

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**November 17, 2021
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

Board Members Present: S. Cairns, R. Cipolla, L. Dollin, A. Dubeau, G. Harvey, P. Koetsier, R. Milne, F. Pinto, S. Warnock, P. Willmott, L. Oehm, S. Kinsella, A. Kungl

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

1. Call To Order

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Approval of Minutes from October 20, 2021

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY G. Harvey

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the October 20, 2021 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. Business Arising

5.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 and Immunization Update. Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner and Mary Ann Holmes presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update of the COVID-19 situation noting that the pandemic is now approaching its third year and discussed the current global and provincial statistics. Board members reviewed the cautious approach of the province to the lifting of capacity limits in certain settings and the sharp rise in cases that is occurring. It was noted that ICU admissions remain in control and deaths remain stable across the province.

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) incidence rate was discussed compared with other health units and SMDHU has twice the provincial rate at this time. C. Gardner noted potential reasons for this and why surges are occurring.

C. Nisbet provided an operational update related to the surge in COVID-19 cases which includes the deployment and repatriating of staff, utilization of contract staff and the provincial workforce and other health unit support as required.

The management of case and contact and outbreaks was reviewed and the constant reprioritizing of resources that occurs to manage the pandemic.

MA Holmes provided an update on local immunization statistics noting that currently 87% of those 12 and older in Simcoe Muskoka have received one dose and 83% have received two doses. There has been a relaunch of community clinics to accommodate 3rd dose boosters and the anticipation of 5–11-year-olds once announced by the province.

C. Gardner noted that Letters of Instruction (LOIs) will be issued as allowed by medical officers of health to require proof of vaccination for youth participating in sports outside of schools and places of worship to enforce mask use, active screening and documentation of attendees. There will also be a Section 22 Order issued under HPPA to tighten controls in schools and requirements for quarantining.

Motion 5.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health receive this update as information.

CARRIED

- 5.2 Year-to-Date Financial Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2021. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided an update to Board members on the financial status of the agency as of September 30, 2021. The COVID-19 Extraordinary and COVID-19 Immunization funding was discussed noting that the revenue for both budgets is about \$4.4M based on the Ministry of Health's partial approval and deposit of the agency's one-time funding requests. An exact deposit date for the remaining \$8.4M is not know at this time but expected within the next few weeks.

The Cost Shared Mandatory Public Health Programs budget was reviewed noting a large portion (30%) of the September surplus is related to recognizing Merger Costs (Pay Equity) one-time funding revenue in year. There has been a slight surplus in the salary line due to some unfilled roles, however, these are off set in the benefits line.

Board members discussed the rise in insurance rates noting that this trend is occurring across the province.

Motion 5.2

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note on the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) third quarter financial status up to September 30, 2021 as information.

CARRIED

- 5.3 Reserve Funds. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented this item requesting that the Board of Health revise the Budget and Expenditure policy which sets limits on the Board's Contingency Reserve fund. It was noted that the current reserve fund limits do not provide the financial flexibility that is required by SMDHU for the unpredictable funding scenarios that have occurred the past few years.

Motion 5.3

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY R. Milne

THAT the Board of Health approve the revised Budget and Expenditure Policy BOH#118 as provided in Appendix A with the Contingency Reserve to be a maximum of 10% of the total annual approved budget, and the Capital Reserve to be a maximum of one million dollars (\$1M).

CARRIED

- 5.4 Appointment of Auditor for 2021 Fiscal Year. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg provided information on the appointment of the auditor for the 2021 fiscal year. This recommendation is based on the fact that at the June Board of Health meeting, the Board did not support management engaging in an RFP process for auditors due to the impact of COVID-19 on the agency and the fact that the SMDHU had installed a new electronic financial information system in 2019. It was also noted that as COVID-19 continues into 2022 there will be

large implications on SMDHU financial services including the complications of Ministry of Health COVID-19 one-time funding.

An initiation of an open, competitive, RFP process for auditing services could occur in 2022 assuming the impact of COVID-19 on SMDHU reduces by that time.

Motion 5.4

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health appoint BDO Canada LLP to audit all accounts and transactions of the Board for the year ending December 31, 2021.

CARRIED

6. In Camera

6.1 Minutes of Previous Meeting

6.2 Finance Issue

6.3 Finance Issue

Motion 6.0

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the September 15, 2021 in camera minutes and discuss two Finance issues.

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.1

MOVED BY F. Pinto

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

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

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.2

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health receive the multi-year financial projections briefing note for information and for consideration during 2022 budget deliberations.

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.3

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health authorize staff to develop a draft 2022 COVID-19 Extraordinary & Immunization Budget/Schedule based on written confirmation from the Minister of Health (in Appendix A) that the Ministry will reimburse health units for COVID-19 expenses in 2022;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health authorize staff to develop a draft 2022 COVID-19 Recovery Budget/Schedule based on the expectation that the Ministry of Health will reimburse the health unit for COVID-19 Recovery costs within the COVID-19 Extraordinary reimbursement process;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health authorize a hiring process immediately for the COVID-19 response for the remainder of 2021 and the duration of 2022 anticipating full provincial funding for this expense.

CARRIED

Motion 6.0.4

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health authorize staff to develop a draft 2022 Cost-Shared Budget based on a 4.9% increase in the total of the annual levy allocated to the obligated municipalities compared to the levy for 2021.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

7. Announcements

8. Items of Education

8.1 aPHa 2021 Fall Symposium: Ontario's Public Health System: Response and Recovery - November 19th, 2021. Registration closes at 6pm November 17th.

9. Items of Information

9.1 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health re COVID-19 Funding for Ontario Public Health Units.

9.2 Letter from the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario requesting input on vaccine mandates in hospitals and response letter from Dr. Charles Gardner, Chair of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health.

9.3 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to the Honourable Steve Clark, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing re Implementation of a Province-Wide Mandatory Cooling Tower Registry.

- 9.4 Letter from Carrie Sykes, Director of Corporate Services/Clerk from the Township of Lake of Bays to Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Request for Additional COVID-19 Funding.
- 9.5 Letter from James Chirico, Medical Officer of Health and Nancy Jacko, Chair for the Board of Health, North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health re Public Health Funding for 2022.
- 9.6 Letter from Gary McNamara, Chair of the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario of the Ministry of Health re COVID-19 Funding.
- 9.7 Kathy Vassilakos, Board Chair for Huron Perth Public Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health rehome Health Care Providers and COVID-19 Vaccination.
- 9.8 Joint letter from City of Barrie, County of Simcoe, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and Barrie Police Service to the Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health, the Honorable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, Associate Minister of Health and the Honorable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health, Deputy Premier re Strong support for the Supervised Consumption Site (SCS) / Consumption and Treatment Services (CTS) site applications for the proposed location of 11 Innisfil Street (80 Bradford Street, Unit 940) in Barrie, Ontario.
- 9.9 alPHa Information Break – October 21, 2021.

10. Date of Next Meetings

- December 15, 2021
- January 19, 2022

11. Adjournment

Motion 11.0

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:02 pm.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health