

**Board of Health**

**Minutes**

**February 19, 2025  
9:16 am - 12:03 pm  
Teleconference**

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

Regrets: T. Walker

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

**1. Call To Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:16 a.m.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

B. Gordon read the land acknowledgement in full.

1.2 Welcome back Dr. Christina Hao, Public Health Preventative Medicine  
Resident

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion 2.0**

**MOVED BY R. Cipolla**

**SECONDED BY A. Dubeau**

THAT the Board of Health approve the agenda as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There is no declaration of conflict of interest.

**4. Consent Agenda**

4.1 Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2025

**Motion 4.0**

**MOVED BY** B. Gordon

**SECONDED BY** S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health approve the minutes from the January 15, 2025 Board of Health meeting.

**CARRIED**

**5. In Camera**

**Motion 5.0**

**MOVED BY** J. Leduc

**SECONDED BY** B. Norris

THAT the Board of Health go In-Camera to approve the January 15, 2025 in camera minutes and discuss two HR items.

**CARRIED**

**Motion 5.0.1**

**MOVED BY** B. Gordon

**SECONDED BY** S. Kinsella

THAT the Board of Health come out of in camera.

**CARRIED**

5.1 Approval of In-Camera Minutes from January 15, 2025

5.2 HR Item

5.3 HR Item

## 6. New Business

### 6.1 2025 SMDHU Budget. Briefing Note.

Dr. C. Gardner, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and J. Van Donkelaar presenting.

K. Ellis-Scharfenberg shared a presentation and reviewed the contents of this item as follows:

- The 2025 SMDHU Budget for approval is the same 2025 Draft Budget that was presented to the Board at the January 15, 2025 meeting, based on a 1% Ministry of Health grant and a Municipal levy increase of 5% as recommended at the September 18, 2024 Board of Health meeting.
- The Board of Health discussed benefits and insurance options noting increases in both lines of the budget. Agency insurance policies are due for annual renewal in July. Staff will research benefit and insurance options specifically reaching out to County of Simcoe finance counterparts.
- The Board of Health supports advocating to the Province for increased funding at the local and Provincial levels; they provided direction to staff to prepare congratulatory letters for Members of Provincial Parliament post-election requesting audience with them, and to investigate opportunities for a delegation with the Minister of Health at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) conference in August. A.M. Kungl indicated that this would be part of the Motion and to be brought back to the Board in April for further discussion.

#### **Motion 6.1**

**MOVED BY** P. Koetsier

**SECONDED BY** H. Eves

THAT the Board of Health approve the 2025 base budget for the Cost-Shared Mandatory Programs at \$39,189,358 reflecting a 2025 municipal levy of \$10,910,935;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the 2025 Ontario Seniors' Dental Care Program Budget at \$2,680,944;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health approve the draw of up to \$140,000 from the Public Health Contingency Reserve to maintain public health services;

AND FURTHERMORE THAT the Board of Health authorize the submission of the 2025 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission reflecting the 2025 budget for the Cost-Shared Mandatory Programs and the OSDCP on or before March 31, 2025.

**CARRIED**

6.2 Developing a New Strategic Plan for SMDHU: 2026 and Beyond. Briefing Note.

Dr. C. Gardner, K. Ellis-Scharfenberg and Dr. A. Zhong presenting.

Dr. A. Zhong shared a presentation and reviewed the contents of this item as follows:

- It is recommended that the strategic plan be drafted to be of a four-year duration to provide the agency with a period of stability and establish longer term objectives to face complex issues in the Simcoe and Muskoka communities.
- The Board discussed funding to support the execution of the strategic planning process.
- Fulsome engagement with stakeholders, community partners, staff and the Board are key components to developing the strategic plan.

**Motion 6.2**

**MOVED BY S. Read**

**SECONDED BY J. Smith**

THAT the Board of Health approve:

1. The processes proposed to develop the new Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit strategic plan to be provided to the Board for approval in January 2026; and
1. The recommendation for the new strategic plan to encompass a duration of four years (from 2026 to 2029).

**CARRIED**

6.3 2025 Implementation of Immunization of Student Pupils Act (ISPA).  
Briefing Note.

Presented by Dr. C. Lee and N. Riewe.

N. Riewe reviewed the contents of this item as follows:

- The week of January 6, 2025 approximately 4,300 suspension orders were mailed to students who did not have an up to date record of immunization status on file with SMDHU. On February 4, 2025 1,296 were suspended from school. As of today 80 students remain suspended.
- The Immunization Program has diligently worked with healthcare providers, families, school and school boards to offer immunization clinics and update records for children in grades three, four and five to avoid suspensions.
- The Immunization Program is working on more efficient methods to collect client records. Initiatives include:
  - The CanImmunize app. Newly implemented this year to provide clients with the electronic version of a real time yellow immunization card with permission to share information electronically with public health.
  - Immunization records data sharing agreements: An agreement is already in place with the Muskoka and Algonquin Family Health Teams. SMDHU is currently in negotiation to add South Georgian Bay Ontario Health Team.
- The Board discussed the frequency of client use of the Statement of Conscience or Religious Belief Affidavits. The Immunization Program is seeing a higher volume submitted this year.

**Motion 6.3**

**MOVED BY** L. Oehm

**SECONDED BY** A. Dubeau

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

**CARRIED**

6.4 Engagement with the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Band Council (February 3, 2024). Verbal Report.

A.M. Kungl, Dr. C. Gardner, Dr. L. Simon and Dr. A. Zhong presenting.

- A.M. Kungl, Dr. C. Gardner, Dr. L. Simon and Dr. A. Zhong shared their reflections of meeting with the Chippewas of Rama First Nation Band Council on February 3, 2025.
- The meeting took place in person at the Chippewas of Rama Council chambers and included a tour of the Rama Health Centre.
- Discussion included the opportunity for an Indigenous-led position on the SMDHU Board of Health in the context of the Board's ongoing Indigenous engagement priority.
- An invitation has been received for a future meeting with the Rama Band Council dedicated to getting to know each other better and learning from one another.
- A.M. Kungl and Dr. L. Simon are attending the Indigenous Health Forum on February 25 & 26, 2025.

**Motion 6.4**

**MOVED BY** P. Koetsier

**SECONDED BY** S. Warnock

THAT the Board of Health receive the verbal report as information.

**CARRIED**

## 7. Items of Education

- 7.1 aPHa 2025 Winter Symposium. Verbal Report. A.M. Kungl and Dr. C. Gardner presenting.

*Completed: Virtual event co-hosted by SMDHU February 12 - 14, 2025.*

A.M. Kung and Dr. C. Gardner shared their reflections from the aPHa 2025 Winter Symposium:

- SMDHU status as a co-host was identified throughout the sessions. The videos showcased our agency.
- A.M. Kungl moderated the BOH Section Meeting: *Boards of Health - Roles & Responsibilities*

### **Motion 7.1**

**MOVED BY** J. Leduc

**SECONDED BY** H. Eves

THAT the Board of Health receive the verbal report as information.

**CARRIED**

- 7.2 SMDHU All-Staff Education Day - In person event

Save the date: April 29, 2025

Deerhurst Resort: 1235 Deerhurst Drive, Huntsville

- 7.3 aPHa 2025 AGM and Conference - In person event

Save the date: June 18 - 20, 2025

Pantages Hotel - 200 Victoria Street, Toronto

Accommodations bookings now open. Contact

Melissa.Nickason@smdhu.org to make your reservation.

## 8. Items of Information

- 8.1 Correspondence to and from SMDHU

- a. Email from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aPHa) to aPHa members

re: Infographic, Public Health Matters - Keeping Ontarians Healthy and Safe

- b. Email from Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) to aLPHa Board of Health Section Members

re: Registration for the 2025 Winter Symposium, February 12 - 14, 2025

- c. SMDHU MOH Blog from Dr. C. Gardner to all staff

re: Declaration of Community-Wide Influenza Activity Commencing Tomorrow

- d. Public Health Alert from SMDHU to health care partners

re: Widespread Influenza Activity in Simcoe Muskoka

- Dr. C. Lee provided an update on widespread influenza noting the influenza season is more severe than usual; vaccine effectiveness is at 50%.
- Weekly respiratory surveillance is available on the SMDHU HealthStats website.

## 8.2 Ontario's Primary Care Action Plan

- a. Letter from Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health, January 27, 2025

re: \$1.8 Billion Investment

- b. News Release from Ministry of Health, January 27, 2025

re: Ontario Investing Over \$1.87 Billion to Connect Every Person in Ontario to a Family Doctor and Primary Care Teams

## 8.3 Public Health System Pre-Budget Consultation

- a. Letter from Trudy Sachowski, aLPHa Chair to Hon. Peter Bethlenfalvy, Minister of Finance, Ontario

re: 2024 Pre-Budget Submission: Public Health Programs and Services



8.4 Ontario HART Hubs

- a. News Release from Ministry of Health, January 27, 2025  
re: Ontario Building Safer Communities With 18 Additional Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs
- The HART of Simcoe (Barrie) approved by the province.

8.5 alPHa InfoBreak

- a. January 2025 InfoBreak

**9. Date of Next Meetings**

- March 19, 2025
- April 16, 2025

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion 11.0**

**MOVED BY** J. Smith

**SECONDED BY** P. Koetsier

THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

**CARRIED**

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

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Ann-Marie Kungl

Chair, Board of Health

**ORIGINAL Signed By:**

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Dr. Charles Gardner

Medical Officer of Health