



Board of Health Meeting September 21, 2023

Summary

alPHa Training – Empowering Public Health Leaders Through Learning

The Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) is offering a comprehensive course for board of health members that outlines Board of Health Governance and the Social Determinants of Health. Members agreed that this training would be valuable and have asked staff to contact alPHa to determine dates for future training.

Strategic Planning Update

Surveys, focus groups, and some one on one interviews are being conducted through the consultants - People Minded Business. Thank you to everyone for your feedback!

A Board of Health focus group will take place in October to summarize environmental scan information and review sector trends. A full day Strategic Planning Session to identify strategic direction is being scheduled in November and will use a Think Tank format guided by the consultants. After this review, the document will go to the Strategic Planning Steering Committee with a final Plan scheduled to go to the Board at the December Board of Health Meeting.

Public Health Funding and Capacity Announcement - News Release: Ontario Investing in a Stronger Public Health Sector

Following the news release from the province <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1003399/ontario-investing-in-a-stronger-public-health-sector>, board members met to discuss the announcement.

This announcement includes voluntary mergers of geographically linked health units, which the province is encouraging health units to consider. The purpose of these mergers would be to optimize public health capacity, stability, and sustainability. Frontline programs and services will continue at the local level. Cost savings are not expected through the mergers, and any efficiencies would be reinvested in front-line services. The province is providing three year funding during which the cost of mergers would be covered.

The province will also be reviewing the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).

Board members agreed that it is important to look long term at the best interests of the population and that the process be as open and transparent as possible. A motion was passed by the Board of Health to “explore merging with neighbouring health unit(s) in accordance with parameters from the Ministry of Health, with the goal of optimizing public health capacity, stability, and sustainability.”