

Board of Health

Minutes

**February 21, 2024
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

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

Regrets: S. Cairns

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

1. Call To Order

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

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

P. Koetsier read the land acknowledgement.

L. Oehm volunteered to read the next Board of Health meeting land acknowledgement.

1.2 Welcome to Public Health Preventive Medicine Resident Dr. Odia

Board Chair A.M. Kungl introduced Dr. Blessing Odia, Public Health Preventive Medicine resident who is completing a rotation at the health unit.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY A. Dubeau

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 H. Eves

SECONDED BY B. Gordon

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the January 17, 2024 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

4.1 Approval of Minutes from January 17, 2024.

5. In Camera

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the January 17, 2024 in camera minutes and discuss one Facilities and Finance Item, one HR item, and one Governance item.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY Peter Willmott

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

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY B. Norris

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

Closed Session Item 1.2 (5.2)

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve staff to act as directed in camera.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.3

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY A. Dubeau

Closed Session Item 1.3 (5.3)

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health agree to participate as able on the board engagement tables for the Couchiching and South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Teams.

CARRIED

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 Facilities and Finance Item

5.3 HR Item

5.4 Governance Item

6. Business Arising

6.1 2024 Budget

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

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and J. Van Donkelaar presented the item outlining the Cost-Shared budget, the 2024 COVID-19 Immunization budget, and the 2024 Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) for submission to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health announced in 2023 that mitigation funding will become base cost-shared funding rather than an annual one-time funding. Also, the base grant amount would increase by 1% between 2024-2026.

As approved by the Board of Health in September 2023, there will be a contingency reserve draw of \$622,451 to maintain public health services and support for COVID-19 outbreak response for the period January 1-March 31, 2024. Also, the Ministry of Health did state that COVID-19 immunization expenses incurred between January 1-March 31, 2024 would likely be reimbursed.

Board members discussed.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY H. Eves

SECONDED BY B. Gordon

THAT the Board of Health approve the 2024 base budget for Cost-Shared Mandatory at \$38,877,524 reflecting a 2024 municipal levy of \$10,391,366;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the following for 2024:

- COVID-19 Immunization Schedule for January 1 – March 31, 2024
- Oral Health & Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program Budget;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the draw of up to \$622,451 of the Public Health Contingency Reserve to maintain public health services and potentially support COVID-19 outbreak response January 1 – March 31, 2024 inclusive;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health authorize the submission of the 2024 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission reflecting the 2024 budget for Cost-Shared Mandatory Programs and Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program on or before April 1, 2024;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health authorize the submission of COVID-19 immunization expenses via Ministry of Health template when it is released to health units.

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 External Audit Services Contract Award

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

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and J. Van Donkelaar presented the item providing details on the Request for Proposal (RFP) which was scheduled to be sent out for auditors. Through a deeper investigation, it was determined that two audit companies were listed on the Ontario's Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM), a strategic sourcing organization established by the

Ontario government to encourage collaborative purchasing across the broader public sector. OECM lists both BDO Canada LLP, our current auditor, as well as KPMG LLP with high ratings, with KPMG LLP, slightly less expensive. Despite the slightly higher costs, it is recommended that BDO Canada LLP be appointed as SMDHU auditors for 2024 and 2025 due to experience with SMDHU many years, BDO's knowledge of our finance systems and continuity of an effective relationship.

Board members discussed.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health participate in Ontario's Education Collaborative Marketplace (OECM) External Audit Services master agreements and price lists to establish a current auditing contract;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health select BDO Canada LLP from the list of successful auditing services firms established by OECM to establish a client-supplier agreement based on the pricing terms established by OECM to perform agency auditing services in the 2024 and 2025 financial years.

CARRIED

7.2 SMDHU and Artificial Intelligence

Briefing Note. Steven Rebellato presenting.

S. Rebellato presented the item outlining the details and providing a background for Artificial Intelligence (AI) as well summarizing the details for the recommended development and submission of an Association of Public Health Agencies (aPHa) resolution to be presented at the June aPHa Annual General Meeting.

Board members discussed AI and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), noting that S. Rebellato is a leader in this space and new technology.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY J. Leduc

SECONDED BY N. Nigussie

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the development of an ALPHA resolution to guide the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in Local Public Health Agencies.

CARRIED

8. Advocacy

8.1 Addressing Climate Health, Healthy Built Environments and Health Equity Through Public Health Advocacy

Briefing Note. Steven Rebellato, Carolyn Shoreman, Brenda Armstrong, Christine Bushey, and Sarah Warren presenting.

C. Gardner introduced the item with S. Rebellato, C. Shoreman, B. Armstrong, C. Bushey, and S. Warren providing details on the climate health, healthy built environments and health equity item. The climate change update and subsequent advocacy were presented as requested by the Board of Health.

Board members discussed future preparedness for extremely high temperatures. Board members were advised that a smoke alert system and cooling centres are in place. Additionally, that the province has provided guidance regarding heat domes and smoke. Much of the learning for smoke and health equity and vulnerable populations comes from British Columbia.

There was discussion of presenting the item for action at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO).

Motion 8.1

MOVED BY S. Read

SECONDED BY J. Smith

THAT the Board of Health endorse the position statements on climate change, healthy built environments, and health equity in Appendix A.

CARRIED

8.2 Nutritious Food Basket 2023 Update

Briefing Note. Carolyn Shoreman, Christine Bushey, and Vanessa Hurley presenting.

C. Shoreman, C. Bushey and V. Hurley presented the item providing an update on the Nutritious Food Basket (NFB). The update revealed current survey findings related to food affordability in the region resulting in a continuously worsening situation.

Board members discussed.

Motion 8.2

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY T. Walker

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

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health write a letter to the Premier of Ontario, endorsing the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) resolution #A23-05 [Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates](#) (in Appendix A), citing local household food insecurity data and encouraging action on income solutions;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT a copy be provided to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Children, Community and Social Services, alPHA, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, and to the Members of Provincial Parliament, Members of Parliament and the municipal councils in Simcoe Muskoka.

CARRIED

9. Items of Education

9.1 TOPHC 2024 Convention (in-person & virtual)

- March 26, 2024 (in-person)
- April 3, 2024 (virtual)

9.2 alPHA Conference and Annual General Meeting (in-person)

- June 5-7, 2024

10. Items of Information

10.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

- 10.1.1 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 2023-2024 One-time COVID-19 Response Funding.
 - A. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl to the Honourable Sylvia Jones Deputy Premier and Minister of Health re COVID-19 Funding.
- 10.1.2 Order in Council re Stephen Kinsella's provincial re appointment to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- 10.1.3 Order in Council re Larry Oehm's provincial re appointment to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- 10.1.4 Order in Council re Scott Warnock's provincial re appointment to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- 10.2 Ontario Public Health Standards Review
 - 10.2.1 Memorandum from Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health with the Ministry of Health
re Update: Ontario Public Health Standards Review.
 - 10.2.2 Addendum from the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health
re Ontario Public Health Standards Review.
- 10.3 Tobacco and Nicotine
 - 10.3.1 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair, and Dr. Miriam Klassen, Medical Officer of Health for Huron Perth Public Health, to the Honourable Mark Holland Minister of Health
re Call for Federal Government to Take Immediate Action on Nicotine Pouches.
 - 10.3.2 Email from Dr. Mehdi Aloosh, Medical Officer of Health for Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
re Board of Health Resolution on Nicotine Pouches.
- 10.4 Food Insecurity and Housing
 - 10.4.1 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public Health to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
re Food Insecurity in Huron and Perth 2023 (Provincial).

10.4.2 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public Health to the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services and the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

re Food Insecurity in Huron and Perth 2023 (Provincial).

10.4.3 Letter from Bernie MacLellan, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public Health to the Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, and the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities

re Food Insecurity and Affordable Housing (Federal).

10.4.4 Letter from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

re Household Food Insecurity.

10.5 Intimate Partner Violence

10.5.1 Letter from Joy Lachica, Board Chair for Peterborough 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 Intimate Partner Violence and Public Health Action.

A. Letter from Rick Champagne, Board Chair for North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, the Honourable Sylvia Jones Minister Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and the Honourable Michael Parsa, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services re Intimate Partner Violence and Public Health Action.

10.6 Indoor Air Quality

1.6.1 Letter from Joy Lachica, Board Chair for Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, the Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health (Canada), and the Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Housing, Infrastructure and Communities (Canada) re

Legislated improvements to indoor air quality (IAQ) in indoor public settings.

10.7 aPHa InfoBreaks

10.7.1 January 2024 aPHa InfoBreak

10.7.2 February 2024 aPHa InfoBreak

11. Announcements/Inquiries

A. Dubeau, the Board Governance Committee Chair, reminded the members of the meeting taking place on February 29, 2024.

12. Date of Next Meetings

- March 20, 2024
- April 17, 2024

13. Adjournment

Motion Item 13.0

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY B. Norris

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:06pm.

CARRIED

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health