

Board of Health Meeting June 22, 2023

Summary

Audited Financial Statements

Katie Mahon, Auditor for KPMG, reviewed the Audit Findings Report and Audited Financial Statements with board members. This is the second year that KPMG has completed an audit for the Health Unit and all administrative items are complete. The 2022 Audited Statements were received by the Board of Health.

Board of Health Meeting Recordings

Board of Health meetings will be made available digitally to the public. They will be recorded and publicly posted on the Board of Health section of the website once the new technology equipment arrives. The Health Unit will continue to use the Zoom platform for online meetings.

Strategic Planning Update

The Strategic Planning Steering Committee had its first meeting with the consultants from People Minded Business. It was an excellent meeting and the consultants outlined the steps they will take to develop the Strategic Plan which includes:

- An environmental scan, which includes an analysis of our context (local all the way to international) and our organization (including key internal and external documents)
- Gathering information from our staff through surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews
- Getting input from stakeholders through surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews
- A situational analysis report, which would include information from the environmental scan and stakeholder feedback
- Strategic planning sessions to identify strategic priorities and related goals
- Review of our mission/vision/values to ensure alignment with the strategic priorities
- A finalized plan, which will include the priorities, objectives and key results, and a communications plan

Air Quality

In early June there were a number of days with terrible air quality due to forest fires in Quebec and our team has worked hard to provide information to schools and the general public about how to reduce risks and protect their health.

Vaccine

Our vaccine team has been very hard at work with all of our “usual vaccine” work. We have had a focus this year on vaccination of the three vaccines for high-school aged kids (meningococcal, Hep B, and HPV), which the health unit administers in the schools. In one year, we’ve increased our vaccination rate among 13 & 14 year olds by 35-50%.

Harm Reduction

We are continuing our long-standing work in harm reduction for substance use, and are planning to develop concrete actions with community partners to support people who use substances.

Dental

A significant development for our dental program is that the dentist at the health center has left. We are working with Rideau Community Health Services to discuss the Dental program and continued challenges with recruitment and retention.

Nutritious Food Basket

We’ve just completed our annual Nutritious Food Basket costing. Keep an eye out for our communications campaign about this in the fall!

Respiratory Disease Transmission

The COVID-19 transmission levels appear to be low, though we continue to identify cases and we are continuing to provide spring vaccine doses for eligible individuals. We are seeing very few outbreaks; of the outbreaks we’re following in high-risk settings, they are tending to be GI illnesses these days. We’re making plans for the fall/winter respiratory season, including outbreak management and vaccination for both flu and COVID-19.

High Profile Events Health Unit Staff are Taking Part In

Rebecca Shams, one of our Health Promoters with a focus on Youth Engagement, attended a panel about substance use prevention with the Public Health Agency of Canada, which included the President of Iceland; this was through her work with Planet Youth Lanark County.

- Planet Youth is a set of interventions that reduce substance use among youth, using health promotion principles that affect youth in their schools, at home, and their communities

Jennifer Adams, our Harm Reduction Coordinator, will be doing an interview on July 18th on Ontario Today, as one of two guests for an hour-long segment on rural challenges in addressing drug poisoning.