

**Board of Health Meeting
MINUTES
October 28, 2020 at 5:00 pm
Video/Teleconference | Algoma Community Room
* Meeting held during the provincially declared emergency**

PRESENT : BOARD MEMBERS

Lee Mason - BOH Chair
Deborah Graystone - Gov. Chair

APH EXECUTIVE

Dr. Marlene Spruyt - Medical Officer of Health/CEO
Dr. Jennifer Loo - AMOH & Director of Health Protection
Justin Pino - CFO /Director of Operations
Tania Caputo - Board Secretary

GUEST

Alison McFarlane, PHN, Public Health Programs (presenting)

VC/TC :

Dr. Patricia Avery
Louise Caicco Tett
Sally Hagman
Micheline Hatfield
Brent Rankin
Matthew Scott

Laurie Zeppa - Director of Health Promotion & Prevention
Antoniette Tomie - Director of Human Resources

REGRETS : Ed Pearce - F&AC Chair, Heather O'Brien,

** Proceedings are being recorded via Webex and will be available for public viewing.*

1.0 Meeting Called to Order

- a. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
No conflicts declared.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

**RESOLUTION
2020-82**

Moved: D. Graystone
Seconded: B. Rankin

THAT the Board of Health agenda dated October 28, 2020 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3.0 Delegations / Presentations

- a. **When Public Health Crises Collide**
b. **Briefing Note - The Other Public Health Crisis**

Alison McFarlane, PHN, Public Health Programs presented to the Board of Health on the current rates of addiction and projected death rate from addiction in Algoma. She provided an overview of the local opioid response and outlined the request to seek provincial re-commitment to the opioid crisis through investments in local public health and community-based services, including the approval of funding for a regional level III residential withdrawal management services facility, to be located in Sault Ste. Marie. The Board advised that M. Spruyt share this resolution with the Algoma Ontario Health Team.

**RESOLUTION
2020-83**

Moved: D. Graystone
Seconded: L. Caicco Tett

WHEREAS under the Ontario Public Health Standards, the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health (APH) has a specific mandate to reduce the burden of substance use as well as a general mandate to work with community partners to improve overall health and health equity for the population of Algoma; and

WHEREAS substance use disorder, commonly known as drug addiction, is a significant public health issue in communities across Canada, including the City of Sault Ste. Marie and other Algoma and northern Ontario communities; and

WHEREAS in 2019 the health burden of substance use in Algoma was substantial; opioid-related deaths, hospitalizations, and emergency department visits were much higher in Algoma than in Ontario; and

WHEREAS The provincial government's March 2020 report- Roadmap to Wellness: a plan to build Ontario's mental health and addictions system (Roadmap to Wellness)- outlines a policy agenda that signals investments in upstream health promotion interventions and community-based mental health and addictions services across Ontario; and

WHEREAS the Harm Reduction Program Enhancement funding received by APH in the fall of 2017 helped strengthen community interventions that are primarily downstream in nature (i.e. provision of naloxone), yet additional upstream, evidence-based prevention measures have been identified for local public health action; many of which APH and its community partners are not currently resourced to implement; and

WHEREAS the Neighbourhood Resource Centre, a prominent community hub for connecting people who use substances to services and supports in Sault Ste. Marie, closed in March of 2020; and

WHEREAS community agencies in Sault Ste. Marie are working to open a new hub that will provide wrap-around care for people who use substances in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma; and

WHEREAS the new community hub is operating on a three year grant from Health Canada, yet the sustainability of the project is threatened, particularly in light of COVID-19 challenges regarding human and financial resources; and

WHEREAS there is currently no access to treatment for people with substance use disorder requiring level III withdrawal management services in northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS despite the announcement in Roadmap to Wellness to invest in additional withdrawal management facilities across Ontario, Sault Area Hospital's 2016 proposal (and May 2020 re-application) for a level III residential withdrawal management facility remains unanswered; and

WHEREAS provision of a level III regional withdrawal management facility would be consistent with the Premier's commitment to ending hallway medicine by matching local needs to an appropriate mix of services and potentially alleviating the burden on hospitals; and

WHEREAS APH and its partnering agencies require additional resources to effectively respond to, and reduce, the substantial health and societal burden of opioid-related illness and death in Algoma; and

WHEREAS the provincial government has an opportunity to "build back better," by developing health and social policy that will reduce inequities in society; and

WHEREAS a provincial re-commitment to the opioid crisis via targeted investments in local public health and northern initiatives, such as the Algoma Community Hub and the regional level III residential withdrawal management facility, is directly aligned with the policy agenda of Roadmap to Wellness and also the report of the Premier's Council on Improving Healthcare and Ending Hallway Medicine, Hallway Health Care: A System Under Strain (2019);

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health write to the Ontario Minister of Health, the Associate Minister for Mental Health and Addictions, and to local Members of Provincial Parliament in Algoma to request a provincial re-commitment to the opioid crisis, via investments in local public health and community-based services, including the approval of funding for a level III residential withdrawal management services facility, to be located in Sault Ste. Marie; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT correspondence of this resolution be copied to the Federal Minister of Health, Members of Parliament of northeastern Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, the Boards of Health of Ontario, the councils of Algoma municipalities, the Canadian Mental Health Association Sault Ste. Marie Branch, the Sault Area Hospital CEO, and the North East LHIN CEO.

CARRIED

4.0 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLUTION

2020-84

Moved: P. Avery

Seconded: S. Hagman

THAT the **September 23, 2020 Meeting Minutes** be approved as presented.

CARRIED

5.0 Business Arising from Minutes

Not applicable.

6.0 Reports to the Board

a. Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer Reports

i. MOH Report, October 2020

M. Spruyt advised the board that J. Pino, the Chief Financial Officer (CFO), will be departing for a new employment opportunity and thanked him for his contributions to APH.

ii. OHT MOU Partnership Agreement

M. Spruyt advised on the status of COVID-19 cases in Ontario and in Algoma. She spoke about the complex and challenging role of communicating during a crisis. M. Spruyt shared the OHT MOU Partnership Agreement to keep all apprised of the commitment. She requested and received approval and direction from the Board that APH continue with this work.

RESOLUTION

2020-85

Moved: D. Graystone

Seconded: B. Rankin

THAT the **report of the Medical Officer of Health and CEO for October 2020** be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

iii. Signing Authority

RESOLUTION

2020-86

Moved: S. Hagman

Seconded: M. Hatfield

Be it resolved that with the departure of the Chief Financial Officer, that signing authority be assigned to the Director of Corporate Services, Antoniette Tomie, until such time that the Governance Committee reviews the bylaw.

CARRIED

L.Mason thanked CFO, J. Pino, on behalf of the Board of Health for his contributions during his years at APH, wishing him all the best in his new position at HSCDSB.

b. Finance and Audit

i. Financial Statements

J. Pino provided an overview of the financial statements. He noted that the Finance and Audit Committee met in October to preview the draft budget.

RESOLUTION

2020-87

Moved: P. Avery

Seconded: L. Caicco Tett

THAT the **unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2020** be approved as presented.

CARRIED

7.0 New Business/General Business

Not applicable.

8.0 Correspondence

- a. Letter to the Minister of Health, the Minister of Long-Term Care and Ontario's Long-Term Care COVID-19 Commission from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding **COVID-19 and Long-Term Care Reform**, dated September 18, 2020.
- b. Letter to the Prime Minister of Canada and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance from Public Health Sudbury & Districts regarding Basic Income for **Income Security during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond** dated October 13, 2020.

9.0 Items for Information

- a. **alpha Information Break October 2020**
- b. **Public Health Champion Awards 2020** - Submissions are due at the end of November, T.Caputo will send a request for Board member volunteers.
- c. L. Mason spoke about communications coming to Board members and APH staff regarding waits for flu shots, COVID-19 related issues.

10.0 Addendum

Not applicable.

11.0 In-Camera - 6:04 pm

For discussion of labour relations and employee negotiations, **matters about identifiable individuals, adoption of in camera minutes**, security of the property of the board, litigation or potential litigation.

**RESOLUTION
2020-88**

Moved: D. Graystone
Seconded: P. Avery

THAT the Board of Health go in-camera.

12.0 Open Meeting - 6:24 pm

Resolutions resulting from in-camera meeting.

**RESOLUTION
2020-91**

Moved: D. Graystone
Seconded: S. Hagman

THAT the Board of Health for the District of Algoma Health Unit appoint Dr. Jennifer Loo as the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer of Algoma Public Health, effective January 1, 2021, pending approval of the appointment by the Minister of Health.

CARRIED

13.0 Announcements / Next Committee Meetings:

Finance & Audit Committee Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

Webex Audio / Video Conference | SSM Algoma Community Room

Governance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, November 18, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

Webex Audio / Video Conference | SSM Algoma Community Room

Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, November 25, 2020 @ 5:00 pm

Webex Audio / Video Conference | SSM Algoma Community Room

14.0 Evaluation

Board members to complete meeting evaluation.

15.0 Adjournment - 6:27 pm

RESOLUTION

2020-92

Moved: P. Avery

Seconded: D. Graystone

THAT the Board of Health meeting adjourns.

CARRIED



Lee Mason, Chair

November 25, 2020

Date



Tania Caputo, Secretary

November 25, 2020

Date

Approved