

Minutes of the Board of Health Regular Meeting
 Thursday, February 22, 2024
 Room A/B
 25 Johnston Street
 Smiths Falls, Ontario
 4:04 pm – 6:22 pm

Present:

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|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Peter McKenna, Chair | Regrets: Ruth Lockett |
| Toni Surko, 1 st Vice Chair | Anne-Marie Koiner |
| Robin Jones, 2 nd Vice Chair | Richard Kidd |
| Stephen Bird (virtual) | |
| Tory Deschamps | Linna Li, Medical Officer of Health |
| Jane Fullarton (virtual) | Heather Bruce, Executive Assistant |

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| Ginette Denford, Director, Finance and Administration | Jennifer Adams, Manager, Clinical Services Cathy DelMei, Manager, Clinical Services |
| Shani Gates, Director, Quality, Information, and People Services | Catherine Robinson, Manager, PSL Kim McCann, Manager, Health Protection |
| Rebecca Kavanagh, Director, Population Health | Elaine Murkin, Manager, HPVC |

1. Call to Order

Peter McKenna called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm. There are regrets from Anne-Marie Koiner, Richard Kidd and Ruth Lockett. Both Jane Fullarton and Stephen Bird are joining the meeting virtually today.

2. Traditional Land Acknowledgement Statement

Peter McKenna read the land acknowledgement statement.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda Items were reviewed.

Motion: That the agenda of the February 22, 2024 Regular Meeting be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried.

4. Conflict of Interest Declaration

None declared.

5. In-camera:

The motion to move in-camera was read at 4:06 pm.

Motion: That this Board move into a closed session of the Board of Health due to the following:

- *Litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;*
- *A matter in respect of which a board or committee may hold a closed meeting.*

Motion Carried.

Motion: That this closed session adjourn and that the open meeting resume at 5:10 pm.

Motion Carried.

6. Consent Agenda

Motion: That the following items on the consent agenda be approved as circulated:

6.1. Approval of the Minutes from the Board of Health Regular Meeting held on January 25, 2024 (amended)

6.2. General Correspondence

6.3. Duty of Care Report Summary

6.4. Report from the Governance and Quality Assurance Committee

Motion Carried.

7. Presentation:

7.1. 2023 Year in Review

Linna Li advised that this is the habitual update that is given to the Board of Health early in the year and is a summary of our work over the course of 2023 with a mix of descriptions or indicators with a summary from each department. (See Appendix #1)

Rebecca Kavanagh, Director of Population Health introduced Kim McCann as the new manager of Community Health Protection. This department focuses more on the communities we live, eat, drink, learn, work and play in and is divided into two divisions: Healthy People Vibrant Communities and Community Health Protection.

Kim McCann presented on Environmental Health, Infectious Disease, Land Control, Healthy Environments and Climate Change. Elaine Murkin presented on Health Equity, Healthy Growth and Development, School Health (Healthy Youth), Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-being and Substance Use and Injury Prevention.

Questions:

It was requested that in future the effectiveness and impact of the data presented be provided.

We are going back to complaint driven enforcement? Just for menu labelling. In the OPHS review there has been a very small set of early changes to the provincial guidelines and complaints based inspections for menu labelling is one of those.

The cost of radon kits being prohibitive was discussed. Kim McCann advised that radon kits in hardware stores cost over \$40. We purchase them at the health unit and sell them at \$27 (cost recovery).

We have sold 127 kits this year. Several of our municipalities have done the municipal 100 Radon Test Kit Challenge in which Health Canada gives them 100 test kits for free and they will distribute them among residents in their municipality.

Clinical Services – Cathy DelMei, Catherine Robinson and Jennifer Adams presented. Susan Yates, Director and CNO is away. Clinical Services strives to reduce transmission of infections and communicable diseases, reduce substance use and partner with clients, families and community partners to support best possible health outcomes from preconception to conception and across the family life cycle.

Cathy DelMei gave an overview of the program and outlined effective public health practice and the 2023-2024 areas of focus, along with Healthy Growth and Development, HB/HC Home Visiting Program and Dental. Catherine Robinson presented on the Pre-School Speech and Language Program. Jennifer Adams presented on Infectious and Communicable Diseases, Substance Use and Injury Prevention, Harm Reduction and Substance Use and Addictions program.

The question was raised if Speech Language Pathologists are hard to recruit in Ontario? Catherine Robinson advised yes and that many have moved into private practice. Vaping among youth was discussed and the health unit has done some work with schools in this regard. Waste water monitoring was also discussed and information is displayed publicly on the health unit website.

Corporate Services – Shani Gates, Director of Quality, Information, and People services advised that the department has gone through some structural changes and Ginette Denford is the Director of Finance and Administration, with a split portfolio between the two and three managers. HR indicators were discussed that outline recruitment and selection, mental health at work and incident reports.

Ginette Denford gave financial highlights and advised that the auditors will be conducting an audit starting April 15, 2024. Expenditures were reviewed. At this time, we look to be in a break even situation for 2023 with an approximate \$3,000 surplus.

Board members thanked staff for their presentation.

ACTION: Peter McKenna asked that the recording be edited so that the staff presentation section could be sent to Lanark County.

8. New Business:

8.1. Update from the Tri-Board Merger Committee

Peter McKenna advised that the Tri-Board Merger Committee is continuing to meet, it is going well, and Dr. Kieran Moore will attend a meeting to address the group very soon.

The March 4th Tri-Board Meeting will be held in Brockville and meetings are being held in-camera. The group has talked about naming the new entity if the merger goes ahead and this is being worked on. We are close to a finalized governance structure which needs to go into the feasibility plan. There is another month to finish the feasibility plan and it will be coming to this Board later in March. If the three Board's pass a motion in support of the merger the province will come back to us with questions and we should have a final answer in August.

Toni Surko, Robin Jones, Peter McKenna and Dr. Li represent Leeds, Grenville and Lanark at the Tri-Board table.

8.2. Update from the alPHa Conference

Peter McKenna gave an update from the alPHa conference advising that there were two workshops leading up to the conference and that getting a chance to interact with other board members across the province is important. Dr. Moore gave an interesting presentation and a strategy group talked about the political climate and that if the timeline was too short for health units to decide about a merger and there was good reason, a case could be made to the province. It is an excellent time to say what each health unit can do, step up and seize the moment to tell the government what they are good at doing.

The alPHa Info break newsletter that is circulated to Boards was discussed and there was a presentation from a lawyer regarding the legality of mergers. There is another symposium (June 5-7) which is in-person in Toronto and board members were encouraged to attend.

8.3. MOH Verbal Report

Linna Li gave a verbal update. (Appendix #2)

9. Time, Date and Location of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 4:00 pm. Peter McKenna advised that it will be an important meeting to determine whether to go forward with the merger or not and it will be an open conversation.

10. Adjournment

*Motion: That the meeting adjourn at 6:22 pm.
Motion Carried.*

Peter McKenna, Chair

Date

Heather Bruce, Executive Assistant

Date

c: Board members