



Board of Health Minutes

Date: Friday, September 25, 2020
Location: Electronic via Zoom
Time: 10:02 a.m. – 12:23 p.m.
Members Present: Mitch Twolan (Chair), Anne Eadie, Selwyn Hicks, Brian Milne, Brian O’Leary, Sue Paterson, Chris Peabody, Paul McQueen (Ex-Officio Member, Non-Voting), Alan Barfoot (Non-Voting)
Regrets: Nick Saunders (Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation, Non-Voting)
Also Present: Dr. Ian Arra, Matt McMurdie, Drew Ferguson, Ian Reich, Kristy Hansford
Special Guests:
Secretary: Erin Meneray

1.0 Call to Order

Chair Mitch Twolan declared quorum present and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

2.0 Amendments to Agenda

7.2.8 Public Assistance Request – Owen Sound

Other Business

10.1 Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network – Brian O’Leary

10.2 COVID Risk Mitigation Strategies for Special Events and Traditions

Moved by: Sue Paterson

Seconded by: Brian O’Leary

“THAT, the Board of Health accept the amendments to the agenda for the meeting on Friday September 25, 2020.”

Carried

3.0 Approval of Agenda

Moved by: Anne Eadie

Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks

“THAT, the Board of Health approve the agenda 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, August 28, 2020

Moved by: Brian Milne

Seconded by: Sue Paterson

“THAT, the minutes of the Board of Health Meeting held on Friday, August 28, 2020 be approved as presented.”

Carried

6.0 Staff Presentation: Mitigation Strategies for Overdose Prevention during COVID

Public Health Manager Ian Reich provided an overview of the Grey Bruce mitigation response to the opioid crisis in the midst of the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Actions taken:

- Overdose Alerts that were issued over the summer
- Awareness campaign of Overdose Prevention Line
- Expanded Naloxone Program – enrollments and expanded eligibility
- New Harm Reduction site in Wiarton
- Grey and Bruce County Housing Outreach and Harm Reduction Outreach

The current drug poisoning crisis has been further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario prepared a letter urging the Province of Ontario to fund and scale up implementation of safer supply initiatives.

The safer supply projects will provide people with a safer medical alternative from a licensed prescriber. It will also connect them with important health and social services, including treatment, which may be more difficult to access during COVID-19.

- 6.1 Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario – Letter for Endorsement – Minister of Health, Government of Canada
- 6.2 Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario – Letter for Endorsement – Minister of Health, Government of Ontario

Moved by: Anne Eadie

Seconded by: Brian O’Leary

“THAT, the Board of Health endorse the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network of Ontario call on the provincial government to fund implementation of safer supply initiatives in a coordinated approach with the federal government; and support the implementation of safer supply initiatives by adding the required formulations to the Ontario Drug Benefit Formulary to enable injectable safer supply initiatives to operate.”

Carried

There was discussion about the importance of developing a better understanding on mental health and addiction, and that safe supply is just one strategy but that a solution must look at all variables, from enforcement to community health and social services and a comprehensive strategy would focus on early prevention and not just harm reduction.

Ian Reich left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

7.0 Correspondence and News Releases

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula Re. Anti-Racism Resolution West Grey

7.1.2 Peterborough Public Health Letter to Government Re. Guaranteed Basic Income

7.1.3 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit and Royal Society of Canada Working Group Re. COVID-19 and Long-Term Care Reform

Moved by: Brian O’Leary Seconded by: Sue Paterson

“THAT, the Board of Health support the recommendations from the Royal Society of Canada Working Group on Long-Term Care regarding critical issues that must be addressed moving forward with Long-Term Care reform and redesign.”

Carried

7.2 News Releases

7.2.1 Little River Park Beach – Thornbury

7.2.2 Medical Officer of Health Renews Order – Face Coverings in Indoor Public Places in Grey Bruce

7.2.3 Open Letter from Grey Bruce Medical Officer of Health Dr. Ian Arra to Parents, Grandparents and Guardians of Children in Grey Bruce

7.2.4 School Screening and Return to School

7.2.5 No Known COVID-19 Cases or Outbreaks in any Grey Bruce Schools

7.2.6 Senior Dental Program Expansion to Markdale

7.2.7 Update – COVID-19 Testing in Grey Bruce

7.2.8 Public Assistance Request – Owen Sound

Moved by: Sue Paterson

Seconded by: Anne Eadie

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the September correspondence and media releases as presented.”

Carried

8.0 Medical Officer of Health Update

8.1 [Update on School Reopening](#)

Public Health has been actively engaged in a number of activities to support school reopening in our region. Dr. Arra provided the linked update on school reopening.

There has recently been a surge in the number people attending the assessment centres in Grey Bruce. This could be due to a number of factors; two of the main reasons:

- anxiety-driven
- stringent application of the assessment tool in schools

Interpretation of guidelines is creating confusion at different levels, however the MOH and staff continue to have consultation meetings with local School Officials. There have been 9 Public Health Nurses (PHNs) that were either hired or reassigned to support schools in our region. The PHNs role is coordinate the work of several teams (ID, Dental, and Vaccine teams) from the health unit in the schools.

Dr. Arra is also working closely with hospital CEOs, local healthcare providers and primary care physicians on options for increasing testing capacity at assessment centres. Assessment Centres are operated by hospitals and not Public Health.

Dr. Arra shared a letter that the Council of Ontario Medical Officer's of Health (COMOH) provided to advise the provincial decision makers to limit testing to two main categories (people with symptoms or exposure). This has the potential to significantly decrease the demand on the assessment centres.

8.2 Healthcare Modernization Update

Dr. Arra identified that while public health modernization has been put on hold by the province, some organizations seem to be communicating in a regional way.

He stressed the importance of supporting the connection between Public Health and municipalities, and suggested that there is an immediate need to advocate for focus on local need and not regional need during the case of an emergency.

Dr. Arra provided a list of venues that could be contacted for such advocacy efforts.

Moved by: Anne Eadie

Seconded by: Brian Milne

“THAT, letters be sent to various levels of government, municipal organizations and other invested parties with respect to healthcare modernization and regionalization and the importance of supporting connections between Public Health and Municipalities.”

Carried

Moved by: Brian O’Leary

Seconded by: Selwyn Hicks

“THAT, the Board of Health receives the Medical Officer of Health updates as presented.”

Carried

9.0 Corporate Services

9.1 Financial Report – July 2020

“THAT, the Board of Health approve the revised capital investment of \$106,000 plus 5% possible variance for the telephone system.”

Carried

Kristy Hansford left the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

10.0 Other Business

10.1 Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network – Brian O’Leary

BOH Member Brian O’Leary brought forth an issue that the City of Owen Sound has been tackling in response to a neighborhood in the city limits that council has declared as a “hot spot”. The issues in this neighborhood are related to mental health and substance abuse.

Effort is being put forth for the province to immediately fund and scale up harm reduction efforts, however there are concerns from residents that live in this particular neighborhood around safety, noise, trespassing and other items.

The city has approved a plan to address after-hours by-law enforcement in this area, however it is a complex issue which requires a broader more inclusive strategy.

Dr. Arra suggested that this issue be brought forward to the same working group, the Municipal Drug Strategy Coordinators Network, to work on a more comprehensive approach. Dr. Arra will bring a report to a future board meeting.

10.2 COVID Risk Mitigation Strategies for Special Events and Traditions

It was noted that there has been communication from the Ministry that there will be Provincial Mitigation Strategies coming from the province regarding special events such as Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Christmas.

Grey Bruce Health Unit staff have developed two communication tools that will be in circulation in our social media to reduce the risk of transmission.

11.0 In-Camera Session

Moved by: Brian O’Leary

Seconded by: Anne Eadie

“THAT the Board of Health does now go into closed session at 11:40 a.m. to discuss two (2) items under advice subject to solicitor client privilege and one (1) item under Personal matters about an identifiable individual and FURTHER THAT, Dr. Arra, Matt McMurdie and Erin Meneray shall remain present.”

Carried

The Board returned to open session at 12:22 p.m. with Chair Mitch Twolan presiding. Chair Twolan confirmed that only the items stated in the resolution to move into closed session were discussed with 2 items for information only and direction given to staff on 1 item.

12.0 Adjournment

By motion of Anne Eadie, the Board of Health meeting adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Friday, October 23, 2020, 10:00 a.m.
Electronic Participation

X

Mitch Twolan
Chairperson

X

Dr. Ian Arra
Medical Officer of Health

X

Erin Meneray
Recording Secretary