



Board of Health Minutes

Date: Friday, March 26, 2021
Location: Electronic via Zoom
Time: 10:03 a.m. – 11:56 a.m.
Members Present: Sue Paterson (Chair), Anne Eadie, Selwyn Hicks, Brian Milne, Brian O’Leary, Chris Peabody, Helen-Claire Tingling, Mitch Twolan, Alan Barfoot, Nick Saunders (Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Non-Voting)
Regrets:
Also Present: Dr. Ian Arra, Matt McMurdie, Drew Ferguson, Kristy Hansford, Connie Rossitter
Special Guests:
Recording Secretary: Erin Meneray

1.0 Call to Order/Roll Call

The roll was called by the recording secretary.
Quorum was declared and Chair Paterson called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2.0 Amendments to Agenda

The In-Camera item will be deferred.

Alan Barfoot asked for an update on vaccine allotment and shipments for Grey Bruce. This information will be included in the MOH Report.

Dr. Arra introduced Dr. Rim Zayed. Dr. Zayed joined the Health Unit February 08, 2021 as a Physician Consultant. The Board of Health welcomed Dr. Zayed.

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Alan Barfoot Seconded by: Brian Milne
“THAT, the agenda for March 26, 2021 be approved as amended.”

Carried

4.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

5.0 Adoption of Minutes

5.1 Friday March 5, 2021

It was noted that item 3.0 should state that the agenda was approved as circulated NOT as amended.

A couple grammatical and formatting corrections were noted, the Board Chair will discuss with the Recording Secretary. Circulated minutes will reflect these changes.

Moved by: Alan Barfoot Seconded by: Chris Peabody
"THAT, the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting held on Friday, March 5, 2021 be approved as amended."

Carried

5.2 Friday March 19, 2021 BOH Executive Committee Meeting
Moved by: Brian O'Leary Seconded by: Mitch Twolan
"THAT, the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting held on Friday, March 5, 2021 be approved as circulated."

Carried

6.0 Correspondence and News Releases

6.1 Correspondence

6.1.1 Peterborough Public Health Letter to Minister Elliott Re. Public Appointments

6.1.2 Peterborough Public Health Re. Recommendations to Strengthen Provincial Student Nutrition Programs

6.1.3 Response from Prime Minister Re. GBHU Motion Re. Opioids

6.1.4 Motion from Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation Re. Board Appointment

The Chippewas of Nawash Chief and Council passed a motion appointing Nick Saunders to the Board of Health. It was noted that Dr. Arra connected with the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) to consider next steps in making this appointment official. The understanding from them would be to submit the application to the province, through the [Public Appointments Secretariat](#). They will be able to flag the appointment for approval by the Minister since the Chief and Council have already approved.

Selwyn Hicks joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

6.2 News Releases

6.2.1 COVID-19 Vaccine Information Update for the Week of March 8

6.2.2 COVID-19 Associated with Kincardine District Senior School

6.2.3 Opioid Overdose Alert

6.2.4 COVID-19 Exposure Associated with Restaurant in Southampton

6.2.5 COVID-19 Associated with School Update

6.2.6 COVID-19 Testing in Grey Bruce Schools

6.2.7 On-line Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine Goes Active March 15, 2021

6.2.8 COVID-19 Vaccine Time Extended Between Doses

6.2.9 Issues with On-line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine

- 6.2.10 Issues Resolved with On-line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine
- 6.2.11 Opioid Overdose Alert
- 6.2.12 Green Does Not Mean Everything Goes
- 6.2.13 Outbreak Grey Bruce Health Services
- 6.2.14 Exposure Associated with Bar in Owen Sound
- 6.2.15 On-Line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine
- 6.2.16 On-Line and Phone Booking for COVID-19 Vaccine – Issues Resolved
Board members are hearing from the Public that the process for booking vaccines is confusing and people are getting discouraged.

Grey Bruce was one of a few Health Units that piloted the provincial system. With a small number of clinics in the first week, minor issues were identified and immediately addressed with the Province. Due to the rapid deployment and ever changing situation, the system will evolve as time goes on and issues arise.

It was noted that the Health Unit is moving forward with the purchase of our own online booking system that will be used in conjunction with the Provincial platform. This purchase was discussed and approved at a meeting of the BOH Executive Committee on March 19, 2021.

Moved by: Brian Milne

Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the correspondence and Media Releases for March 26, 2021 as presented.”

Carried

7.0 Medical Officer of Health Update

7.1 Report on COVID-19 Vaccine Survey

Vaccine Update:

Phase 1 includes four main groups – all of which need to be completed by the end of March.

1. Long-Term Care and Retirement Home sector have completed first dose and clinics are booked for second dose this week and next. This includes residents, staff and essential workers in Grey Bruce which differs slightly from the provincial direction to include only residents.
2. Healthcare Workers in Hospitals – have been offered first dose according to provincial direction.
3. Good uptake in the First Nations communities. Vaccine will continue to be offered to the entire community to receive as soon as they are ready.
4. Booking 75 plus this week and starting clinics for 70 plus next week.

Schools, Childcare and Community Living are included in Phase 2 based on Provincial Direction with the hope that they can be completed earlier than

anticipated. It was noted that vaccine has been provided to the three largest Community Living Centres however not all centres have been completed.

There was a question about herd immunity, *“will herd immunity still be achievable in the summer when we have an influx of visitors to the area?”*

Dr. Arra noted that this is something that is being discussed at the COVID-19 Vaccine Planning table. Visitors and people with secondary residences would still qualify for the vaccine and can book anywhere in the province. This does cause logistical challenges with more demand on the shipments we receive. It is being addressed with the Province.

Dr. Arra provided the linked [report on COVID-19 Vaccine Survey](#).

The survey shows positive results when people were asked about trust in the Health Unit’s management of COVID-19; this includes providing clear, up-to-date information and doing everything it can to protect residents from COVID-19.

Nick Saunders shared a video:

[Dr. Ian Arra Receives an Eagle Feather - YouTube](#).

In this event on March 16, 2021, one year after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Ian Arra, Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health is honoured by the Saugeen Ojibway Nation for his invaluable contributions to the health, safety, and welfare of First Nations communities.

It was noted that we have been receiving several communications from Councillor John Tamming, acting outside the parameters of Council, repeatedly casting doubts about the Health Unit in its management of the pandemic and vaccine rollout in Grey Bruce. The communications undermine the work of public health lowering the public’s trust in in the health unit – the agency leading the response to the pandemic in Grey Bruce. Such actions can divert our collective attention at this critical time from the important matter at hand, the health and well being of the people of Grey Bruce

The Board supported that Dr. Arra and Board Chair, Sue Paterson attend the next council meeting as delegation to respond to the allegations by Councillor John Tamming and help further the trust and perception of the Health Units management of the Pandemic.

Sue Paterson spoke about the recently published Public Sector Salary Disclosure and addressed some of the mis-information surrounding the MOH salary. The list does not reflect any comparators. The MOH is paid a salary according to the MOH/AMOH Salary Grid and paid for overtime. Dr. Arra has worked every day since the first cases were identified in Grey Bruce in March

2020. There are certain legislated duties that can only be performed by a Medical Officer of Health or an Acting/Associate MOH appointed by the Minister of Health. We had a Physician Consultant who was instrumental in response to the first wave. The first step of the process (the appointment by the Board as an Associate Medical Officer of Health) was completed, however the second step (receiving Ministerial approval) was not completed.

Dr. Arra noted that we have been receiving appropriate shipments of vaccine proportionate to other Health Units in the Province, and noted that the proportion of the Grey Bruce population that have received the first does is slightly above the provincial proportion.

7.2 Public Health Modernization Update (STANDING ITEM)

No update at this point, the item remains dormant – presumably until the end of the emergency.

7.3 Opioid Situation Grey Bruce (STANDING ITEM)

Maintaining the core program functions.

There were two opioid alerts sent March 16 & 19 since the last update and anecdotally there have been at least 7 fatalities this year alone.

Moved by: Brian O’Leary

Seconded by: Helen-Claire Tingling

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the Medical Officer of Health update for March 26, 2021 as presented.”

Carried

8.0 Corporate Services

8.1 Financial Report – January 2021

Expenses related to wage has increased as we continue to perform case and contact management and rollout the vaccine in Grey Bruce.

Moved by: Anne Eadie

Seconded by: Chris Peabody

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the January Financials as presented.”

Carried

8.2 BDO Planning Report to Audit Committee

An audit planning report and summary of services letter regarding the annual audit was provided. The full presentation to the Board will be formally presented in May. We are in the second year of a three year contract with BDO.

The Corporate Director explained to the new Board members that going to tender for auditing services was paused in 2019 to tender due to the Ministry of Health budget proposal that the Grey Bruce Health Unit would amalgamate with other health units past April 2020.

It was noted that as the term of the current contract comes to end an RFP would be conducted.

The Board requested a signed copy of the document from the auditor.

Moved by: Alan Barfoot Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks
"THAT, the Board of Health receives BDO Audit Planning Report."

Carried

9.0 Other

9.1 Purchasing Policy IV-205 Procurement – Draft Revisions

The Board requested that the document be circulated for review and comment. There was a request for "major equipment" in item 4.1 to be defined.

9.2 Updating Policies for Employee Recognition

The Retirements and Resignations Policy as well as the Long-Term Service Recognition Policy are in need of review and updating. Policies from the respective counties will be reviewed and the two Board policies will be merged and updated. These will be brought to a future meeting for review and approval.

9.3 Manager Recognition for 2020 Pandemic Response

The directors spoke a few words about each of the Public Health managers and the tremendous work that was done in 2020 supporting the health unit through the emergency response.

Dr. Arra spoke about the Directors and Dr. Linna Li and thanked everyone for their hard work and dedication.

Ian Reich, Andrew Barton, Andra Ashton, Andrea Riley, Katy Cuillerier, Gillian Jordan, Jason Wepler, Kristy Hansford, Darren Lynk, Denna Leach, Drew Ferguson, Sarah Ellis, Susan Shular, Matthew McMurdie Dr. Linna Li and were recognized.

10.0 In-Camera – Deferred

11.0 Adjournment

By motion of Brian Milne, the Board of Health meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Next Meeting:

Friday, April 23, 2021 10:00 a.m.
Electronic Participation

X

Sue Paterson
Chairperson

X

Dr. Ian Arra
Medical Officer of Health

X

Erin Meneray
Recording Secretary