

**Board of Health**

**Minutes**

**October 18, 2023  
9:15 am - 12:00 pm**

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

Regrets: P. Koetsier

Staff Present: K. Ellis-Scharfenberg, L. Simon

**1. Call To Order**

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

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

B. Gordon read the land acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion 2.0**

**MOVED BY S. Cairns**

**SECONDED BY R. Cipolla**

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

**4. Consent Agenda**

**Motion 4.0**

**MOVED BY A. Dubeau**

**SECONDED BY B. Gordon**

THAT the Board of Health approve the following consent agenda items:

4.1 Minutes from September 20, 2023.

4.2 Health and Safety Annual Reporting

THAT the Board of Health receive the Health and Safety Report for 2022 as information.

4.3 School Health Partnership Initiatives

THAT the Board of Health receive the School Partnership Initiatives report as information.

**CARRIED**

4.1 Approval of Minutes from September 20, 2023.

4.2 Health and Safety Annual Reporting

Briefing Note. Bruce Parker and Brenda Hadley.

4.3 School Health Partnership Initiatives

Report. Carolyn Shoreman and Stephanie Ross.

**5. In Camera**

**Motion 5.0**

**MOVED BY** S. Kinsella

**SECONDED BY** N. Nigussie

THAT the Board of Health go in camera to approve the September 20, 2023 in camera minutes and discuss one Finance item.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 5.0.1**

**MOVED BY** S. Warnock

**SECONDED BY** P. Willmott

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

**CARRIED**

5.1 Approval of Minutes

5.2 Finance Item

## **6. Business Arising**

### **6.1 Board of Health Bylaw Revisions Final Approval**

Briefing Note. Anita Dubeau and Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

A. Dubeau presented the item reminding Board members that according to the Board Bylaw #1, all bylaw revisions require two approvals by the Board. This meeting is the second approval by the Board to approve the changes proposed and approved at the September 20, 2023, Board meeting.

A reminder was also made to the Governance Committee members to review the bylaw and policies prior to the November Governance Committee meeting which is scheduled for November 30, 2023.

#### **Motion 6.1**

**MOVED BY** S. Cairns

**SECONDED BY** R. Cipolla

THAT the Board of Health provide final approval of the Board Bylaw No. 1 revisions as outlined in Appendix A.

**CARRIED**

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1 SMDHU's Health Equity Directions for 2023 and Beyond**

Briefing Note. Dr. Lisa Simon, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg and Megan Williams presenting.

L. Simon and M. Williams presented the item noting that all programs as well as senior management at the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) are looking at how to address and incorporate health equity in their programs and departments.

Board members discussed issues in health equity across Simcoe Muskoka touching on transportation challenges as well as internet access. Additionally, they discussed how to engage new immigrants as well as Indigenous communities with one board member suggesting approaching the Indigenous community regarding membership on the SMDHU Board of Health. There was a suggestion of approaching MPP Downey regarding identification of an Indigenous applicant. Regarding new immigrants, the SMDHU participates on the Simcoe County Local Immigration Partnership

Emergency Management team which looks at how immigrants could receive equitable health care. The health unit does not engage directly with immigrants, but rather with organizations that work with the individuals.

Board members reflected on Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) health equity mandate and the current constitution of the Board lacking diversity.

#### **Motion 7.1**

**MOVED BY** A. Dubeau

**SECONDED BY** B. Gordon

THAT the Board of Health receive this briefing note and Recommendations for SMDHU's Health Equity Directions for 2023 and Beyond (Appendix A) as information.

**CARRIED**

#### 7.2 Best and Promising Practices to Compassionately Address Chronic Homelessness and Encampments

Briefing Note. Dr. Lisa Simon, Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg, Carolyn Shoreman and Megan Williams presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and M. Williams presented the item which was requested to be brought to the Board by a member at a previous meeting. Information and statistics of homelessness in Simcoe and Muskoka were presented.

Board members discussed homelessness noting that other than direct clinical care, the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit is not the direct service provider for the homeless population. SMDHU supports the networks, is a part of groups and planning tables, and works with organizations that work directly with homeless individuals. The health unit also advocates for living wages. The members also discussed the issue of affordable housing and the wait list times for the housing. Rent supplements are available through the County of Simcoe and District of Muskoka, with the actual funding being provided through provincial and federal supports.

A. M. Kungl to share County of Simcoe 10-point plan for homelessness presentation with Board members.

**Motion 7.2**

**MOVED BY** S. Kinsella

**SECONDED BY** J. Leduc

THAT the Board of Health receive the Briefing Note and Backgrounder (Appendix A) on Homelessness and Encampments as information.

**CARRIED**

7.3 Appointment of Auditor for 2023 Fiscal Year

Briefing Note. Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg and Jon Van Donkelaar presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the item notifying the members that Board approval is required for appointment of auditors for financial processes of 2023. There is an approximate 5% increase in audit fees from last year. A Request for Proposal (RFP) for 2024 audit and beyond will be conducted in the new year.

**Motion 7.3**

**MOVED BY** N. Nigussie

**SECONDED BY** B. Norris

THAT the Board of Health appoint BDO Canada LLP to audit all accounts and transactions of the Board for the year ending December 31, 2023.

**CARRIED**

7.4 Board of Health Remuneration

Briefing Note. Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg presented the item notifying Board members that a remuneration increase for 2023 did not occur and recommended a 2.5% retroactive increase for 2023 and going forward, as well as an increase of 2% for 2024 to keep in line with non-union staff increases.

Board members discussed the remuneration increases.

**Motion 7.4**

**MOVED BY** L. Oehm

**SECONDED BY** S. Read

THAT the Board of Health approve an increase of 2.5% to 2023 per diem rates applied retroactively;

AND FURTHER THAT that the Board approve an increase of 2.0% to 2024 per diem rates.

**CARRIED**

**8. Items of Education**

8.1 November 22-24, 2023: alPHa Fall Symposium, Section Meetings, and Workshops

**9. Items of Information**

9.1 Letter from Kathryn Wilson, Board Chair for Peterborough Public Health to the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier of Ontario  
re Section 50 agreements

9.2 Letter from Fabio Constante, Board Chair, and Dr. Kenneth Blanchette, CEO for the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, to the Honourable Jenna Sudds, Ministry of Families, Children and Social Development, to the Honourable Lawrence MacAulay, Ministry of Agriculture and Agri-Food, and to the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Ministry of Public Services and Procurement

re Investing in a sustainable federal school food policy

9.3 Email from Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Medical Officer of Health for Public Health Sudbury to all health units in Ontario

re 2022 Annual Report: Achieving Healthier Communities for All

9.4 Email from Heather Daly, Chief Executive Officer for Renfrew County and District Health Unit to all health units

re 2022 Annual Report

**10. Announcements/Inquiries**

R. Cipolla provided an update on the Orillia Opioid Crisis Working Group, thanking the health unit and staff for their support as Orillia Council approved the motion regarding the working group. The Opioid Crisis Working Group will be formed and a meeting with Premier Doug Ford has been scheduled to discuss the crisis.

A.M. Kungl updated Board members on the Indigenous Cultural Safety Training. Board members who did not attend the training session in September will be contacted regarding a repeat first session which will be held virtually. After the repeat virtual session, a second and final session will be scheduled for all trained members in the new year.

**11. Date of Next Meetings**

- November 15, 2023
- January 17, 2024

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion 12.0**

**MOVED BY T. Walker**

**SECONDED BY S. Warnock**

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

**CARRIED**

Original Signed By:

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Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

Original Signed By:

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Karen Ellis-Scharfenberg

Acting Chief Executive Officer