

Board of Health

Minutes

April 15, 2026

9:15 am - 12:00 pm

Microsoft Teams / Mariposa Room

15 Sperling Drive, Barrie L4M 6K9

Chair: A. Kungl
Board Members In Person: R. Cipolla
Board Members Virtual: B. Norris, S. Warnock, S. Kinsella, B. Stone, L. Oehm, H. Eves,
B. Gordon, J. Leduc, J. Smith, N. Nigussie, S. Cairns, S. Read,
T. Walker

Staff Present: L. Simon , K. Ellis-Scharfenberg
Recorder: M. Nickason

1. Call To Order

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

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

L. Oehm read the land acknowledgement in full.

1.2 Welcome Matthew Ruf, Vice President, Environmental Health Department

A.M. Kungl welcomed M. Ruf on behalf of the Board of Health.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY N. Nigussie

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There was no declaration of conflict of interest.

4. Consent Agenda

Motion 4.0

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

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

4.1 Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2026

CARRIED

5. In Camera

- J. Leduc exited the meeting at 10:00 a.m. and was not present to vote on Motion 5.0.2 and all Motions thereafter.

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY B. Stone

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the two consent items and discuss one corporate item and one finance item.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY T. Walker

SECONDED BY B. Gordon

THAT the Board of Health come out of In-Camera and report.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY B. Stone

THAT the Board of Health authorize the allocation of \$461,176 from the surplus to the Contingency Reserve.

CARRIED

6. New Business

6.1 BDO 2025 Audit

Report and Presentation. Kerri Graham, Auditor, BDO presenting

K. Graham, Partner and A. Pabbi, Manager - Audit & Assurance, BDO Canada LLP joined the Board of Health for this item.

K. Graham presented the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2025, which reports a clean audit, and that BDO is in agreement with, and has no issues to report, in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards.

K. Graham and A. Pabbi met with Dr. Simon, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and J. Van Donkelaar on April 7, 2026 to review the draft financial statements.

At the Board's request, K. Graham shared insights on the development and use of artificial intelligence, and its impact on the future process of financial audits.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY B. Norris

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health receive and approve the 2025 audited financial statements.

CARRIED

6.2 Information Privacy and Access Annual Report for 2025

Briefing Note. N. Riewe presenting

Effective August 5, 2025, N. Riewe was assigned the duties of Privacy Officer.

N. Riewe highlighted key information from the SMDHU Information Privacy and Access Report for 2025 which provides details about Privacy and Access to records.

The report highlights a surge in Freedom of Information (FOI) requests under MFIPPA and PHIPHA. The agency has received large, complex FOI requests and is utilizing legal advice and technology support from Lerner's LLP to process these requests.

In response to the surge of FOI requests, the agency has determined that charging a reasonable fee to offset administrative costs is appropriate for SMDHU to consider going forward. Upon request, Lerner's LLP has developed a fee guidance document based on the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario fee guide to assist SMDHU in 2026 with fee decision making for FOI requests.

The SMDHU Privacy Statement was updated in 2025 to include information regarding use of a chatbot for website visitors. The privacy statement will continue to expand as the agency adds more artificial intelligence projects.

The Board held discussion about individual's rights to access personal health records, and would like to ensure the agency approach supports transparency, trust and ease of access.

B. Gordon exited the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and was not present to vote on Motion 6.2 and remaining Motions thereafter.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY S. Read

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health receive the Information Privacy and Access Report for 2025 as information (**Appendix A**).

CARRIED

6.3 SMDHU Communications Overview

Briefing Note. Dr. M. Quaye and S. Gill presenting

S. Gill shared a presentation that highlights the SMDHU communication strategies, priorities, governance and roles.

The communications team provides a centralized approach to ensure consistent and quality messaging, and risk management in compliance with accessibility and AODA standards that also align with Ontario Public Health Standards expectations.

Communication is leveraged in a variety of channels for internal and external audiences including website, traditional media, social media and marketing campaigns and visual communication materials.

The Board requested additional information to help inform them and their municipalities to know the role of public health enforcement; specifically in regards to the Smoke Free Ontario Act.

The Board was informed of the preparation and background research to develop campaigns and the evaluation process that is put in place to measure performance.

The Board shared their support and appreciation to the communications team.

Motion 6.3

MOVED BY S. Read

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

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

CARRIED

7. Advocacy

7.1 Understanding Alcohol Harms and Availability in Simcoe Muskoka

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon, C. Shoreman, P. Rush and S. Gill presenting

P. Rush shared a presentation with key highlights from the data brief that outlines the health impacts and financial costs associated with alcohol use in Simcoe Muskoka. The data brief is intended to share with Simcoe

Muskoka municipal partners to help inform decision-making and to encourage the strengthening of current municipal alcohol policies and bylaws to better protect communities from alcohol related health and well-being harms.

The Board discussed the potential for advocacy through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for broad messaging to the municipal sector.

The Substance Use Prevention and Harm Reduction program will continue to support local municipalities in incorporating evidence on alcohol related harms into their policies and practices.

N. Nigussie exited the meeting and was not present to vote on Motion 7.1 and the Motions thereafter.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note and Alcohol Data Brief as information;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health send the Alcohol Data Brief to all SMDHU municipalities along with a letter encouraging elected officials and municipal staff to consider the health and social impacts of increased alcohol access and availability when reviewing their existing policies and bylaws;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the communication be cc'd to local First Nations community leadership and MPPs in Simcoe Muskoka.

CARRIED

8. Items of Education

8.1 2026 SMDHU All Staff Education Day

Date: Tuesday April 21, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Liberty North, 100 Caplan Avenue, Unit 1, Barrie

8.2 aPHa Lunch-and-Learn with GenWell - Workplace Health and Wellness

Date: Friday May 1, 2026

Time: 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

8.3 aPHa 2026 BOH Section Election

Date: Tuesday May 5, 2026

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Meeting

Registration closes: April 17, 2026

To attend, email Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org

8.4 aPHa 2026 Conference & AGM

Date: June 8 – 10, 2026

Registration closes: May 29, 2026

To attend, email Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org

9. Items of Information

9.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

- a. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair, Board of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

to Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

Re: Interest in Indigenous membership as a consideration for provincial appointments to the Board of Health

- b. Letter from Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, aPHa and Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, aPHa

to Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Re: Congratulations from aPHa

- c. Letter from Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang, Chair, aPHa

to Dr. Reimer, Chief Public Health Officer, Health Canada

Re: Congratulations from aPHa

- d. Letter from Mark Signoretti, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health of Ontario
Re: Healthy Smiles Ontario fee schedule and access to dental care for children and youth
- e. Letter from Mark Signoretti, Chair, Board of Health, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health of Ontario
Re: Public Health Sudbury & Districts 2026-2028 Risk Management Plan
- f. Letter from Joe Bachetti, Board Chair, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
to The Honourable Marc Miller, Minister of Canadian Heritage and The Honourable Sean Fraser, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada
Re: Advancing Bill C-63 (Online Harms Act) to Protect Children and Youth
- g. Letter from Joe Bachetti, Board Chair, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education
Re: Provincial Action to Protect Children and Youth from Online Harms

9.2 aPHa InfoBreak

- a. aPHa March-April 2026 InfoBreak

10. Announcements

- Call for agenda items

11. Date of Next Meetings

- May 20, 2026
- June 17, 2026

12. Adjournment

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY H. Eves

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Lisa Simon

Medical Officer of Health