

Board of Health

Minutes

June 17, 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, L. Oehm
Board Members Virtual: B. Norris, S. Kinsella, T. Walker, S. Warnock, N. Nigussie,
S. Cairns, B. Gordon, J. Leduc, B. Stone, J. Smith, S. Read

Regrets: H. Eves

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

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:18am.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

L. Oehm read the land acknowledgement.

- A.M. Kungl reflected on National Indigenous History month (June) and National Indigenous People Day (June 21).
- Margaret Froh, President of the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) was a featured speaker at the alpha conference to discuss the role of Métis leadership in advancing health equity and strengthening Ontario's local public health system. A fact sheet is available on the MNO website.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

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 S. Cairns

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

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

4.1 Approval of Minutes from May 20, 2026

4.2 SMDHU 2025 Annual Report

THAT the Board of Health receive the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit 2025 Annual Report (Appendix A) as information

CARRIED

5. In Camera

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY B. Gordon

SECONDED BY N. Nigussie

THAT the Board of Health go in camera session to approve one consent item.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY B. Gordon

THAT the Board of Health come out of in camera.

CARRIED

6. New Business

6.1 2026 alPHa Annual General Meeting Outcomes

Briefing Note. A.M. Kungl and Dr. L. Simon presenting.

Dr. L. Simon shared an update on the outcomes of the alPHa Annual General Meeting that four Board members and six senior leadership members attended (June 8 - 10, 2026).

Updates were received from the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Kieran Moore, who shared current priorities, emerging public health issues, and key provincial initiatives impacting local public health agencies. Other speakers included the President of the Métis Nation of Ontario and Sabine Matheson, Strategy Corp.

The slate of nominees for the 2026-27 alPHa Board of Directors was approved. A.M. Kungl assumed the role of Board of Health Section Chair, and Heidi Pitfield, SMDHU manager continues as an affiliate representative for the Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario. The Board reflected on SMDHU's representation on the alPHa Board and the high regard for staff to hold a seat at the provincial level.

Four Resolutions were submitted for consideration, of which one was submitted by the Boards of Health for the District of Algoma Public Health Unit and Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (A26-01 Strengthening Hepatitis B Prevention in Ontario Through Vaccination in the First Year of Life). All Resolutions were passed and carried.

The Board held broad discussion on potential local considerations and initiatives, and will await further announcements which may happen at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference (August 16 - 19, 2026).

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY B. Norris

SECONDED BY B. Stone

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note as information

CARRIED

6.2 2027 Budget Deliberation Schedule

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and J. Van Donkelaar presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg shared details from the briefing note that presents the proposed timeline for 2027 budget deliberations to allow considerable opportunity for Board discussion and direction to prepare the 2027 final budget for approval at the February 17, 2027 meeting.

At present, a plan has not yet been shared for provincial public health funding going forward. The Ministry of Health conducted a public health funding review in 2024-25 and has highlighted the need to consider multiple factors in parallel in order to achieve a sustainable funding approach for the public health sector. A provincial funding announcement is expected at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference in August.

Staff salaries, non-salary expenditures and benefit costs are expected to put additional pressure on the 2027 budget.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY T. Walker

THAT the Board of Health receives the 2027 Budget Deliberations briefing note as information.

FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approves the proposed timeline for budget deliberations.

CARRIED

6.3 Health and Safety Annual Reporting

Briefing Note. K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and M. Runge presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg shared highlights from the 2025 Health and Safety report that presents an analysis of SMDHU's health and safety data from 2021 to 2025, provides a summary of the accomplishments of the Joint Health and Safety Committee and lists recommendations for continued improvement of workplace health and safety across the agency.

The Board commended K. Ellis-Scharfenberg, M. Runge and the team that contributed to finalizing the report noting the analysis of data presents a proactive approach to health and safety across the agency.

Motion 6.3

MOVED BY J. Smith

SECONDED BY B. Norris

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2025 Health and Safety Report (Appendix A) as information

CARRIED

- 6.4 SMDHU 2026-2029 Strategic Plan: 2026 Implementation and Reporting Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and J. Van Donkelaar presenting.

Executive Committee joined the Board of Health for this item.

Dr. L. Simon shared a presentation to show key activities to implement in 2026 that align with the 2026-29 strategic objectives, as well as the process to monitor and report progress. Executive leads have been determined for each activity to lead implementation.

The Board will receive an annual status update, with additional updates as activities for 2027, 2028 and 2029 are determined and when there is significant progress to report.

The Board discussed community engagement opportunities, communications tools and highlighted the need to monitor emerging AI-related trends and incorporate the impact of AI on staff into future planning.

The Board reviewed the collecting and using socio-demographic data as a tool to better understand population health status and health inequities and the opportunity for SMDHU's leadership in supporting consistent approaches provincially and locally as integrated health systems are introduced.

Motion 6.4

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY S. Read

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan: 2026 Implementation and Reporting briefing note as information.

CARRIED

6.5 Board of Health By-Law and Policy Review

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

Dr. L. Simon provided an overview of the by-law and policy review completed by senior leadership that recommends minor revisions to clarify references to the Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health and the 'Corporation' and replaces all references to his/her to gender neutral pronouns.

Several policies have been updated in keeping with recent Board decisions and current agency practices. Two policies with important changes were highlighted for the Board:

BOH 117 Policy Regarding Delegation of Duties of the Medical Officer of Health

Changes were made to reflect the current practice that the Medical Officer of Health will notify the Board Chair of their delegate when away 4 to 10 working days. When away more than 10 working days, the Medical Officer of Health will notify the entire Board in writing.

Dr. L. Simon noted that there is always an acting MOH/CEO when out of office for 1 day or more, and the Executive Assistant and senior leadership are notified in advance.

BOH 119 Banking, Borrowing and Investment Policy

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg added clarity that there is no line of credit. The bank account would operate from overdraft in unusual situations when the timing of revenues from the Ministry of Health or municipalities and expenditures do not align. The Medical Officer of Health will be informed anytime there is an overdraft exceeding \$100,000 and the Board of Health will be notified when the overdraft exceeds 45 days.

Motion 6.5

MOVED BY J. Smith

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

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

AND FUTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the recommended revisions in the attached set of Board of Health By-law and Policies (Appendix A).

CARRIED

6.6 Adjustment of Board Meeting Schedule Based on Term of Municipal Appointees

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon presenting and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg.

Dr. L. Simon highlighted key details from the briefing note that recommends rescheduling the November 2026 and January 2027 Board meetings to enable municipal appointees to participate.

Post municipal election (October 26, 2026) there will be a transition of municipal appointed members that will impact the SMDHU Board meeting schedule. Senior leadership consulted with legal counsel which concluded municipal appointed member terms end with the end of their municipal term on November 14, 2026; after which SMDHU will have no duly appointed elected officials until new appointments are made.

The County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka both estimate their appointments will be made by the end of January based on past practice; however, it has been noted that it is unknown how Bill 100 the Better Regional Governance Act, 2026 will impact the timeline. SMDHU will plan to proceed as usual with the number of appointed municipal members stated in [Reg 559](#) of Health Protection and Promotion Act, unless advised otherwise.

It was determined that calendar holds will be sent to the Board for November, January and February for the Board to indicate their availability.

Motion 6.6

MOVED BY B. Norris

SECONDED BY T. Walker

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the rescheduling of the November, 2026 and January, 2027 Board meetings to enable municipal appointees to participate.

CARRIED

7. Items of Information

7.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

- a. Letter from The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health to Sondra Read

Re: Congratulations on reappointment to the Board of Health for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
- b. Letter from Suzanne Trivers, Board of Health Chair, District of Algoma Health Unit to Senator Rosemary Moodie, Chair, Standing Senate Committee on Social Affairs, Science, and Technology

Re: In Support of Alcohol Labelling Policy (Bill S-202)
- c. Letter from Ann-Marie Kungl, Board of Health Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

Re: SMDHU Board of Health Reappointment Request
- d. Letter from Suzanne Trivers, Board of Health Chair, District of Algoma Health Unit to Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health of Ontario

Re: Healthy Smiles Ontario Fee Schedule and Access to Dental Care for Children and Youth
- e. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Recommendation/Resolution Report

Waterpipe Smoking Restrictions, 2026-05-14

AMK and NN to connect - traction locally
- f. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Recommendation/Resolution Report

Enhancing Municipal Readiness for Ontario's Bring-Your-Own-Beverage (BYOB) Legislation Through Public Health Engagement, 2026-05-14
- g. Letter from Sandy Cairns, Board of Health Vice-Chair, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit

to The Honorable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Health

Re: Board of Health Provincial Appointee Letter of Support to Enable Continuity of Board Chair

8. Announcements

- Call for agenda items
- Board of Health evaluation - 100% survey responses received

9. Date of Next Meetings

- September 16, 2026
- October 21, 2026
- Tentative: November 10 or 12, 2026

10. Adjournment

- J. Leduc exited the meeting at 9:40 a.m. at item 6.1

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY N. Nigussie

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

CARRIED

ORIGINALLY Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINALLY Signed By:

Dr. Lisa Simon

Medical Officer of Health