

Board of Health Meeting

MINUTES

October 27, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Video/Teleconference | Algoma Community Room

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Sally Hagman - Board Chair
Ed Pearce - 1st Vice Chair
Deborah Graystone - 2nd Vice Chair
Lee Mason
Micheline Hatfield
Musa Onyuna
Brent Rankin
Matthew Scott

APH MEMBERS

Dr. Jennifer Loo - Medical Officer of Health & CEO
Dr. John Tuinema - Associate Medical Officer of Health
Antionette Tomie - Director of Corporate Services
Laurie Zeppa - Director of Health Promotion & Prevention
Leo Vecchio - Manager of Communications
Liliana Bressan - Research Policy Advisor
Leslie Dunseath - Financial Analyst
Tania Caputo - Board Secretary
Tanya Storozuk - Executive Assistant

GUESTS: Kristy Harper - Manager of Community Wellness & School Health, Amanda Perri - Epidemiologist, Allison McFarlane - Public Health Nurse

REGRETS: Louise Caicco Tett

** Proceedings are being recorded and will be available upon request*

1.0 Meeting Called to Order : 5:00 pm

- a. **Land Acknowledgement** : read by S. Hagman
- b. **Declaration of Conflict of Interest** : no conflicts declared

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

**RESOLUTION
2021-89**

Moved: M. Hatfield
Seconded: L. Mason

THAT the Board of Health agenda dated October 27, 2021 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

3.0 Delegations / Presentations

COVID-19 and the Opioid Crisis in Algoma presentation - located in the addendum

K. Harper, A. Perri and A. McFarlane delivered the presentation that outlined the core functions of public health, Ontario Public Health Standards, the situation in Algoma, regional and local data, connections between substance use and the COVID-19 Pandemic, Public Health in Action and next steps. Questions and discussion followed on reorienting health services, addressing barriers, harm reduction supplies to reduce risk of blood borne infections, working with local partners, the factors of our community that increase risk. The scope of the issue in smaller communities is important to highlight and there is an effort to capture and report this in the indicators going forward. Board members requested that the presentation be provided to the communities of Algoma.

4.0 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

RESOLUTION
2021-90

Moved: M. Onyuna
Seconded: B. Rankin

THAT the Board of Health meeting minutes dated September 22, 2021 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 27, 2021

J. Loo provided an update on COVID-19 cases in Algoma, noting the current increase is due to a school outbreak and out of district travel, both domestic and international. We continue to experience the benefits of immunization, and effects of widespread vaccine policies in workplaces and policies requiring proof of vaccination. Additional instruction has been jointly issued by the Northern Medical Officers of Health (NMOH) for people who coach, officiate and volunteer in organized sports settings to ensure a consistent approach in the north. She reported that we have reached a milestone of 85% of eligible participants in Algoma have received two doses. Pfizer has submitted to Health Canada for approval of the vaccine for 5-11 year olds, and we are working with partners to plan for the immunization. J. Loo also noted that additional information and recommendations will be coming soon on third dose boosters. We have been actively immunizing residents of long term care homes and retirement homes and other congregate settings. APH has implemented an internal vaccine policy and 99 percent of active APH staff are fully immunized.

J. Loo answered questions on vaccination and noted we are likely taking a risk based approach on third dose boosters and we can expect to see expanded availability in the future.

RESOLUTION
2021-91

Moved: D. Graystone
Seconded: L. Mason

THAT the report of the Medical Officer of Health/CEO for October 2021 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

ii. Request for Increase in Provincial Base Funding for Local Public Health

RESOLUTION
2021-92

Moved: L. Mason
Seconded: E. Pearce

Whereas Algoma Public Health (APH), since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2019, has provided a robust pandemic response to prevent and mitigate the spread of COVID-19; and

Whereas APH has coordinated, implemented, and supported COVID-19 vaccination clinics across the district to deliver 176,794 doses of COVID-19 vaccine to eligible persons in Algoma; and

Whereas to resource urgent pandemic response and immunization programming needs, APH has diverted resources from pre-existing public health services to ensure timely response to COVID-19 and maintenance of highest risk programming; and

Whereas the diversion of resources has resulted in the scale down or suspension of moderate to low risk public health programs and services, similar to other areas of the health sector; and

Whereas the scale down or suspension of public health programming has resulted in significant service backlogs and new public health priorities that, unless addressed in the short-term and resourced appropriately, will continue to grow and result in negative community health impacts; and

Whereas to date, for 2022, the Ontario Ministry of Health has committed to continue both one-time reimbursement to local public health units for extraordinary COVID-19 expenses, as well as one-time mitigation funding to offset the impacts of the cost-sharing formula change to municipalities; and

Whereas local public health agencies have received only one increase to provincial base funding in the past five years, despite the introduction of several new programs within the Ontario Public Health Standards and inflation resulting in wage, benefit, and operating cost increases; and

Whereas the recruitment and retention of skilled public health professionals in northern Ontario has faced significant and longstanding challenges, similar to the health human resource challenges of the health care sector in the north; and

Whereas one-time funding is inadequate to sustainably recruit, hire, and retain skilled public health professionals to provide a robust pandemic response, and simultaneously fulfil a provincial mandate of providing core public health programs and services; and

Whereas communities in Algoma now require enhanced program and service delivery to respond the threat of newly emerging infectious diseases and public health issues, and to recover from the collateral harms that have resulted from prioritization of the pandemic response (e.g., opioid overdose death increases, mental health complications, etc.).

Therefore Be It Resolved That the Board of Health of Algoma Public Health write to the Ontario Minister of Health to request that the provincial government commit to increased base funding to local public health units, with particular attention to addressing longstanding public health human resource challenges in the north, such that public health units are able to both continue a robust pandemic response, and restore the delivery of mandated public health services to Ontario citizens.

CARRIED

b. Finance and Audit

i. Finance & Audit Committee Chair Report - October 13, 2021

E. Pearce provided key points of the financial statements.

**RESOLUTION
2021-93**

Moved: D. Graystone

Seconded: B. Rankin

THAT the Board of Health approves the Finance & Audit Committee Chair Report for the period ending October 13, 2021, as presented.

CARRIED

ii. Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2021.

L. Dunseath provided additional information and answered questions from the board members on extraordinary expenses related to COVID-19 and expenses related to the Seniors Dental program.

**RESOLUTION
2021-94**

Moved: E. Pearce

Seconded: M. Scott

THAT the Board of Health approves the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending August 31, 2021, as presented.

CARRIED

iii. IPAC Hub Funding Letters

J. Loo answered questions about the funding letters received and the request for an extension of the duration for the funding being provided.

7.0 New Business/General Business

- a. Chair of Boards of Health Meeting** - S. Hagman noted that there has not been a recent meeting.
- b. Algoma Vaccination Council Update** - Meetings take place monthly and no updates at this time.
- c. AOHT Board-to-Board Information Session and Discussion - December 7, 2021** - S. Hagman, D. Graystone, B. Rankin and E. Pearce will participate.
- d. alPHA Fall Symposium - Friday, November 19** - S. Hagman and L. Caicco Tett will attend.

8.0 Correspondence

- a. Letter to the Ministry of Health, from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit regarding **COVID-19 Funding** dated October 21, 2021.
- b. Letter to the Ministry of Health, from Grey Bruce Health Unit regarding **Support for a Local Board of Health** dated October 13, 2021.

9.0 Items for Information - not applicable

10.0 Addendum

- a. **COVID-19 and the Opioid Crisis in Algoma presentation item**

11.0 In-Camera 6:31 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
2021-95**

Moved: M. Onyuna
Seconded: L. Mason

THAT the Board of Health go in-camera.

CARRIED

12.0 Open Meeting - 8:03 pm

13.0 Announcements / Next Committee Meetings:

Finance & Audit Committee

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Video Conference | SSM Algoma Community Room

Governance Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 16, 2021 @5:00 pm
Video Conference | SSM Algoma Community Room

Board of Health Meeting

Wednesday, November 24, 2021 @ 5:00 pm
Video Conference | SSM Algoma Community Room

14.0 Evaluation - S. Hagman reminded all board members to complete the meeting evaluation.

15.0 Adjournment - 8:06 pm

**RESOLUTION
2021-95**

Moved: E. Pearce
Seconded: D. Graystone

THAT the Board of Health meeting adjourns.

CARRIED

Sally Hagman

Sally Hagman, Chair

November 24, 2021

Date

Tania Caputo

Tania Caputo, Secretary

November 24, 2021

Date