

# Board of Health Meeting

## MINUTES

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 - 5:00 pm

SSM Algoma Community Room | Videoconference

### BOARD MEMBERS

**PRESENT:** Deborah Graystone  
Sally Hagman - Chair  
Luc Morrisette - 1st Vice-Chair  
Loretta O'Neill  
Suzanne Trivers  
Jody Wildman

### APH MEMBERS

Dr. Jennifer Loo - Medical Officer of Health & CEO  
Rick Webb - Director of Corporate Services  
Kristy Harper - Director of Health Promotion & Chief Nursing Officer  
Dr. John Harding - Public Health Physician  
Leo Vecchio - Manager of Communications  
Leslie Dunseath - Manager of Accounting Services  
Tania Caputo - Board Secretary

**GUESTS:** Nicole Lindahl - Manager of Emergency Preparedness and Response  
Sarah Levitt, Brent Feeney, Elizabeth Walker - Ministry of Health

**REGRETS:** Julila Hemphill, Donald McConnell, Matthew Shoemaker, Sonia Tassone

#### 1.0 Meeting Called to Order - 5:02 PM

*S. Hagman*

S. Hagman, welcomed the Board of Health members and guests, read the land acknowledgment, roll call and declaration of conflict of interest.

- a. Land Acknowledgment
- b. Roll Call
- c. Declaration of Conflict of Interest  
No conflicts were declared.

#### 2.0 Adoption of Agenda

*S. Hagman*

##### **RESOLUTION 2024-36**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill

**Seconded:** D. Graystone

THAT the Board of Health agenda dated March 27, 2024 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

#### 3.0 Delegations / Presentations

- a. Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program  
N. Lindahl provided an overview of the role of Public Health in oral health services and the Ontario Senior Dental Care Program (OSDCP) at APH.

*N. Lindahl*

#### 4.0 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Meeting

*S. Hagman*

##### **RESOLUTION 2024-37**

**Moved:** L. Morrisette

**Seconded:** J. Wildman

THAT the Board of Health minutes dated February 20, 2024, and the Board of Health Special Meeting minutes dated February 28, 2024, be approved as presented.

#### 5.0 Business Arising from Minutes

*K. Harper*

- a. Household Food Insecurity

##### **RESOLUTION 2024-38**

**Moved:** S. Tassone

**Seconded:** L. O'Neill

Whereas, household food insecurity is the inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, meaning a household does not have enough money for food; and

Whereas, the prevalence of household food insecurity in Algoma was 19.4% or approximately 1 in 5 households from 2020-2022; and

Whereas, food insecurity is a serious public health problem that negatively impacts physical, mental, and social well-being, as well as life expectancy, and creates a heavy burden on the health care system with adults living in severely food insecure households incurring 121% higher health care costs compared to food secure households; and

Whereas, each year Algoma Public Health conducts the Nutritious Food Basket survey to monitor food affordability in Algoma, the results of which consistently demonstrate the inadequacy of social assistance rates; and

Whereas, Ontario Works rates have not increased since 2018 and are not indexed to inflation; and

Whereas, economic policies that ensure adequate household income are needed to reduce food insecurity; and

Whereas, the Board of Health of Algoma Public Health has previously endorsed and called on the provincial government to implement income-based policy interventions to effectively reduce household food insecurity, including raising social assistance to reflect costs of living and indexing Ontario Works to inflation (Resolution 2023-67); and

Whereas, local Boards of Health and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) have called on the provincial government to use local food affordability findings to determine adequate social assistance rates: Motion #06-24 (Household Food Insecurity), A23-05 (Monitoring Food Affordability in Ontario and the Inadequacy of Social Assistance Rates); and

Whereas, the Ministry of Health intends to refine, refocus and re-level the roles and responsibilities of public health by conducting a sector-driven review of the Ontario Public Health Standards, with that the fully revised standards expected to be implemented by January 2025; and

Whereas, at the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Board of Health of Algoma Public Health received a letter from the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts that called on the provincial government to incorporate local food affordability findings in determining adequacy of social assistance rates to reflect the current costs of living and to index Ontario Works rates to inflation going forward; and in the context of strengthening public health roles and responsibilities, urged all healthy system partners to remain committed to population health assessment and surveillance as it relates to monitoring food environments and, specifically, to monitoring food affordability; and

Therefore be it resolved that the Board of Health of Algoma Public Health endorse the above mentioned letter from the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts;

And furthermore, that the Board of Health of Algoma Public Health send a similar letter to the provincial government.

**CARRIED**

**b. Commitment to Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention**

*K. Harper*

**RESOLUTION  
2024-39**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill  
**Seconded:** S. Tassone

Whereas, chronic diseases account for nearly 75% of the deaths in Ontario and Algoma, despite being largely preventable, and cost the province \$10.5 billion in direct health care costs; and

Whereas, Health Promotion Ontario identifies health promotion as a viable strategy to sustain Ontario's healthcare system and Ontario Health asserts that chronic disease prevention is critical to improve the quality of life of Ontarians; and

Whereas, social determinants of health, such as income, education level, housing, food insecurity, early childhood development, employment and working conditions, social inclusion, and racism, increase risk of chronic disease and can account for between 30-55% of negative health outcomes; and

Whereas, upstream approaches to prevention have a much larger impact on reducing the amount of disease in the population, compared to downstream approaches which are aimed at early detection and disease management at the individual-level; and

Whereas, Algoma Public Health is a leader in health promotion and upstream disease prevention in our communities as aligned with the requirements under the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS); and

Whereas, the Ministry of Health intends to refine, refocus and re-level the roles and responsibilities of public health by conducting a sector-driven review of the OPHS(7) and it is critical to prioritize ongoing delivery and coordination of health promotion and chronic disease prevention initiatives by public health; and

Therefore be it resolved that in the context of Public Health Strengthening, the Board of Health for Algoma Public Health urge the Ministry of Health to remain committed to investing in health promotion and chronic disease prevention.

**CARRIED**

**6.0 Reports to the Board**

*J. Loo*

**a. Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer Reports**

**i. MOH Report - March 2024**

- Learners at APH - Mentoring the next generation of public health

**RESOLUTION  
2024-40**

**Moved:** L. Morrisette  
**Seconded:** D. Graystone

THAT the report of the Medical Officer of Health and CEO for March 2024 be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ii. Unaudited Financial Statements ending January 31, 2024**

*L. Morrisette*

**RESOLUTION  
2024-41**

**Moved:**  
**Seconded:**

THAT the Board of Health approves the Unaudited Financial Statements for the period ending January 31, 2024, as presented.

**CARRIED**

**c. Governance Committee**

*D. Graystone*

**i. Governance Committee Chair Report**

D. Graystone summarized the report in D. McConnells absence.

**RESOLUTION  
2024-42**

**Moved:** J. Wildman  
**Seconded:** L. Morrisette

THAT the Governance Committee Chair Report for March 2024 be accepted as presented.

**CARRIED**

**ii. Policy 02-05-086 Sponsorship of Charitable Organizations**

*S. Hagman*

**RESOLUTION  
2024-43**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill  
**Seconded:** S. Trivers

THAT the Board of Health has reviewed and approves **Policy 02-05-086 Sponsorship of Charitable Organizations** as presented.

**CARRIED**

**3b. Post Decision Debrief and Reflections - 6:00 pm**

A delegation from the Ministry of Health attended to hear the reflections of the Board of Health members on the decision not to merge with Public Health Sudbury and Districts.

*S. Levitt,  
B. Feeney,  
E. Walker*

**iii. Policy 02-05-010 Board Minutes Posting / Circulation**

*S. Hagman*

**RESOLUTION  
2024-44**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill  
**Seconded:** L. Morrisette

THAT the Board of Health has reviewed and approves **Policy 02-05-010 Board Minutes Posting / Circulation** as presented.

**CARRIED**

**iv. 02-05-065 Board of Health Reserve Funds**

**RESOLUTION  
2024-45**

**Moved:** D. Graystone  
**Seconded:** J. Wildman

THAT the Board of Health has reviewed and approves **02-05-065 Board of Health Reserve Funds** as presented.

**CARRIED**

**v. Policy 02-05-075 Elections and Selection Process for Board Chair, Vice-Chairs or Committee Members**

**RESOLUTION  
2024-46**

**Moved:** L. O'Neill  
**Seconded:** S. Trivers

THAT the Board of Health has reviewed and approves **Policy 02-05-075 Elections and Selection Process for Board Chair, Vice-Chairs or Committee Members** as presented.

**CARRIED**

**7.0 New Business/General Business**

Not applicable.

*S. Hagman*

**8.0 Correspondence - requiring action**

Not applicable.

*S. Hagman*

- 9.0

Correspondence - for information

S. Hagman

a.

Letter to Algoma Public Health Board of Health and Public Health Sudbury and Districts from The Township of St. Joseph regarding Consultation for Public Health Unit Merger dated February 16, 2024.

b.

Letter from Middlesex-London Health Unit to the Minister of Health regarding Provincial and Federal restrictions on nicotine pouches dated March 22, 2024.
- 10.0

Addendum

Not applicable.

S. Hagman
- 11.0

In-Camera - 6:40 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

2024-47

Moved:

S.Trivers

Seconded:

L. O'Neill

THAT the Board of Health go in-camera.

CARRIED

S. Hagman
- 12.0

Open Meeting - 7:03 pm

2024 Insurance Coverage

RESOLUTION

2024-50

Moved:

S.Trivers

Seconded:

L. O'Neill

THAT the Board of Health approves the 2024 Insurance Coverage as presented unless the outcome of a second quote delivered to APH is materially less, in which case the Director of Corporate services shall report back to the Board of Health.

CARRIED

S. Hagman
- 13.0

Announcements / Next Committee Meetings:

S. Hagman

Finance & Audit Committee

Wednesday, April 10, 2024 @ 5:30 pm

SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

Board of Health

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference

Governance Committee

Wednesday, May 10, 2024 @ 5:00 pm

SSM Algoma Community Room | Video Conference
- 14.0

Evaluation

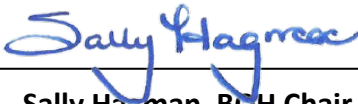
T. Caputo will send the meeting evaluation for Board members to complete.

S. Hagman


RESOLUTION  
2024-51

Moved:    D. Graystone  
Seconded: J. Wildman

THAT the Board of Health Meeting adjourns  
CARRIED

  
Sally Hagman, BOH Chair

April 24, 2024  
Date

  
Tania Caputo, BOH Secretary

April 24. 2024  
Date