



Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report
Board Meeting November 15, 2018

Organization Update

Work has begun to complete the Annual Service Plan for each of the Ontario Public Health Standards which is due on March 1, 2019 to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Summaries of the plans for each Standard will be presented to the Board in January and February as in 2018. They will be based on the new Strategic Plan.

Supporting quality Public Health Practice is a new requirement in the Ontario Accountability Framework of the Ontario Public Health Standards.

“A culture of quality and continuous organizational self-improvement is part of effective public health practice, which is an underpinning of effective program interventions, and therefore is necessary for the achievement of the desired goals and outcomes of public health programs and services.”

The Public Health Practice Committee, led by Jane Hess and myself, will coordinate Health Unit activities to support quality public health practice within the overall Continuous Quality Improvement Initiative.

Program Update

Public health nurses have given 9 high school presentations, in collaboration with the UCDSB and CSBEO boards, to 145 parent/adult allies on how to talk with your teen about cannabis. The Health Unit also organized a live Facebook event with the Medical Officer of Health, Kim Marshall our public health nurse leading the work on cannabis, the Brockville police chief, Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville Addictions and Mental Health and representatives from both school boards where we have had about 4000 views to date. I also participated in a community event organized by the Town of Gananoque that was well attended. We are now working on an information package for municipalities on cannabis from a public health perspective as they decide whether to opt in to have cannabis retail stores, develop by-laws to reduce exposure to cannabis, and consider other programs to decrease youth access to and use of cannabis.

The 2018 Ontario Public Health Standards included a new requirement for Health Units to investigate complaints of infection control lapses in clinical settings, for example dentist, nurse practitioner or doctor offices. The Communicable Disease Team has received specialized training to do the investigations, and have already investigated some complaints. Any lapses in infection control are posted on our website.

The Spring Rural Recreation Association (RAA) event on February 15, 2018 in Smiths Falls was titled “Connecting Physical Activity and Mental Health”. This event builds on the 2018 Participation Report that highlighted the strong research evidence that regular physical activity among children has an important impact on brain development and learning. For adults, regular physical activity enhances a sense of well-being and resiliency, and helps to manage stress, anxiety and depression.

The Steering Committee for Lanark County Planet Youth have organized two community information gatherings - in Perth and Carleton Place- to hear from Alfgeir Kristjansson from the original Iceland Planet Youth team about the successes, challenges and significant impacts experienced in Iceland, as a result of their Planet Youth initiative.

Planet Youth is an internationalcommunity-led initiative to support adolescents to be healthy and make healthy choices about the use of substances. It includes, for example, recreation opportunities, parenting support, role models and mentorship, development of knowledge and skills, youth led activities, mental health and other services as needed.

LHIN's

Work continues with the South-East LHIN on the Opioid Strategy and the Lanark, Leeds, Grenville Integration Table with a focus on COPD prevention and management. A new initiative on Health Equity will focus on population data indicators that assess how the social determinants of health, for example low income, affect health and the use of the health care system.

