

**Board of Health
Minutes**

**April 21, 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 R. Cipolla

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 March 17, 2021.

Motion 4.1

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the March 17, 2021 Board of Health meeting.

CARRIED

5. In Camera

5.1 Approval of Previous Minutes

5.2 HR Issue

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the March 17, 2021 in camera minutes and one HR issue.

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

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

CARRIED

Motion 5.0.2

MOVED BY A. Kungl

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health state its ongoing 100% support for Dr. Gardner and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit staffs' work during the pandemic, recognizing the thousands of lives saved and continuing to be saved;

AND FURTHER THAT the Board of Health has the utmost confidence and unanimous support in the leadership and decision-making of Dr. Gardner, and that the Board direct staff to develop communication recognizing this.

CARRIED

6. Business Arising

6.1 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Update. Presentation. Dr. Charles Gardner presenting.

C. Gardner discussed the current worldwide situation, noting that we have now surpassed 3 million deaths worldwide. The third wave in Ontario was discussed specifically related to the daily mortality figures which are lower than the second wave largely due to the high vaccination rates in long-term care and retirements homes.

The impact of the third wave on the healthcare system was discussed noting the crisis situation that is unfolding with the movement of patient transfers and the provision of ICU staff from other provinces.

Board members reviewed the Variants of Concerns (VOCs) noting that provincially the most dire projections have been surpassed. Essentially all cases

in Simcoe Muskoka are now VOCs and there is currently the highest hospitalization and ICU admissions since the beginning of the pandemic.

The enormous amount of ongoing work being completed by the Clinical Service Department related to case and contact management was discussed as well as the Environmental Health Department as it relates to enforcement and other essential work.

It was noted that this is National Volunteer Appreciation Week and SMDHU has planned events to acknowledge our 260 volunteers.

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY S. Cairns

SECONDED BY R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

CARRIED

- 6.2 Simcoe Muskoka COVID-19 Vaccine Planning Update. Presentation. Dr. Lisa Simon and Mary Ann Holmes presenting.

L. Simon highlighted the COVID-19 immunization activities since the previous Board meeting noting the continued successful operation of 13 community clinics, an increased but plateaued vaccine supply from mid/end of March onwards, growing locations for vaccine access in Simcoe Muskoka and continued vaccinations of Phase 1 populations and well into Phase 2 populations.

Board members reviewed the new statistics related to immunization by age group among Simcoe Muskoka residents which will be shared publicly on the HealthStats page. SMDHU is currently reaching out to municipalities with lower uptake of vaccination in the 80+ age group to collaborate on strategies to increase these numbers.

Bradford West Gwillimbury hotspot activities were reviewed noting that 1800 appointments are booked in the coming weeks.

M. Holmes provided an update of the community clinics which are currently operating 7 days a week. Board members reviewed the vaccine supply within SMDHU of both Pfizer and Moderna. The Astra Zeneca vaccine was discussed which has been distributed to 9 primary care organizations (FHTs and FHOs), CHCs as well is available to other healthcare providers upon request.

Board members were provided an update of vaccination activities related to urban Indigenous clinics, homebound patients, farm workers and special education staff.

Motion 6.2

MOVED BY L. Oehm

SECONDED BY S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health receive this item as information.

CARRIED

- 6.3 Recommended Withdrawal of alPHa Resolution Submission. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting

C. Gardner provided an update on the resolution that was submitted to alPHa in early 2020 for consideration. Due to the pandemic the annual general meeting of alPHa was postponed until June 2021. This resolution was to address concerns regarding the financial stability of health units based on the experience with Public Health Modernization. This may return as an issue at a later date, however the context of the resolution has profoundly changed with the COVID-19 pandemic response.

Motion 6.3

MOVED BY R. Milne

SECONDED BY P. Willmott

THAT the Board of Health withdraw the resolution in Appendix A that had been submitted for the alPHa annual general meeting due to the dramatically changed circumstances that have taken place in the interim.

CARRIED

7. New Business

- 7.1 2021 Annual Service Plan and One-time Funding Requests. Briefing Note. Dr. Charles Gardner and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg reviewed the budget template and one-time funding requests for 2021 noting that the Ministry of Health has limited one-time funding requests to six proposals. Board members reviewed the requests which include a new generator, a new phone system, harm reduction supplies and a SMDHU Lead for engagement with the Ontario Health Teams.

Of the six one-time funding requests, one must be COVID-19 Extraordinary Costs and one must be COVID-19 Vaccine Program Extraordinary Costs.

Board members discussed the potential procurement of funds from other sources such as from municipalities and reserve funds. K. Ellis-Scharfenberg discussed the capital reserve which is available if the funds for the generator are not received by the province. It was also noted that the generator is shared with other tenants at 15 Sperling Drive.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY G. Harvey

SECONDED BY L. Dollin

THAT the Board of Health approve the submission of the 2021 One-Time funding requests to the Ministry of Health as described in Appendix A.

CARRIED

8. Announcements

9. Items of Education

- 9.1 alPHa Virtual Conference and Annual General Meeting Update. Ontario's Public Health System, Challenges – Changes – Champions. June 8, 2021 (registration opens mid-April).

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 Larry Oehm to the SMDHU Board of Health.
- 10.2 Letter to Carmine Stumpo, President & CEO and Leigh Popov, Chair of Orillia Soldiers' Memorial Hospital from Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Thank you Letter.
- 10.3 Letter to Janice Skot, President & CEO and Charlotte Wallis, Chair of the Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre from Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and Anita Dubeau, Board Chair for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit re Thank you Letter.
- 10.4 MOH Blog to all SMDHU Staff re Registration Open for Supervised Consumption Site Neighbourhood Consultation Sessions.
- 10.5 Letter and response to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit from the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury re Vaccination Supply and Appointment Availability.
- 10.6 alPHa Summary - Budget 2021: Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy.
- 10.7 Resolution from the Town of Englehart in support of the Lake of Bays letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario re Capacity Limits for Restaurants in Phase 2 under the Reopening Ontario Act, 2020.
- 10.8 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.

10.9 OMA Article: Ontario's doctors and medical officers of health welcome lockdown but worry it's not enough.

10.10 alPHa Information Break – March 18, 2021.

11. Date and Time of Next Meetings

- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Motion 12.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY G. Harvey

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:32am.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Anita Dubeau

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health