

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**February 16, 2022
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Zoom Meeting**

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

Regrets: G. Harvey

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. Kinsella

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

3.1 P. Willmott - One-Time Funding Requests in 2022.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting

4.1 Approval of Minutes from January 19, 2022.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the January 19, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

- 5.1 Approval of Previous Minutes
- 5.2 HR Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY R. Milne

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the January 19, 2022 in camera minutes and discuss one HR issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

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

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health publicly communicate its support and appreciation for Dr. Gardner and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) staff for their response to the pandemic.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

- 6.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 and Immunization Update. Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner, Mary Choi and Deanna Thompson presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update of the current Omicron wave both globally and locally. It was noted that mortality has been high during this wave and include more hospitalizations than any other wave. There is still a large amount of transmission occurring provincially with rates rising in the northern areas of Ontario.

Wastewater Surveillance is proving to be a helpful tool during this wave related to transmission indicators.

C. Gardner noted that he recently participated in a total of six CBC Ontario radio interviews across the province to discuss the current mandates and restrictions.

D. Thompson provided an update on immunization activities across Simcoe Muskoka including an update on volunteers that are assisting at community and school clinics.

Recently three pilot immunization clinics were held across Simcoe Muskoka to gauge the interest (held across 3 separate school boards) and was very successful.

Vaccination rates were reviewed throughout Simcoe Muskoka in community clinics as well as 4th dose boosters for Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes which is steadily increasing.

M. Choi provided an update on public health resilience and recovery and the significant impacts to core program and delivery, many of which have been significantly scaled down or suspended during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recovery planning is underway utilizing a recovery framework that was developed in fall 2021 to guide the planning process.

Board members discussed the potential long-term plans for COVID-19 immunization including the potential for annual boosters similar to the influenza vaccine. C. Gardner noted that at this time it is unknown, however planning would be beneficial to utilize the current casual staff.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY R. Milne

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

THAT the Board of Health receive this update as information.

CARRIED

- 6.2 Revised 2022 Draft Cost-Shared Budget and Schedules for COVID-19 and COVID-19 Recovery. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the revised budget noting that SMDHU received a letter from Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) on February 3, 2022 which notes that there will be a “provincial base funding envelope that provides up to 1% growth funding” for 2022”. Taking this into account, a revision of the 2022 Cost-Shared Budget and COVID-19 schedules as well as agency needs and priorities was provided for the consideration of the Board. The due date for submission to the province is March 1, 2022.

The Revised 2022 Budget was developed with a 4.9% increase in the municipal levy and a 2.9% increase in the provincial grant over the 2021 budget. This

reduction more closely aligns with the expectation of an increase of up to 1% in the provincial grant communicated within the letter from the CMOH, while also allowing for the potential for the province to provide a grant increase that exceeds this limit in some instances.

The Revised 2022 Budget includes the elimination of 3.1 permanent FTE in various roles and various departments compared to 2021 staffing levels. All of these positions are currently vacant and layoff procedures will not be required.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health approve the Revised 2022 Budget for Cost-Shared Mandatory (Appendix B) at \$37,645,094 reflecting a 2022 municipal levy of \$9,607,406 which represents an increase of 4.9% in the municipal levy and 2.9%% increase in the provincial grant over 2021 budget;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve a Revised COVID-19 Recovery Budget;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the allocation of up to \$500,000 of the Public Health Contingency Reserve being \$117,958 to the Revised Cost-Shared Budget and \$382,042 to COVID-19 Recovery activities;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health authorize the submission of the 2022 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission reflecting the Revised 2022 Budget for Cost-Shared Mandatory Programs and the one-time COVID-19 Extraordinary and COVID-19 Immunization and COVID-19 Recovery templates;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health support renewed advocacy to the province via the development of a resolution for the 2022 alPHa AGM calling for sustained sufficient provincial base-funding for the full recovery of local public health.

CARRIED

- 6.3 One-Time Funding Requests in 2022. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

P. Willmott declared a conflict on this item.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented this item noting that the Ministry of Health has notified public health units that 2022 One-Time Funding Requests can be submitted within the Annual Service Plan process. The Annual Service Plan must be submitted by March 1, 2022.

The Ministry has limited the number of one-time funding requests by any health unit to eight in total with one of the eight being COVID-19 General (CCI) and one being the COVID-19 Vaccine Program. Board members reviewed the six non-COVID-19 One-Time Funding Requests.

Motion 6.3

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health approve the submission of One-Time Funding Requests to the Ministry of Health via the 2022 Annual Service Plan submission process.

CARRIED

7. New Business

- 7.1 2021/2022 Capital Projects; Funding Carryover. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented this item noting that SMDHU was notified by the Ministry of Health indicating that the Ministry may allow the funding that was approved for 2021/2022 capital projects, to be carried over to the Ministry 2022/23 fiscal year. The projects include a generator for the 15 Sperling Drive building and the Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program (OSDCP) renovations to the 80 Bradford Street clinic.

It was also noted that SMDHU received a request for an expression of interest to be submitted for a South Georgian Bay (SGB) OSDCP Clinic. Further information on this will be presented to the Board at the March meeting.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

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

CARRIED

- 7.2 Extension of Line of Credit in 2022. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and K. Ellis-Scharfenberg Presenting.

C. Gardner provided background information on the line of credit noting that in the fall of 2021, the Board of Health received approval from the obligated municipalities to seek up to \$5M in borrowed financing to mitigate cashflow issues that arose from SMDHU's COVID-19 response and delayed Ministry COVID-19 reimbursement funding.

As the pandemic continues into 2022, and with the knowledge that the province will not approve reimbursement for COVID-19 activities until May 2022 at the earliest, the situation may result in SMDHU accessing the line of credit up to a maximum of \$5M in 2022.

Board members sought clarification of the agency's overdraft protection of \$1M. K. Ellis-Scharfenberg noted that discussion with the bank has confirmed that this is a permanent overdraft and can be maintained at this time.

Motion 7.2

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

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

CARRIED

- 7.3 Criminal Code Changes: Protecting Health Care Workers from Harassment re COVID-19. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Bruce Parker presenting. Briefing Note.

C. Gardner presented Bill C-3 which is an Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Canada Labour Code which is designed to better protect health care workers from harassment, especially during COVID-19.

On December 17, 2021, this Act received Royal Assent and creates a new intimidation offence targeting those who use fear to impede health care workers and access to healthcare.

B. Parker provided additional background information noting that these amendments have created a specific intimidation offence which will address circumstances where a health care worker, or person seeking health services, is subject to any intimidating conduct. This could include threats, or other forms of violence, that are intended to provoke fear, to interfere with the duties of a health care worker, or to impede a person from receiving health care services.

Discussion was also held the protests that have occurred at the homes of some of the medical officers of health in the province. On this basis, the Board indicated its support for the provision of the costs for the installation and operation of a home security system for the SMDHU Medical Officer of Health.

Motion 7.3

MOVED BY F. Pinto

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note on the changes to the Criminal Code Protecting Health Care Workers from Harassment as information;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the reimbursement for the security costs for Dr. Gardner's home.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

8. Announcements

Board members discussed the invitation received from the County of Simcoe to use the skating trail at the Simcoe County Museum which was well received by staff and Board members. C. Gardner indicated that he has thanked CAO M. Aitken for this kind gesture.

S. Warnock discussed the upcoming Red Carpet Evening event in support of CLH Developmental Support Services which will feature Jim Cuddy as the entertainment. This is a free virtual event and registration can be completed through the website.

S. Cairns discussed the upcoming Winter Carnival in Gravenhurst this Family Day weekend. Most events will be held virtually, and people are also encouraged to go outside and enjoy the outdoors.

R. Cipolla discussed the possibility for an event to be planned in the summer for health unit staff. C. Gardner to look into this further.

9. Items of Education

9.1 alPHa Winter Symposium - Public Health Resilience - February 25, 2022. Registration closes February 18 at 5:00pm.

10. Items of Information

10.1 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Stephen Kinsella to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health.

10.2 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Larry Oehm to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health.

10.3 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Scott Warnock to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health.

10.4 Notice from the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care re Appointment of Peter Willmott to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit Board of Health.

10.5 Staff Blog: It's time to pull out your skates and go skating!! Invitation from the County of Simcoe to access the skating trail at the Simcoe County Museum.

10.6 alPHa Report - Public Health Resilience in Ontario.

- 10.7 Letter from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, aPHa President the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance re Pre-Budget Consultation 2022 and Speaking Points at the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs.
- 10.8 aPHa Information Break – January 21, 2022.
- 10.9 Letter from Mayor Andy Mitchell, Board Chair for Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health re COVID-19 Vaccine and the Immunization of School Pupils Act.

11. Date of Next Meetings

- March 16, 2022
- April 20, 2022

12. Adjournment

Motion 12.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:31am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health