

Board of Health

Minutes

November 20, 2024

9:17 am – 11:53 am

Teleconference

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

Regrets: B. Norris

Staff Present: C. Gardner, L. Simon , Adrina Zhong, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg

1. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

The land acknowledgement was read in full by P. Koetsier.

1.2 Welcome Dr. Adrina Zhong, Public Health Preventative Medicine Resident

1.3 Welcome Dr. Andrew Lam, Public Health Preventative Medicine Resident

1.4 Recognition of Cathy Eisner, Public Health Nurse, Substance Use & Injury Prevention

Re: Ontario Provincial Police Central Region Award

A photograph was taken to use for a staff blog.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion 2.0

MOVED BY S. Warnock

SECONDED BY J. Smith

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

CARRIED

3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There is no declaration of a conflict of interest.

4. Consent Agenda

Motion 4.0

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

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

4.1 Minutes from October 16, 2024

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the October 16, 2024 Board of Health meeting.

4.2 2025 Board of Health Meeting Schedule

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

CARRIED

4.1 Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2024

4.2 2025 Board of Health Schedule

Briefing Note. Dr. C. Gardner.

5. In Camera

Motion 5.0

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY S. Cairns

THAT the Board of Health go In-Camera to approve the October 16, 2024 In-Camera Minutes and discuss two HR items, one Financial item and one Governance item.

CARRIED

Amendment:

Motion 5.0.1

MOVED BY R. Cipolla

SECONDED BY P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health come out of In-Camera.

CARRIED

5.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes from October 16, 2024

5.2 Financial Item

5.3 HR Item

5.4 Governance Item

5.5 HR Item

6. Business Arising

6.1 SMDHU and Artificial Intelligence

Briefing Note. S. Rebellato presenting.

Dr. S. Rebellato reviewed the contents of 6.1 SMDHU and Artificial Intelligence (AI) as follows:

There are two AI projects planned to launch in December 2024:

1. Generative AI chatbot designed to handle inquiries from the SMDHU website that provides reliable answers from SMDHU's health information.

- A collaboration with the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDGPH) and Southwestern Public Health Units
- AI chatbot is currently undergoing rigorous testing for accuracy with evaluation supported by University of Waterloo
- A soft launch on the SMDHU website is planned for mid-December

2. AI Scribe Pilot for Case Management:

- A grant of \$74,000 from Public Health Ontario's Locally Driven Collaborative Projects (LDGP) will support the pilot and is to be shared between SMDHU and WDGPH

- Funding is required to be spent by March 2025
- The intent is to use the AI scribe to help reduce the administrative burden on case management staff
- Privacy and destruction measures are in place to meet Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA) legislation

The Board of Health commended Dr. S. Rebellato for his leadership presenting at the alPHa 2024 Symposium

Motion 6.1

MOVED BY J. Smith

SECONDED BY S. Warnock

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

CARRIED

7. New Business

7.1 Simcoe Muskoka On the Move Active School Travel

Briefing Note. C. Bushey and M. Bovett presenting.

C. Bushey and M. Bovett reviewed the contents of 7.1 Simcoe Muskoka On the Move Active School Travel as follows:

- The Active School Travel pilot project began in 2019 funded by Ontario Active School Travel (OAST) to bring health unit, Municipal and School Board partners together with a focus to increase student physical activity by encouraging active school travel.
- A variety of tools and resources have been developed using the OAST funding and are available on the Simcoe Muskoka On the Move website.
- M. Bovett, Public Health Nurse in the Chronic Disease Prevention program is the Chair of the Simcoe Muskoka on the Move Steering committee that represents 7 municipalities (Appendix A lists member organizations).
- The Simcoe Muskoka on the Move Steering committee is currently prioritizing expansion and sustainability of the On the Move

initiative and has developed policy statements to share with municipalities and school boards.

- A letter has been developed for the SMDHU Board of Health Chair signature identifying concerns in response to the proposed Bill 212, Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, 2024 – framework for bicycle lanes that require removal of a traffic lane.
- A promotional video of the Alcona Glen Elementary School On the Move project was shared with the Board.
- The program is currently at capacity with 11 schools participating, and there is a wait list of interested schools. There will be a re-evaluation of resources in the spring.
- The Board of Health encourages staff to bring this presentation to Municipal and District Councils, Community Wellness Committees and for consideration of Community Safety Well Being Plans.
- The Board held discussion on grant opportunities for funding assistance noting the City of Barrie Sports and Recreation grant and Huronia Community Foundation.

Motion 7.1

MOVED BY S. Read

SECONDED BY B. Gordon

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

CARRIED

8. Items of Education

8.1 aPHa 2025 Winter Symposium - Virtual

Save the date: February 12 - 14, 2025. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

8.2 aPHa 2025 AGM and Conference - In Person

Save the date: June 18 - 20, 2025.

9. Items of Information

9.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

a. SMDHU Letter

From Dr. C. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and CEO and A.M. Kungl, Chair of the Board of Health for Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit to agency partners re: New Organizational Structure January 1, 2025

b. SMDHU Agency Blog

From Dr. C. Gardner, Medical Officer of Health and CEO to SMDHU staff re: Submission of Influenza and COVID-19 immunization status due by November 30, 2024.

The Board held discussion on the Influenza and COVID-19 policy requirements for Board members.

Dr. C. Lee, Dr. A. Lam and N. Riewe reviewed opportunities for vaccination:

- Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are available at local pharmacies
- SMDHU is generally not providing COVID-19 public clinics

The Board of Health discussed the lack of access to free COVID-19 test kits noting that it is an issue for those who would benefit from antiviral treatment.

c. Letter from Dr. Ken Blanchette and Dr. Mehdi Aloosh, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit

to Partners of Windsor-Essex County Health Unit re: Realignment of Programs

d. Letter from Kristine Preston, Deputy Clerk, City of Orillia to Dr. Charles Gardner, Medical Officer of Health, SMDHU

Re: Appointment to the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit - Board of Health

9.2 a1PHa InfoBreak

a. November 2024 InfoBreak

10. Announcements

No December meeting

10.1 Call for 2025 Agenda Items

11. Date of Next Meetings

- January 15, 2025
- February 19, 2025

A correction was made to the listed January Board of Health date to January 15, 2025.

12. Adjournment

MOVED BY S. Kinsella

SECONDED BY T. Walker

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

CARRIED

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

ORIGINAL Signed By:

Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health