Board of Health

Minutes

September 16, 2026
9:15 am - 12:01 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. Gordon, H. Eves, J. Leduc, J. Smith, S. Cairns, S. Warnock, S. Read, B. Stone, S. Kinsella
Regrets:	B. Norris, N. Nigussie, T. Walker
Staff Present:	L. Simon, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg
Recorder:	M. Nickason

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

B. Gordon read the land acknowledgement.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 1.0

MOVED BY L. Oehm
SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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 J. Leduc
SECONDED BY B. Gordon

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

4.1 Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2026

4.2 2025-26 Working Together for Healthy Schools: Summary of Public Health Initiatives Delivered in Partnership with Simcoe Muskoka School Boards and Schools.

THAT the Board of Health receive the 2025-26 report as information

CARRIED

5. In Camera

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock
SECONDED BY J. Smith

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the two consent items and discuss new business: 1 HR item, 4 finance items and 1 governance item.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY J. Smith
SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY B. Gordon
SECONDED BY J. Smith

Support for the Reappointment of Board of Health Provincial Members

THAT the Board of Health support the submission of a letter to the Minister of Health requesting an extension of the term for the three SMDHU board members wishing to continue (Appendix A).

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.3

MOVED BY B. Stone
SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending June 30th, 2026

THAT the Board of Health receive the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) 2nd Quarter 2026 financial reports for:

- Cost-Shared Mandatory Public Health Programs
- Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) and Healthy Babies Healthy Children 100% Funded Programs
- 100% Funded Projects

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.4

MOVED BY R. Cipolla
SECONDED BY L. Oehm

2027 Budget Planning: Municipal Levy

THAT the Board of Health direct staff to develop a draft 2027 cost-shared budget based on a 2.5% increase in the total of the annual levy allocated to the obligated municipalities in Simcoe Muskoka in 2027.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

6. New Business

6.1 Board of Health Continuity of Operations

Briefing Note. Dr. L. Simon presenting.

Dr. L. Simon shared details from the briefing note that provides recommendations to delegate administrative authority to the Medical Officer of Health and CEO during a temporary disruption in the Board of Health's ability to meet following the 2026 municipal election. The pre-authorized, time-limited delegation of administrative authority will ensure the Board of Health’s continuity-of-operations as recommended by legal counsel for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) and reviewed by Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit's legal counsel.

All municipal appointments to the SMDHU Board of Health and Boards of Health across Ontario will end effective November 15, 2026. The Board will not function until re-consituted and quorum is established as a newly formed Board in the New Year. Municipal members are encouraged to raise with their new Councils after the election that appointments to the Board are prioritized.

The Board of Health discussed the functions outlined of what the authority is limited to and what it does not include, noting that approval of expenditures aligns with the agency procurement policy that the Medical Officer of Health can approve expenditures up to $150,000.

Formalizing a process to delegate authority during this time to the Medical Officer of Health is an effective risk management approach, and with Board support will be carried forward in future election years.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY S. Warnock
SECONDED BY J. Smith

THAT The Board of Health for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit authorizes the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer to exercise all administrative authorities necessary for the continued operation of the local public health unit during the Board of Health transition period commencing November 15, 2026, or any earlier date on which the Board of Health loses quorum, and ending once a new Board of Health meeting the minimum bylaw requirement is constituted and quorum is established.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT such authority shall be limited to:

- carrying out approved Board of Health policies and previously approved strategic directions;
- fulfilling statutory obligations under the Health Protection and Promotion Act and other applicable legislation;
- executing contracts, agreements, and expenditures that are within approved budgets;
- addressing urgent operational, staffing, labour relations, public health, emergency management, procurement, and risk management matters;
- taking actions necessary to protect public health, safety, assets, and the legal interests of the local public health unit.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer shall not:

- approve new strategic plans;
- establish new programs or discontinue existing programs;
- approve unbudgeted expenditures exceeding $150,000;
- approve borrowing, capital projects, or significant asset acquisitions or disposals;
- enter into agreements that create material long-term obligations beyond existing Board of Health direction unless otherwise provided for in the powers delegated above;
- take actions that would normally require Board of Health approval under legislation, by-law, or Board of Health policy, except where delay would create a significant operational, legal, financial, or public health risk.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT nothing in this resolution limits or transfers the powers vested in the Medical Officer of Health personally under the Health Protection and Promotion Act, which the Medical Officer of Health continues to exercise independently.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT any actions taken under this authority shall be reported to the newly constituted Board of Health at its first regular meeting following the transition period.

AND FURTHERMORE THAT this authority is intended solely to maintain continuity of operations and shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the principles of municipal caretaker conventions and good governance practices.

CARRIED

6.2 Emergency Management Program Update

Briefing Note. M. Ruf and S. Guenette presenting.

The Board of Health directed staff to defer this item.

7. Items of Education

7.1 Save the Date: November 3 – 6, 2026

alPHa Leadership Series: Navigating Change - half days, virtual

8. Items of Information

8.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

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

to Dr. David Cameron, Ministry of the Solicitor General, Office of the Chief Coroner

Re: Responses to the Jury Recommendations for Blastomycosis Inquest Q2025-31

b. Letter from Robin Lennox, MPP Hamilton Centre

to Members of the Simcoe Muskoka District Board of Health

Re: Bill 121, Save a Life Act (Naloxone Kit Registration and Public Access), 2026

c. Executive Council of Ontario Order in Council for Jana Smith, July 16, 2026

8.2 Ontario Public Health Standards

a. SMDHU Medical Officer of Health Blog to all staff

Re: Full Set of OPHS Working Drafts Now Available to Support Planning

b. Substance Use Prevention Standard Working Draft

8.3 Correspondence from Other Health Units

a. Windsor-Essex County Health Unit Board of Health Recommendation/Resolution Report 2026-05-15

Re: Global Conflict, Health Equity, and Community Preparedness

b. Letter from Luisa Magalhaes, Chair, Ontario Dieticians in Public Health and Karina Kwong, Co-Chair, Food Insecurity Workgroup

to The Honorable Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance and National Revenue and the National Finance Committee

Re: Addressing Household Food Insecurity in Ontario

c. Letter from Mark Signoretti, Board of Health Chair, Public Health Sudbury & District

to The Honourable David McGuinty, Minister of National Defence; The Honourable Gary Anandasangaree, Minister of Public Safety

Re: Protecting Canadians from Biological and Cybersecurity Risks: An Opportunity to Collaborate with Local Public Health

d. Letter from Deputy Mayor Ron Black, Board of Health Chair, Lakelands Public Health Unit

to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

Re: Healthy Smiles Ontario Schedule of Dental Services and Fees

8.4 Correspondence from Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa)

a. InfoBreak – July/August 2026

b. Email from Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa

to Board of Health Section Members

Re: Governance Continuity & Fiduciary Obligations During Municipal Election Transition

c. Letter from Carmen McGregor, alPHa Chair

to The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health

Re: Provincial Funding for Local Public Health Agencies

d. Email from Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa

to All Board of Health Members

Re: 2026 Ontario Municipal Elections Resources

8.5 Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA)

a. SMDHU News Release, September 8 2026

Re: Clinics open this week to help Grade 11 and 12 students get vaccines needed for school

b. CBC Ontario Morning with Ramraajh Sharvendiran

Radio interview of SMDHU Immunization Program Manager (click here to listen)

Re: Potential school suspensions for missing vaccine records in Simcoe Muskoka

9. Announcements

- Call for agenda items

10. Date of Next Meetings

- October 21, 2026
- November 12, 2026

11. Adjournment

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY B. Stone
SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:	**ORIGINAL Signed By:**
Ann-Marie Kungl	Dr. Lisa Simon
Chair, Board of Health	Medical Officer of Health