



Board of Health Minutes

Date: Friday, April 23, 2021
Location: Electronic via Zoom
Time: 10:01 AM – 12:20 PM
Members Present: Sue Paterson (Chair), Selwyn Hicks, Brian Milne, Brian O’Leary, Helen-Claire Tingling, Alan Barfoot, Nick Saunders (Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Non-Voting)
Regrets: Chris Peabody, Mitch Twolan
Also Present: Dr. Ian Arra, Dr. Zayed, Matt McMurdie, Drew Ferguson, Kristy Hansford, Connie Rossitter
Special Guests: Neena Gupta, Gowling Law
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 10:01 AM

2.0 Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest

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

3.0 Amendments to Agenda

Communication/clarification on two Items:
Reopening Golf Courses and Boat Launches
These items will be addressed under the MOH Report

Two additional Correspondence Items:

7.1.4 Municipality of Grey Highlands, Support for the Grey Bruce Health Unit

7.1.5 Town of Hanover, Endorsement of Resolution, Support for Grey Bruce Health Unit MOH

4.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Alan Barfoot Seconded by: Helen-Claire Tingling
“THAT, the agenda for April 23, 2021 be approved as amended.”

Carried

5.0 Recognition

5.1 Board of Health Member and Former Kincardine Mayor, Anne Eadie
Chair Paterson shared a message from former Board Member and former Kincardine Mayor, Anne Eadie. Ms. Eadie was recognized for her time on the Board of Health.

5.2 Staff Retirement Recognition

On behalf of the Board, Chair Paterson congratulated Krista Jones on her retirement. Ms. Jones was recognized for 23 years as a Parent Support Worker in the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program.

6.0 Adoption of Minutes

6.1 Friday March 26, 2021

Moved by: Brian Milne

Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks

“THAT, the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting held on Friday, March 26, 2021 be approved as circulated.”

Carried

6.2 Thursday April 8, 2021 BOH Executive Committee Meeting

One amendment was noted; the location of the meeting should state *electronic via zoom*.

Moved by: Brian O’Leary

Seconded by: Helen-Claire Tingling

“THAT, the minutes of the Board of Health Executive Committee Meeting held on Thursday April 8, 2021 be approved as amended.”

Carried

6.3 Friday April 16, 2021 BOH Special Meeting

Two amendments were noted; the location of the meeting should state *electronic via zoom* and the title of the minutes *Board of Health Special Meeting*.

Moved by: Brian Milne

Seconded by: Alan Barfoot

“THAT, the minutes of the Board of Health Special Meeting held on Friday, April 16, 2021 be approved as amended.”

Carried

7.0 Correspondence and News Releases

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Mayor Town of Blue Mountains Open Letter of Support

7.1.2 Response from Opioid Response Team, Government of Canada Re. Board of Health Correspondence on the Opioid Crisis

7.1.3 City of North Bay Resolution Re. Redistribution and Prioritization of unused vaccine allocations

7.1.4 The Municipality of Grey Highlands – Support for the Grey Bruce Health Unit

7.1.5 Town of Hanover – Endorsement of Resolution of the Township of Southgate supporting the Grey Bruce Health Unit

7.2 News Releases

7.2.1 Third Wave is Possible

7.2.2 Public Assistance Request Cat Bite

7.2.3 Fourth Death Related to COVID-19

7.2.4 Imminent Surge is Possible – One Last Push

7.2.5 COVID-19 Associated with Harvest Canadian Reformed School

7.2.6 COVID-19 Associated with Edge Hill Country School

7.2.7 COVID-19 Associated with Kincardine District Secondary School

7.2.8 COVID-19 Associated with St. Anthony’s School

7.2.9 COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Moving to 70+ Completely Booked

- 7.2.10 COVID-19 Associated with St. Anthony's School Update
- 7.2.11 COVID-19 Associated with Ripley Huron Community School
- 7.2.12 COVID-19 Associated with Georgian Bay Community School
- 7.2.13 Grey Bruce Moves to Provincial Shutdown
- 7.2.14 COVID-19 Associated with Beaver Valley Community School
- 7.2.15 Grey Bruce Priority Population Booking System Now Live and Vaccine for 60+
- 7.2.16 Vaccine Progress – End of Phase One – April 8, 2021
- 7.2.17 Grey Bruce Sets Record for Largest Ever COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic
- 7.2.18 COVID-19 Associated with Notre Dame Catholic School
- 7.2.19 Suspect Outbreak Beaver Valley Community School
- 7.2.20 COVID-19 Associated with Immaculate Conception School
- 7.2.21 COVID-19 Associated with St. Mary's High School Owen Sound
- 7.2.22 COVID-10 Associated with Hanover Heights Community School
- 7.2.23 Outbreak at Notre Dame Catholic School
- 7.2.24 Suspect Outbreak at Queen of Hearts Nursery School Owen Sound
- 7.2.25 Vaccine Rollout Week of April 12, 2021
- 7.2.26 COVID-19 Associated with Georgian Bay Community School
- 7.2.27 Confirmed Outbreak at Queen of Hearts Nursery School
- 7.2.28 COVID-19 Critical Threshold April 14, 2021
- 7.2.29 Grey Bruce COVID-19 Critical Threshold Stay at Home
- 7.2.30 Grey Bruce COVID-19 Critical Threshold Health Unit Resources Redeployed
- 7.2.31 COVID-19 Community Outbreak Declared in Eastern Grey County
- 7.2.32 Suspect Outbreak Hanover Heights Community School
- 7.2.33 COVID-19 From Challenge to Opportunity – Grey Bruce Strong
- 7.2.34 MOH Issues Class Order
- 7.2.35 All Grey Bruce Scheduled Vaccine Clinics Continue to Operate
- 7.2.36 COVID-19 Suspect Outbreak at Jardin des Découvertes

Moved by: Brian O'Leary

Seconded by: Brian Milne

"THAT, the Board of Health receives the correspondence and Media Releases for April 23, 2021 as presented."

Carried

8.0 Medical Officer of Health Update

8.1 MOH Update

Situation Report:

Dr. Arra provided an overview of the Situation Report and COVID-19 Vaccine Dashboard (testing and case counts for April 22, 2021). He described measures that were implemented over the two weeks from having identified over 70 new cases across Grey Bruce in less than 36 hours and declaring a "Critical Threshold" one week ago to the present case count of 14 new cases. Dr. Arra explained that the surge in cases were linked to variants of concern (VOC) and primarily related to two events; an outbreak in a childcare setting and parties/gatherings among high-school aged youth which spread out into the community through close contacts of affected individuals.

By declaring a critical threshold and implementing temporary changes to operations, the Health Unit was able to maintain control over the pandemic locally.

Large-scale vaccine clinics were deferred and dedicated mobile teams made up of Health Unit staff, EMS and volunteers were deployed. Vaccines were directed to residents in shelters and congregate settings where the risk of transmission would be higher with the current surge.

Three hospitalization transfers were received from other health unit areas; Dr. Arra noted this is something that we will likely see more of going forward due to lagging indicators.

Vaccine Dashboard:

52,755 total doses of vaccine administered in Grey Bruce

150,000 people eligible based on age

Equivalent to a little over one-third of the population vaccinated as of April 21, 2021 which is consistent with the provincial average.

The [Vaccine Dashboard](#) is updated daily and can be accessed on the Health Unit website.

A question was raised about herd immunity given the current pace. Dr. Arra noted that the current goal would be to reach herd immunity by August; however, it is difficult to predict. There are a number of external factors such as supply issues and delays, which slow the process.

Unfortunately, there is no way to reassure the community that events and gatherings will be able to happen.

Golf Courses:

Golfing is considered safe from a risk of transmission point of view; however, it is not considered an essential activity. One of the three main objectives of a stay at home order is to reduce/restrict mobility inter-provincially. Although it is safe, going golfing would entail travel to and from the golf course and stops along the way. The provincial direction is that this is a restricted activity and the local MOH does not have the authority to override a provincial direction. Locally the MOH can restrict further but not loosen the restrictions.

Boat Launches:

The Provincial direction would restrict travel to the boat launch or public facility; however, property owners can use their own docks/facilities for personal use. The provincial direction is not concerned with the type of activity – only concerned with the travel and use of the public facility.

There is some confusion in the public as some municipalities are interpreting and applying the direction differently and it is not consistent across Grey Bruce.

Communication clarifying provincial direction regarding Marinas and Boat Launches will be sent.

Case and Contact Management:

Some Board members are being approached/questioned by members of the public on the information/direction they have received from Public Health regarding identification as a high-risk contact. There is some confusion around what determines whether someone should self-isolate or self-monitor.

Dr. Arra noted that case and contact management is a speciality that takes years to understand and cannot really be summarized in one or two lines. Risk assessment will be individualized based on the scenario or specific case and should not be generalized.

It is important to note that all contact tracing and determination of individual and community risk is made by Public Health. This is true of all cases, whether in schools, workplaces or the community. A health care provider or school official cannot make this decision.

If someone is contacted by Public Health, they will be provided with appropriate direction based on their specific situation.

Visitors from Out of Area:

With the May long-weekend coming up and kick-off to summer, a question was raised about whether or not Grey Bruce should be enhancing provincial orders or restricting visitors to the area.

Dr. Arra noted that Grey Bruce saw thousands of visitors to the area last summer and there is no indication that those visits generated cases (whether from visitor to a local or from visitor to visitor). To the best of our knowledge, visitors and seasonal residents followed protocols to the best of their ability.

The goal of the Provincial Stay at Home order is to minimize mobility inter-provincially. Will Grey Bruce see zero visitors – not likely – however, sightseeing and hiking are not considered high-risk activities. The risk is when people are coming to the area to visit family or friends.

8.2 Public Health Modernization Update (STANDING ITEM)

No update at this point.

8.3 Opioid Situation Grey Bruce (STANDING ITEM)

Not much change since last meeting, last reported figure was up to 18 deaths in 2020, final count would be reported in May or June. Core program activities remain functioning.

Moved by: Alan Barfoot

Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the Medical Officer of Health update for April 23, 2021 as presented.”

Carried

9.0 In-Camera

9.1 Advice Subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege

Moved by: Brian O’Leary

Seconded by: Brian Milne

“THAT, the Board of Health go into closed session at 11:01 AM to discuss one item pertaining to advice subject to solicitor-client privilege.”

Carried

The Board returned to open session at 12:05 PM. Chair Paterson declared that only the items stated on the agenda to go into closed session were discussed. In-camera minutes from the BOH Executive Committee Meeting April 8, 2021 and the BOH Special Meeting April 16, 2021 were adopted and direction was given to staff on one item.

10.0 Corporate Services

10.1 Financial Report – February 2021

The financial report shows a deficit of approximately \$154,000. Matt noted that this number is not unexpected given the pandemic response and additional human resources required. There are a number of items accounting for additional expenses such as IT software, support and supplies.

COVID regular hours report is included in the package; hours continue to build as the Health Unit expands for case and contact management and ramps up vaccine response.

Two Ontario Seniors Dental capital projects were approved as part of the Health Unit’s 2020 budget. Clinics are in Markdale and Owen Sound. Monthly statements will now be provided to report the progress of these projects.

Moved by: Alan Barfoot

Seconded by: Helen-Claire Tingling

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the February 2021 Financials as presented.”

Carried

10.2 2021 Budget Summary

The 2021 budget shows an increase of roughly 4.9M (32%) year over year – this is completely related to COVID-19 response. Costs are largely human (salaries and benefits). COVID-19 related costs will continue to be covered by the Ministry.

Moved by: Alan Barfoot

Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks

“THAT, the 2021 budget be approved as presented.”

Carried

10.3 Procurement Policy Update

Moved by: Brian Milne

Seconded by: Brian O'Leary

"THAT, the updated Procurement Policy, IV-205 (ADMIN-FIN) be approved as presented."

Carried

10.4 alPHa Summary: Budget 2021

Received for information.

11.0 Other

12.0 Adjournment

By motion of Alan Barfoot, the Board of Health meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

Next Meeting:

Friday, May 28, 2021, 2021 10:00 AM
Electronic Participation

X

Sue Paterson
Chairperson

X

Dr. Ian Arra
Medical Officer of Health

X

Erin Meneray
Recording Secretary