



Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report

Board Meeting June 21, 2018

Organization Update

The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care grant for base funding for the mandatory public health program was increased by \$205,200 (2%) for 2018. The additional funding will be used to respond to our budget shortfall for salaries and benefits of current staff, and also to respond to the increase in benefits for 2018/19. The Health Unit also received some of our one time funding requests – adding buttons for internal doors for accessibility, Triple P training for youth, infection control training, needle exchange program, a vaccine fridge and a Public Health Inspector practicum.

The Population and Public Health Branch of the MOHLTC established an Indicator Implementation Task Group to identify program outcomes to be tracked by each Public Health Unit for four of the OPHS standards: Safe Water, Food Safety, Immunization and Communicable and Infectious Diseases. I am a member of this Task Group and have been working with the other Health Unit representatives on the Task Group to develop possible indicators. This initial set is being reviewed by other Health Units now. The feedback will guide which ones we recommend to the ministry.

Board

alPHA has issued a clarification on the use of electronic means to participate in Board of Health meetings. This clarification fits with our understanding of the issue as outlined in the Governance and Accountability report in the consent agenda of today's meeting.

“Board members participating electronically may, in fact, vote on matters before the board subject to restrictions contained in the board's bylaw dealing with meetings and electronic participation.”

The Board of Health was one of ten Boards who participated in the first ever alPHA Boards of Health Fitness Challenge displaying a wide variety of activities from group walks to pedal exercisers, swimming, karate class, personal training sessions and a host of many other activities.

LHIN's

Work continues with the South-East LHIN on the Opioid Strategy and with the Lanark, Leeds, Grenville Integration Table with a focus on COPD prevention and management.

Program Update

The *Smoke-Free Ontario Act, 2017* (SFOA, 2017) – Schedule 3 to Bill 174 comes into force on July 1, 2018, the SFOA, 2017 and will repeal the existing *Smoke-Free Ontario Act* (SFOA) and *Electronic Cigarettes Act, 2015* (ECA) and replace them with a single legislative framework. The SFOA, 2017 will regulate the sale, supply, use, display, and promotion of tobacco and vapour products (e.g., e-cigarettes), and the smoking of medical cannabis. A key addition is the prohibition of the smoking of tobacco, the use of an e-cigarette to vape any substance and the smoking of medical cannabis in all enclosed public spaces and enclosed workplaces. The Health Unit is currently exploring the implications of the new legislation for our work.

The Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit, in partnership with active school travel stakeholders in Brockville, Smiths Falls and Almonte, was successful in receiving \$100,000 over 2 years, through an Ontario Active School Travel Fund grant to pilot the "Walking The Rural Way" Project. This grant is a program of Green Communities Canada with funding from the Government of Ontario, (Ministry of Education). Our funded project will operationalize "community tailored" Walking School Bus (WSB) models for LGL elementary students (Grades K-8) using paid and volunteer supervisors to walk with elementary school children, on established routes to and from school.

Brockville stakeholders met for the first time today, to discuss potential walking school bus routes for Westminster and Commonwealth public schools. The next meeting will include a walkabout of the potential routes. For information, stakeholders in attendance were: Principals from Westminster and Commonwealth, representative from STEO, Brockville Police Community Safety Officer, a representative from YMCA, and representative from City of Brockville, and Health Unit representation. The Volunteer Centre of St-Lawrence Rideau is a partner but sent their regrets. The Smiths Falls and Almonte committees are hoping to meet in July.