

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**March 17, 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.

1.1 Welcome to Mary Choi, Public Health and Preventative Medicine Resident

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

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 February 17, 2021.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

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

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

- 5.1 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit COVID-19 Update. Briefing Note and Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

C. Gardner presented on the most recent events in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU). The variants of concern (VOCs) were reviewed, noting that the B.1.1.7 is the dominant VOC in our area (first identified in the UK) along with smaller numbers of other VOCs including the P.1 (first identified in Brazil) and the B.1.351 (first identified in South Africa).

Although there has been a substantial reduction in daily case counts in Simcoe Muskoka and across Ontario, there is still the potential for a third wave mainly due to the VOCs. The rates in Ontario were discussed noting the reduction in deaths which strongly correlates to the vaccination of all long-term care and retirement homes where there was a high rate of mortality.

C. Gardner discussed the rationale that was used to return Simcoe Muskoka to the Grey/Lockdown status in late February. C. Gardner reviewed this situation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health throughout the week leading up to the announcement and in the week that followed, also holding discussions with others with public health expertise.

Board members discussed the messaging and communication required if Simcoe Muskoka was to return to Grey/Lockdown and offered their full support if this decision was made.

Motion 5.1

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

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

CARRIED

6. In Camera

- 6.1 Approval of Minutes
6.2 HR Issue
6.3 Property Issue

Motion 6.0

MOVED BY F. Pinto

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the February 17, 2021 in camera minutes, one HR issue and one Property issue.

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.1

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

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

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.2

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health approve the renewal of the Huntsville office lease as negotiated by the Vice President of Human Resources and Infrastructure effective May 1, 2021.

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.3

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health state its ongoing 100% support for Dr. Gardner and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit staffs' work during the pandemic;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health has the utmost confidence in the leadership and decision-making of Dr. Gardner.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising (continued)

7.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Update. Presentation. Dr. Lisa Simon and Mary Ann Holmes presenting.

L. Simon provided an update of the vaccination status in Simcoe Muskoka highlighting the statistics to date by priority groups. The immunization statistics by public health unit was reviewed which notes the SMDHU as the second highest in Ontario for at least the first dose.

L. Simon discussed the timing of Phase 1 vaccinations and the plan to begin Phase 2 as directed by the province. This is anticipated to be in April - June.

M. Holmes discussed the status of community clinics noting the ramping up effective today with 14,000 appointments successfully booked through the provincial system throughout Simcoe Muskoka. Board members were provided an update of the vaccine supply which will triple next week to now include the Moderna vaccine.

The Astra Zeneca Pilot Program was discussed noting that 9 primary care organizations (FHTs and FHOs) from across Simcoe and Muskoka were selected to receive 4,500 doses for the ages of 60-64 who are not otherwise eligible in Phase 1.

Board members reviewed the status of mobile clinics noting that all second doses were completed this week in retirement homes this week and four First Nations communities over the next two weeks.

Board members requested clarification on the types of vaccines and if people should take certain brands with certain health conditions. MA Holmes provided an update on these products and the efficacy of each.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

CARRIED

- 7.2 Appointment of Legal Advisors. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis provided presented this item noting that at the February 17, 2021 Board of Health meeting, members discussed the SMDHU's current legal costs and directed management to consider a legal review with local comparisons of legal counsel and report back to the Board.

The Board of Health Risk Management Policy indicates that the Board shall conduct a periodic performance review of its legal counsel at least once every 5 years.

Board members reviewed the current SMDHU legal advisors. It was identified that given the diverse legal situations faced by SMDHU in the course of business, it has been prudent to engage more than one firm to provide legal counsel to the organization.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health receive a review of legal services at their November 2021 meeting, given SMDHU's current response to COVID-19 including the mass immunization campaign.

CARRIED

8. Announcements

9. Items of Education

10. Items of Information

- 10.1 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Scott Warnock to the SMDHU Board of Health
- 10.2 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Stephen Kinsella to the SMDHU Board of Health
- 10.3 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Peter Willmott to the SMDHU Board of Health
- 10.4 Letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Provincial Employment Standards Reform for Provision of Paid Sick Days
- 10.5 Letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario from Gary McNamara, Chair of the Board of Health and Theresa Marentette, Chief Executive Officer for the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit re Mandatory Paid Sick Leave for Ontario Workers
- 10.6 Letter to Mr. John Daly, County Clerk, and Director of Statutory Services and Archives, County of Simcoe from Dianne Gould-Brown, Clerk for the Township of Adjala-Tosorontio re Small Business Reopening Support
- 10.7 Letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario from Carmen McGregor, aPHa President, Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair, Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) and Trudy Sachowski, Chair, Boards of Health Section
- 10.8 aPHa Information Break – February 19, 2021

11. Date of Next Meetings

- April 21, 2021
- May 19, 2021

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41am.

Motion 12.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned 11:41am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health