

Board of Health

Minutes

September 20, 2023

9:15 am - 12:00 pm

Board Members Present: S. Cairns, R. Cipolla, P. Koetsier, S. Warnock, P. Willmott, L. Oehm, S. Kinsella, A. Kungl, N. Nigussie, J. Leduc, B. Norris, T. Walker, A. Dubeau, S. Read

Regrets: B. Gordon

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

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:17am.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

L. Oehm read the land acknowledgement.

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. Consent Agenda

Motion 4.0

MOVED BY A. Dubeau

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

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

4.1 Minutes from June 21, 2023.

4.2 Information Privacy and Access Annual Report for 2022

THAT the Board of Health receive the Information Privacy and Access Report for 2022 (in Appendix A) as information.

4.3 2022 Annual Report and Attestation

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

CARRIED

4.1 Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2023.

4.2 Information Privacy and Access Annual Report for 2022.
Briefing Note. Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg and Natalie Riewe.

4.3 2022 Annual Report and Attestation.
Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg and Natalie Riewe.

5. In Camera

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY N. Nigussie

SECONDED BY B. Norris

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the June 21, 2023 in camera minutes and discuss one HR item.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY S. Read

SECONDED BY J. Leduc

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

CARRIED

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 HR Item

6. Business Arising

Motion 6.1

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the Terms of Reference as submitted by the Governance Committee in Appendix A;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the recommended changes in its bylaw and policies, and the requested legal consultation with Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) as noted in Appendix B.

6.1 Progress Report on the Board of Health Governance Committee.

Briefing Note. Anita Dubeau, Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

Governance Committee Chair A. Dubeau provided an update on the committee work to date as well as notifying the Board of Health that the committee met on August 16, 2023, for the inaugural meeting and will meet again on November 30, 2023, as well as in January 2024 and March 2024. The committee has extended its term and is currently set to end in March 2024, unless it requires further extension. The committee has requested to review all the policies and bylaw and review them prior to the future meetings in November, January and March. The policies and bylaw have been made available for review for the committee members through One Drive.

C. Gardner presented the Terms of Reference and noted that the August 16, 2023, minutes will be presented to the Board of Health after they are reviewed and approved at the November 30 Governance Committee meeting. C. Gardner presented the bylaw changes that were approved by the Governance Committee at the August 16, 2023, meeting noting that the bylaw revisions, as outlined in Article 14.1 of the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Bylaw No. 1, are required to be "confirmed by a second Special Resolution at a subsequent Board meeting held no sooner than forty-eight (48) hours following the date the amendment is first approved." The bylaw amendments will be presented for second approval at the October 2023 Board meeting. C. Gardner presented the multiple policy changes noting that policy #BOH114 will be removed completely as the Local Health Integrated Network (LHIN) no longer exists. C. Gardner and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg also presented the changes to policy #BOH121

Delegation of Authority and Execution of Agreements recommending legal review of the proposed changes. Board members discussed the legal review.

Board members discussed the policy changes recommending the addition, within the Board Term Limits of the bylaw, a description of the process of Board of Health municipal and provincial appointments.

Board members also discussed the membership of the Governance Committee as well as the possibility of extending the term.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the Terms of Reference as submitted by the Governance Committee in Appendix A;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the recommended changes in its bylaw and policies, and the requested legal consultation with Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) as noted in Appendix B.

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30, 2023.

Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg and Jon Van Donkelaar presenting.

Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the 2023 year-to-date financial reports for the second quarter (period ending June 30, 2023). The reports included the Cost-Shared Mandatory, 2023 COVID-19 One-time General Costs, 2023/2024 COVID-19 School Focused Nurses Initiative, 2023 COVID-19 Immunization Clinics, Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP), and the 2023/2024 Healthy Babies Healthy Children draft budget.

Of note, the Cost-Shared Mandatory budget at the end of the second quarter is in a \$1 million surplus position noting, salary costs are underspent as they are based on 2022 salaries, not the 2023 salaries as

achieved during collective bargaining and approved by the Board. Retro payments were processed in July 2023 and are not reflected in the second quarter report. In-person education and conferences are becoming more frequent, increasing professional development costs. COVID expenditures will first be off-set from any cost-shared surplus. SMDHU has not received COVID funding for 2023. The OSDCP (Ministry of Health) and Healthy Babies Healthy Children (Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services) programs are 100% funded by the province.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY A. Dubeau

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health receive the second quarter financial reports for:

- Mandatory and Related Public Health Programs and Services
- COVID-19 General One-time (case and contact management)
- COVID-19 Immunization One-time
- School-Focused Nurses Initiative One-time
- Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) (100% Ministry of Health funding)

CARRIED

7.2 2024 Budget Deliberations Schedule.

Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg and Jon Van Donkelaar presenting.

C. Gardner presented the item with K. Ellis-Scharfenberg providing additional details. The Ministry of Health announced the new Strengthening Public Health Plan, including a 1% increase year over year in the provincial portion of the cost-shared budget commencing 2023 up to and including 2026. Additionally, mitigation funding will become base funding. The announcements help inform the 2024 budget development. The amount of levy funding for 2024 will be returned to the Board for approval later in the year. The Ministry also announced funding support for health units voluntarily merging as a part of Strengthening Public Health.

Board members discussed the voluntary mergers and the impact on

Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and learned that the Ministry is currently developing criteria for the mergers. A progress report in 2024 on the voluntary mergers was requested.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY N. Nigussie

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2024 Budget Deliberations briefing note as information and consideration and approve the proposed schedule of briefing notes for its upcoming meetings.

CARRIED

7.3 Fall/Winter Respiratory Season Preparedness.

Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Dr. Colin Lee, Natalie Riewe and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

C. Gardner, C. Lee and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided information noting that COVID-19 continues to occur, and provincial funding is not guaranteed beyond the end of 2023. Planning is required for the upcoming flu season as it puts pressure on resources, and significant COVID activity is expected. Temporary employee contracts for COVID activities are set to end at the end of 2023, but the respiratory season extends into the new year up to March and extending some employee temporary contracts would enable SMDHU to provide the current level of service into the new year. While there are fewer pharmacies and hospitals providing COVID vaccinations, the Ministry is requesting health units to increase their response. It has been verbally communicated from the province that COVID funding may be provided from January to March 2024 with the funding based on Q3 cost-shared statements. Without full assurance of funding, a safety net will be needed using contingency reserves for COVID staff in Q1 of 2024.

Board members discussed the lack of COVID funding as well as tracking and monitoring of COVID illness and communication to the public. The updated weekly COVID level risk tool, which tracks risk level in the community, will be re-launched on September 27 for public information. In the summer, the province charged health units as the hubs for rapid access testing kits distribution. The kits will be made available again at

pharmacy partners and health care providers soon. Discussion of mask use took place.

Board members were reminded of the health unit policy of mandatory flu and up-to-date COVID vaccinations which will be communicated later in the fall.

Motion 7.3

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY B. Norris

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the extension of the temporary COVID response positions identified in this briefing note until March 31, 2024, seeking Ministry of Health one time funding, with a draw from reserves if required of no more than \$580,000 to cover this cost.

CARRIED

7.4 Support for the Reappointment of the Board of Health Provincial Members.

Briefing Note. Ann-Marie Kungl and Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

C. Gardner presented the item noting that four provincial board member appointments are set to expire on April 1, 2024. Three of the four, Steven Kinsella, Larry Oehm and Scott Warnock, wish to be reappointed to the board. Reappointment requires a letter of support sent on behalf of the board six months prior to the date of expiry.

Board members discussed the process for provincial appointments. The province could appoint board members up to one less of the total number of municipal members.

Peter Willmott, noted that he is stepping back from the board, after 50-years in public health.

Motion 7.4

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY T. Walker

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board support the submission of the letter in Appendix A to the Minister of Health requesting an extension of the term for the three board members wishing to continue on the Board.

CARRIED

8. Items of Education

8.1 Board of Health Indigenous Cultural Safety Training – September 22, 2023

Email. Ann-Marie Kungl and Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

Board members were reminded of the in-person Board of Health Indigenous Cultural Safety Training session taking place on September 22, 2023. The second session will possibly be scheduled to take place in the new year.

9. Items of Information

9.1 PowerPoint from the Ministry of Health

re Strengthening Public Health. Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

9.2 Blog from Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to all staff and Board of Health members

re Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement.

a. News Release from the Ministry of Health re Ontario Investing in a Stronger Public Health Sector.

b. Letter from Dr. Charles Gardner, President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

re Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement

c. Letter from the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health to Ann-Marie Kungl, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

re Additional base funding for the 2023-24 funding year.

- 9.3 Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

re Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 2024 Budget.

- 9.4 Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

re Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023.

- a. Email from the office of M.P.P. France G elinas to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in response to the September 7, 2023 letter

re Bill 103, Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023.

- 9.5 Blog from Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to all staff and Board of Health members

re Natalie Riewe Announced as New Clinical Service Vice President.

- 9.6 Letter from the office of Senator Patrick Brazeau to Ann-Marie Kungl, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit in response to the March 15, 2023 letter

re Support for 'BILL S-254 and Act to amend the Food and Drugs Act (warning label on alcoholic beverages)'.

- 9.7 Letter from Matt Newton-Reid, Board Chair, Emily Williams, Secretary and Board Treasurer, and Dr. Alex Summers, Medical Officer of Health for the Middlesex-London Health Unit to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the City of London Council, the County of Middlesex Council, Teresa Armstrong, MPP for London Fanshawe, Terence Kernaghan, MPP for London North Centre, Peggy Sattler, MPP for London West, Rob Flack, MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, and Monte McNaughton, MPP for Lambton-Kent-Middlesex

re Middlesex-London Health Unit 2024 Budget.

- 9.8 Letter from David Marshall, Board Chair for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
re 2024 Funding.
- 9.9 Letter from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health for the Public Health Sudbury & Districts to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
re Public Health Funding.
- 9.10 Letter from Cynthia St. John, President for the Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
re Public Health System Strengthening.
- 9.11 Media Release from Porcupine Health Unit and Timiskaming Health Unit
re Porcupine and Timiskaming Health Units Moving Towards a Voluntary Merger.
- 9.12 Email from Dr. Charles Gardner, President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies to all Health Units in Ontario
re Public Health Matters – A Business Case for Local Public Health.
- 9.13 Email from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies to all Board of Health members
re a leadership training course.
- 9.14 Letter from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health for the Public Health Sudbury & Districts to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
re Bill 103, Smoke-free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023.
- a. Email from the office of Dr. Elizabeth Richardson, Medical Officer of Health for the City of Hamilton, Public Health Services to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and all Ontario Boards of Health

re Endorsement of Public Health Sudbury and Districts letter re Bill 103, Smoke-free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids), 2023.

- 9.15 Letter from Sally Hagman, Board Chair for Algoma Public Health to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- re Income-based policy interventions to effectively reduce household food insecurity (HFI).
- 9.16 Letter from Stacy Wight, Board Chair for Timiskaming Health Unit to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
- re Addressing household food insecurity in Ontario.
- 9.17 Letter from Don Smith, Board Chair for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
- re Letter of Support – Physical literacy for healthy active children.
- 9.18 Letter from Stacy Wight, Board Chair, and Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the Timiskaming Health Unit to the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- re Request for air quality monitoring station in the Timiskaming Health Unit region.
- 9.19 Letter from Michelle Boileau, Board Chair, and Dr. Lianne Catton, Medical Officer of Health and CEO for Porcupine Health Unit to the Honourable David Piccini, Minister of Environment, Conservation and Parks
- re Request for air quality monitoring stations in the Porcupine Health Unit region.
- 9.20 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public Health to the Honourable Karina Gould, Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development, the Honourable Marie Claude Bibeau, Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos Ministry of Health

re Federal school food policy.

- 9.21 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public to the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services

re Request for immediate funding for Student Nutrition Programs and to Increase Funding for Future School Years.

- 9.22 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Bill 93

re: Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life), 2023.

- 9.23 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, and to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

re Support for health public policy regarding alcohol marketplace and product sales.

- 9.24 Letter from Brock MacGregor, Board Chair for Chatham-Kent Public Health to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

re Universal, no-cost coverage for all prescription contraceptive options to all people living in Ontario.

- 9.25 Letter from Stacy Wight, Board Chair for Timiskaming Health Unit to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, and the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

re Universal, No-cost Coverage for all Prescription Contraceptive Options for all Ontarians.

- 9.26 September 2023 aPHa Infobreak

- 9.27 August 2023 aPHa InfoBreak

- 9.28 July 2023 aPHa InfoBreak

- 9.29 June 2023 aPHa InfoBreak

- 9.30 News Release from Ministry of Health re Connecting Ontarians to the tools they need to stay healthy this respiratory illness season.

- 9.31 Thank for email from staff member acknowledging Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's bereavement donation.

9.32 Thank you letter from RVH Foundation acknowledging Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's bereavement donation.

10. **Announcements/Inquiries**

P. Willmott provided an update on the now completed Green Prescription Project with the final report sent to funding partners. The next stage is to expand to health care providers. The report will be shared with the board.

R. Cipolla discussed the City of Orillia's opioid crisis work which will go on the action plan on October 16. Once on the action plan, it will be shared with C. Gardner.

A.M. Kungl provided an update from the Barrie City Council Community Safety Reference Committee meeting regarding warming and cooling centres and the unhoused. The plan is for an operational centre before temperatures fall.

11. **Date of Next Meetings**

- October 18, 2023
- November 15, 2023

12. **Adjournment**

Motion 12.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

CARRIED

Original Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

Original Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health