

Board of Health

Minutes

**February 1, 2023
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

Board Members Present: R. Cipolla, P. Koetsier, S. Warnock, P. Willmott, L. Oehm, S. Kinsella, A. Kungl, N. Nigussie, B. Gordon, J. Leduc, B. Norris, T. Walker

Regrets: S. Cairns

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

1. Call To Order

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

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

In place of the Board Chair, C. Gardner read out the land acknowledgement.

1.2 Chair and Vice Chair Vote

C. Gardner assumed the role of the Chair and asked for nominations for the Chair of the Board of Health 2023.

Ann-Marie Kungl was nominated by Steve Kinsella and seconded by Scott Warnock. She accepted the nomination. No further nominations were received.

Ann-Marie Kungl was acclaimed as Chair for 2023 for the Board of Health. Ann-Marie Kungl assumed the chair and called for nominations for the Vice Chair for 2023.

Scott Warnock was nominated by Peter Willmott and seconded by Steve Kinsella. He accepted the nomination. Ralph Cipolla nominated Sandy Cairns and Peter Koetsier seconded it. Dr. Gardner, as agreed with Sandy Cairns previously, accepted the nomination in her absence on her behalf.

Scott Warnock was elected Vice Chair 2023 after a vote which was held both in-person as well as virtually through Zoom polls.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Welcome to Public Health Preventive Medicine Residents Dr. Prikryl and Dr. Pillsworth

The Board Chair welcomed the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residents Dr. Emil Prikryl and Dr. Emma Pillsworth to the meeting.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

5. Minutes of Previous Meeting

5.1 Approval of Minutes from November 16, 2022.

Motion 5.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the November 16, 2022 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

6. New Business

6.1 Revision of Remote Participation by Directors Policy. Briefing Note. Dr. Gardner Presenting

C. Gardner informed the Board of the need to revise the Remote Participation of Directors Policy. In the current policy, remotely participating Board members are not considered in quorum nor able to join the in camera portion of the meeting. The policy has been reviewed with assistance from the legal firm Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) and recommendations are advised to enable full Board membership participation when attending Board meetings remotely. Going forward, Board meetings will be held using a hybrid model, wherein some members

will join virtually and some joining in-person. The revisions will allow virtually participating Board members to be included in quorum as well as attend for in camera items.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY J. Leduc

SECONDED BY L. Oehm

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health approve the recommended revisions for its Remote Participation of Directors Policy in Appendix A.

CARRIED

7. In Camera

Motion 7.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY B. Norris

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the November 16, 2022 in camera minutes and discuss one Legal Issue and one Finance Issue.

CARRIED

Motion 7.0.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health come out of in camera and not report.

CARRIED

7.1 Approval of November 16, 2022 Minutes

7.2 Legal Issue

7.3 Finance Issue

8. Business Arising

8.1 COVID-19 Pandemic Overview. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner, Dr. Colin Lee and Dr. Emma Pillsworth Presenting.

C. Gardner, C. Lee and E. Pillsworth provided an update and overview of the health unit activities and impacts due to the pandemic over the course of the past three years. More deaths occurred in 2022 than in 2020 and 2021 combined and we continue to have between 4 to 11 deaths per week in Simcoe Muskoka due to COVID-19. A COVID-19 index tool was developed by SMDHU to measure the level of community risk of transmission and a weekly bulletin has been developed for health care providers. Outbreaks, especially in hospitals and long-term care and retirement homes, has been largely focused on recently. 80% of the Simcoe Muskoka population has been vaccinated, but with waning vaccine and illness immunity. Over the past 3 years the health unit has enforced public health measures including masking and capacity limits in public places.

Due to high work volumes and redeployments of staff to the COVID response teams, the health unit had to identify, using the Business Continuity Plan (BCP), key programs to remain running, while other programs were put on hold. Work and communications with Indigenous groups occurred during the pandemic years and continues post-pandemic. Ongoing direct engagement and communication with key partners including municipalities, local MPPs, school boards, local hospitals, and OHTs and clinic leaders, racialized and newcomer community leadership, social service agencies and more continues. Dr. Gardner participated in the Public Health Measures Table and chaired the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health and attended meetings of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table throughout most of the past 3 years.

At the beginning of the pandemic, staff were enabled to work from home, and within the past 8 months, staff have been returning to the office under the new Hybrid Workplace Plan, wherein most staff are approved to work from home and the office. When in the office, a masking while moving policy is in place. The agency has also initiated a stringent COVID-19 and flu vaccination policy for all staff.

During the pandemic the agency underwent massive human resources changes wherein the majority of staff were redirected to the COVID-19 response. Additionally, the staff complement was augmented by at times more than double by temporary positions supported by additional funding from the province and volunteers. Staff worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic, working evenings, weekends statutory holidays and foregoing vacations.

As a sector and an agency the need to recover is imperative. Dr. Gardner and Chief Nursing Officer, Natalie Riewe, were involved in the championing and development of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Public Health Resilience report, released in January 2022. The most recent Strategic Plan was brought to the Board for approval in 2021. In the absence of a current strategic plan, the agency is currently working with the official Recovery Plan which prioritizes catch-up in childhood immunization, inspections, and mental health promotion. Even though in recovery, COVID-19 continues with the potential for new variants and requires a continued response to the pandemic.

C. Nisbet added that the organizational change, approved by the Board in the fall of 2022, helped repatriate staff to base programs by the end of 2022. The current contract COVID-19 response workforce complement of 60 staff are with the agency until the end of 2023.

Board members discussed the activities and impacts of the pandemic and noted that more information as relates to offences and charges concerning COVID-19 enforcement would be helpful. C. Gardner to provide this information to the Board.

Motion 8.1

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY B. Norris

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

CARRIED

9. New Business

- 9.1 Board Orientation and Development. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner Presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update on the Board orientation and development, as the Board has recently welcomed five new members. Board members are able to access the Board Orientation package, which was historically provided as a binder, virtually under the Board of Health section of the health unit's website.

Additionally, the policies and the Board evaluation of its performance are to be reviewed and evaluated every two years, but this has not been done during the pandemic. Board members are to attest to familiarity with the

policies, as well, the Board's Performance policy indicates that Board members evaluate the Board as a whole and as individual members of the Board. C. Gardner and the Board Chair to meet to determine how this will be accomplished.

The Board Orientation and Continuing Education Policy outlines the requirement for new Board members to join the orientation sessions with the Medical Officer of Health (MOH), the Board Chair and senior staff for department overviews. In the past, new members have joined for lunches to meet with the MOH and Vice Presidents for department overviews. The orientation is intended for new Board members, but any members of the Board are welcome to attend. The Board orientation presentations will be posted in the virtual Board Orientation Manual.

There are two upcoming alPHA conferences for new and existing Boards to attend – the first is the alPHA Winter Symposium and Section Meetings scheduled for February 24, 2023, and the second is the alPHA Conference and Annual General Meeting scheduled for in-person on June 12 and 13, 2023.

The agency is also planning a Staff Education/Appreciation Day that Board members are also welcome to join.

Board members considered the options for the Board orientations and determined that a full day, rather than multiple lunch hour meetings would be preferred and requested that the orientation be planned as an in-person and virtual event. The date for the orientation is to be determined.

Motion 9.1

MOVED BY B. Gordon

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

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

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health advise on the proposed options for Board orientation and development.

CARRIED

9.2 Indigenous Cultural Safety Training. Briefing Note. Dr. Lisa Simon and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg Presenting.

L. Simon provided an update on the Indigenous Cultural Safety Training proposal for the Board of Health. In April 2022 the Board endorsed the

recommendation for agency staff, along with Board members S. Kinsella and L. Oehm, to propose training options and a plan.

M. Williams presented the proposal which would involve Kelly Brownbill, an experienced Indigenous educator, facilitator and consultant to provide two three-hour training sessions, noting that the first session would be a prerequisite for the second training session. The sessions would be held in-person with the option of virtual attendance if required. The first session would be held in April or May of 2023, with the second session one to three months later.

The location of the sessions would be preferred to be held at an Indigenous venue within Simcoe Muskoka with each session priced at \$3000 plus HST, not including venue/meal costs.

Board members discussed the option of a one-day training session rather than the two half day sessions. Health unit staff to determine if this option is feasible.

Motion 9.2

MOVED BY P. Koetsier

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health endorse the Board Indigenous cultural safety training proposal for implementation in 2023.

CARRIED

10. Consent Agenda

Motion 10.1

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY B. Gordon

THAT the Board of Health receive the following consent agenda item for information:

10.1 Barrie Consumption and Treatment Services Update.

CARRIED

11. Announcements/Inquiries

S. Warnock informed Board members of the in-person Our Health session on February 16 which will focus on Negative News and Our Health. The admission is free to attend in-person and the session will also be available on-line through Rogers cable and YouTube.

The Board of Health held a moment of silence in memory of former Board member Terry Pilger who very sadly had passed away in January.

R. Cipolla informed the Board that Orillia is engaging in education to youth and parents on opioids by community members and requested input or suggestions from other members who have participated or planned similar engagement.

A.M. Kungl informed the Board that February is Black History month. As well, the 'Show the Love' campaign which supports seniors is taking place. Any Board members interested in the campaign are to reach out to A.M. Kungl.

The Board discussed a letter of appreciation for former Board Chair Anita Dubeau as well as for former Executive Assistant Christine Miller and supported inviting Christine Miller to the March Board meeting to acknowledge and express appreciation to her alongside the former Board members who will be invited to join the meeting. A.M. Kungl and C. Gardner to meet regarding the letters.

12. Items of Education

12.1 alPHa Winter Symposium and Section Meetings

13. Items of Information

13.1 Letter from Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and Dr. Orlena Broomes, Board President for the CMHA SCB, to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
re Request for meeting regarding decision to establish Consumption and Treatment Services in Barrie ON.

13.2 Letter from Amy Back, District Clerk, District Municipality of Muskoka to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
re Appointment to the SMDHU – Board of Health.

13.3 Letter from Kristine Preston, Deputy Clerk, City of Orillia to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
re Appointment to the SMDHU – Board of Health.

- 13.4 Email from Tara McArthur, Deputy City Clerk, City of Barrie to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
re Appointment to the SMDHU – Board of Health.
- 13.5 Letter from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, Public Health Sudbury & Districts to Directors of Education, Local School Boards
re Physical Literacy for Healthy Active Children.
- 13.6 Email from Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Heather Daly, Chief Executive Officer, Renfrew County and District Health Unit
re Annual Report 2021.
- 13.7 Letter from Councillor Kathryn Wilson, Acting Board of Health Chair, Peterborough Public Health to Honourable Merrilee Fullerton, Minister of Children, Community and Social Services
re Health Babies Healthy Children and Infant Toddler Development Program Funding.
- 13.8 Infographic from Trudy Sachowski, President, aPHa
re Public Health Matters – Public Health Fall Vaccine Success.
- 13.9 aPHa 2023 Budget Consultations.
- 13.10 aPHa Governance Toolkit for Ontario Boards of Health.
- 13.11 aPHa 2022 aPHa Orientation Manual for Boards of Health.
- 13.12 aPHa Information Break – January 18, 2023.
- 13.13 aPHa Information Break – December 16, 2022.
- 13.14 aPHa Information Break – November 16, 2022.
- 13.15 Thank you letter from the Ross Memorial Hospital Foundation for a donation in memory of a staff family member.
- 13.16 Acknowledgement from the Sleeping Children Around the World Foundation for a donation in memory of a staff family member.

14. Date of Next Meetings

- February 15, 2023

- March 15, 2023

15. Adjournment

Motion 15.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:56am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health