6.2 Proposed Barrie Health Accord. Briefing Note. C. Gardner presenting.

C. Gardner presented this item which is a proposal call for partner agencies in the City of Barrie to endorse broad health promotion principles, and to work together over the next ten years to improve the health of the community by addressing the social determinants of health. The Board of Health previously discussed this item at the August 19, 2020 meeting and requested the language be adjusted to correspond with what was presented at the Simcoe County Council. Board members reviewed the updated language that was presented to the County of Simcoe.

**Motion 6.2**

**MOVED BY** L. Dollin

**SECONDED BY** G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health support the resolution in this briefing note in principle, postponing the application of agency resources to this beyond those already committed to related initiatives until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**CARRIED**

**7. New Business**

7.1 2021 Budget Deliberations Schedule. Briefing Note. C. Gardner and K. Ellis Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided a summary of budget materials and the recommended timeline for the completion of the 2021 budget. The deadline for submission of the Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission is March 1, 2021.

C. Gardner noted the potential for an additional Board of Health Meeting in December.

**Motion 7.1**

**MOVED BY** A. Kungl

**SECONDED BY** R. Milne

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2021 Budget Deliberations briefing note for information and consideration, and approve the proposed schedule of meetings.

**CARRIED**

- 7.2 2020/2021 Public Health Grant & Public Health Funding and Accountability Amending Agreement. Briefing Note. C. Gardner and K. Ellis Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided an update noting that SMDHU has received approval of the provincial grant and the amount that the Ministry is providing is more than what was anticipated.

SMDHU also received the Ministry template to submit COVID-19 Extraordinary Expenses which is due on September 18, 2020.

The School-Focused Nurses Initiative funding was received to hire 26 Registered Nurses. The feasibility to hire the nurses was discussed and it was noted that there have been many successful interviews to date and this is reported daily to the Ministry.

**Motion 7.2**

**MOVED BY** L. Oehm

**SECONDED BY** F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health receive the provincial Base grant for cost-shared and 100 percent provincially funded Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) and One-Time funding totaling \$32,030,400.

**CARRIED**

- 7.3 Updating Municipal Alcohol Policies to Reduce Harms Associated with Recent Alcohol Regulatory Changes. Briefing Note. L. Simon, C. Shoreman and J. Greco presenting.

C. Shoreman presented this item noting that in 2019 the Province of Ontario legislated regulatory changes to the sale, service and consumption of alcohol in local communities. These changes include permission for municipalities to designate public spaces for the consumption of alcohol, a new tailgate special occasion permit, and other conditions that affect alcohol service at events hosted on municipal properties. Municipal councils now have an opportunity to mitigate the potential health and safety concerns that may arise from these regulatory changes by updating their municipal alcohol policies.

J. Greco discussed the long-standing consumption rates as well as the effect that COVID-19 is having on increasing these rates. The costs from alcohol consumption are consistently higher than other risk factors such as tobacco.

Board members discussed the chronic conditions related to alcohol consumption and the wide range of diseases and the activities that SMDHU has completed over the past several years on this issue.

**Motion 7.3**

**MOVED BY** S. Warnock

**SECONDED BY** P. Willmott

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health write a letter to the Simcoe Muskoka municipal councils requesting they strengthen or develop municipal alcohol policies that balance the responsible provision and use of alcohol against the need to reduce alcohol-related risk and harm;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this letter be provided to Ken Hughes, Special Advisor for the Beverage Alcohol Review, as well as to the MPPs in Simcoe Muskoka.

**CARRIED**

**8. Advocacy**

- 8.1 COVID-19 and Long-Term Care Reform. Briefing Note. C. Shoreman, C. Nisbet and J. Greco presenting.

C. Shoreman presented this item noting that the Long-Term Care (LTC) system in Canada is in need of reform and redesign, and approximate 81% of COVID-19 deaths in Canada have occurred in these facilities.

J. Greco noted the underlying health conditions in the elderly population and the increased risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. The local data was reviewed in comparison to global data.

The Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) report was reviewed which was a result of the CAF assisting five LTCHs in Ontario and Quebec struggling in their response with COVID-19. The report indicated highly concerning living conditions and serious lapses in standards and quality of medical and personal care.

Board members discussed the staffing issues at LTCHs related to Personal Support Workers and the recruitment and retention initiatives being done by the Province.

**Motion 8.1**

**MOVED BY** S. Cairns

**SECONDED BY** R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health endorse the recommendations outlined by the Royal Society of Canada's (RSC) Working Group on Long-Term Care policy briefing entitled "Restoring Trust: COVID-19 and the future of long-term care";

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health advocate for the adoption of the recommendations by writing to the federal Minister of Health, the Ontario Minister of Long-Term Care, and to the provincial Long Term Care Commission;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy be provided to the boards of health in Ontario, Ontario Health, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, and to the MPPs and the municipal councils in Simcoe Muskoka.

**CARRIED**

**9. Announcements**

**10. Items of Education**

**11. Items of Information**

- 11.1 Report on behalf of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) evaluating Ontario's local public health system response to the first peak of COVID-19
- 11.2 Letter from Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health from the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to Craig Millar, Director of Finance & Treasurer, City of Barrie re Draft budgets and levy projections for 2021
- 11.3 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Funding health units through COVID-19
- 11.4 Letter from Jim Wilson, MPP for Simcoe-Grey to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Support for SMDHU's Funding health units through COVID-19 letter
- 11.5 Letter from Carmen McGregor, alPHa President to Graydon Smith, President-Elect of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario re Welcome and Congratulations from alPHa
- 11.6 Memo from Matthew Anderson, President and CEO of Ontario Health re Ontario Health's Operating Model: Patient Perspective and Integrated Top-Line Organizational Structure
- 11.7 alPHa Information Break – August 21, 2020
- 11.8 RRFSS E-News: Fall 2020 'PAWS' for Thought
- 11.9 Hospice Georgian Triangle Foundation Donation Acknowledgement

**12. Date and Time of Next Meetings**

- October 21, 2020 – Barrie Office
- November 18, 2020 – Barrie Office

**13. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:28am.

**Motion 13.0**

**MOVED BY G. Harvey**

**SECONDED BY A. Kungl**

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:28 am.

**CARRIED**

ORIGINAL Signed By:

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Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

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Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health