

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**February 17, 2021
9:15 am - 12:00 pm
Teleconference**

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

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

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 January 20, 2021.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

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

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 HR Issue

5.3 HR Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the December 16, 2020 in camera minutes and two HR issues.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY R. Milne

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

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY P. Willmott

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health approve a wage increase of 2.5% across the grid for all nonunion, management and executive classifications effective January 1, 2021.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

Motion 5.0.3

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY F. Pinto

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

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit COVID-19 Update. Verbal Report. Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

C. Gardner provided an update on the COVID-19 pandemic noting the downward trend across Simcoe Muskoka and Ontario.

The increase of Variants of Concerns (VOCs) throughout Ontario were discussed with new ones emerging. This is causing concern for a third wave along with the impacts of the province returning to the COVID-19 Response Framework.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

CARRIED

- 6.2 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Update. Briefing Note. Dr. Lisa Simon, Dr. John Tuinema and Mary Ann Holmes presenting.

J. Tuinema presented the COVID-19 Vaccination Communication Plan which is a requirement of the province to ensure timely and effective immunization in the Simcoe Muskoka area. SMDHU submitted the initial plan on January 20, 2021 and a more detailed updated plan on January 31, 2021 as required by the province. This plan was developed in consultation with the Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Committee which consists of key external stakeholders who provide advice and comment.

It was noted that at this time the plan is evergreen and will continue to be changed dependent on the types of vaccines received by SMDHU.

D. Thompson provided an update of the operations to provide the COVID-19 vaccine at the 29 Sperling Drive clinic site as well as long-term care and retirement homes. Board members received a status update of vaccinations occurring within the community which includes local Indigenous communities.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY G. Harvey

SECONDED BY A. Kungl

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note, presentation and the current draft of the Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign Plan (Appendix A) as information.

CARRIED

- 6.3 Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program: One Year In. Briefing Note. Colleen Nisbet presenting.

C. Nisbet provided an update highlighting the tremendous amount of work that has been accomplished over the past year despite the COVID-19 pandemic completing approximately 920 appointments for seniors. In addition to operating funds for ODSCP, SMDHU was awarded two one-time funding grants totaling over 1.2M for the renovation of both the Gravenhurst and Barrie dental clinics in order to increase service capacity for this much needed program.

It was noted that four denturists were procured throughout Simcoe Muskoka which has made a significant impact to the waiting list.

A virtual ceremony of the Gravenhurst Clinic will take place at a later date which will include Board members.

Board members requested further information to provide this service to additional high needs areas such as Wasaga Beach and Clearview Township. C. Nisbet noted that plans are underway for this and details are forthcoming.

Motion 6.3

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY R. Milne

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

CARRIED

7. Advocacy

- 7.1 Employment Standards Reform: Paid Sick Days. Briefing Note. Dr. Lisa Simon, Christine Bushey and Nico Sheppard-Jones.

L. Simon presented this item noting there is an urgent need to amend the Ontario Employment Standards Act to provide paid sick days during the COVID-19 pandemic. This would enable workers to follow critical public health advice to stay at home when they are sick, in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. It is also important to ensure these changes remain in place after the pandemic, in order to help address inequities along lines of race, gender, ability and income that are often faced by low-wage earners.

N. Sheppard-Jones highlighted the inequitable burdens that have emerged throughout the pandemic due to precarious jobs and lack of paid sick leave which, as a result have become epicenters for COVID-19 infection transmission across the province. According to Statistics Canada 58% of workers in Canada do not have access to paid sick days.

Board members requested further information regarding the origin of the funding and discussed their concerns about the impacts this may have on small businesses that are already struggling. At the direction of the Board, the letter will include citation of the province as being the funding source for the recommended sick days payment.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) endorse the need for amendments to the Employment Standards Act to include seven permanent paid sick days annually, and an additional 14 paid sick days in the context of a public health emergency;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health write a letter to the Premier of Ontario urging such amendments, with a copy to the Minister of Health, Minister of Labour, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, members of provincial parliament for Simcoe and Muskoka, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and all Ontario boards of health;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health urge the Provincial Government to provide the necessary funding fiscal relief and other supports necessary to employees to provide this sick leave.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

8. Announcements

9. Items of Education

10. Items of Information

- 10.1 Memorandum from Peter Kaftarian, Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief Administrative Officer to Provincial Agencies and Health and Long-Term Care Entities re New eLearning for Public Appointees.
- 10.2 Email from Carmen McGregor, aPHa President to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Paid Sick Leave as a Public Health Measure.
- 10.3 Letter from MPP Peggy Sattler, London West to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Stay Home If You Are Sick Act.
- 10.4 Letter from Denis Doyle, Chair of the KFL&A Board of Health to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Mandatory Paid Sick Leave for Ontario Workers.
- 10.5 Letter from Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair for the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health to the Honourable Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education and the Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health re Safe Return to School is an Essential Priority.
- 10.6 Letter from Loretta Notten, Chair for the Council of Ontario Directors of Education and Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair for the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re School Food Programs.
- 10.7 Letter from John W. Klinck, District Chair for the District Municipality of Muskoka to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Immediate Inclusion of Paramedics as a Priority Group for COVID-19 Vaccinations.
- 10.8 Letter from Denis Doyle, Chair for the KFL&A Board of Health to the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada re Land and Water Border Restrictions.
- 10.9 Letter from Ms. Sue Paterson, Chair for the Board of Health for Grey Bruce Health Unit to Mark B. Walton, CEO of West Region, Ontario Health re Public Health Unit Managing the Pandemic.
- 10.10 Email from Carmen McGregor, aPHa President to the Honourable Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance re Spring 2021 Budget consultations.
- 10.11 aPHa Information Break – January 21, 2021.

11. Date of Next Meetings

- March 17, 2021
- April 21, 2021

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27pm.

Motion 12.0

MOVED BY L. Dollin

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:27pm.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health