

**HALIBURTON, KAWARTHA, PINE RIDGE DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

November 16, 2023

MINUTES

The meeting was convened by Mr. Marshall at 9:30 am at the Health Unit's Lindsay office.

Those in attendance were Messrs. Marshall, Logel, Ryall, Perry, and Crate, Mrs. Richardson, Dr. Hankivsky, Dr. Bocking, Mr. Vrooman, Ms. Beaulac, and Mrs. Dickson (Recorder).

1. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit is situated on the traditional territories of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations. This includes the territories of Treaty 20 and Williams Treaties. We respectfully acknowledge that these Nations are the stewards and caretakers of these lands and waters for all time and that they continue to maintain this responsibility to ensure their health and integrity for generations to come.

The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit recognizes the many harms done to Indigenous peoples and our collective responsibility to right those wrongs. As an organization that is rooted in a colonial system, we are committed to change, to building meaningful relationships with Indigenous communities and in improving our understanding of local Indigenous peoples as we celebrate their cultures and traditions, serve their communities, and responsibly honour all our relations.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved by Mrs. Richardson

Seconded by Dr. Hankivsky

THAT the agenda be adopted as presented.

2023-127

carried

3. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

None

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Logel

Seconded by Mr. Ryall

THAT the minutes from the October 19, 2023 meeting be approved.

2023-128

carried

5. BUSINESS ARISING

None

6. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH UPDATES

2023/2024 Fall Respiratory Season:

Dr. Bocking communicated that there has been a surge in hospital admissions recently. Fall 2023 is mirroring a typical respiratory season, as opposed to what we saw during the pandemic.

Below is snapshot of activity:

COVID-19

- 22 outbreaks
- 22 hospital admissions
- 4 deaths

Influenza

- 6 lab-confirmed cases

Residents are encouraged to:

- 1) Stay up to date with immunizations (COVID-19, influenza, RSV)
- 2) Know whether you are eligible for treatment (COVID-19 and influenza).
- 3) Stay home if you are sick.
- 4) Wear a mask if you are at risk of developing severe illness or if you are recovering from a respiratory infection (up to 10 days after the start of symptoms).

Moved by Dr. Hankivsky

Seconded by Mr. Ryall

THAT the Medical Officer of Health updates be received for information.

2023-129

carried

7. REPORTS

Bernie Mayer, Manager, Health Protection provided the Board with information regarding the Small Drinking Water System program.

The Small Drinking Water Systems (SDWS) program is a requirement under the Ontario Public Health Standards and is detailed in Ontario regulation in order to protect the population from waterborne infections and provide leadership to communities related to drinking water.

Health units are responsible for the inspection of small drinking water systems (SDWS) in the following locations:

- Food service establishments
- Places that operate primarily for the purpose of providing overnight accommodation to the travelling public
- Trailer parks and campgrounds
- Marinas
- Places of worship
- Recreational camps
- Recreational or athletic facilities
- Places, other than private residences, where a service club or fraternal organization meets on a regular basis
- Any place where the general public has access to a washroom, drinking water fountain, or shower

Public Health Inspectors have many duties to perform under the SDWS program including:

- Maintaining an inventory of SDWS in the Health Unit's jurisdiction
- Conducting inspections and risk assessments at a prescribed frequency
- Issuing a new Directive after each risk assessment completed
- [Disclosing inspection reports to the public](#)
- Conducting re-inspections and following up for non-compliance
- Responding to all SDWS adverse water quality incidents (AWQIs)
- Conducting inspection and risk assessments of new SDWS and issuing directives
- Meeting with new owners of SDWS when there is a change in ownership to ensure they are aware of their obligations
- Conducting sampling compliance checks every 3 months and issuing warning letters for non-compliance with sampling requirements (enforcement may occur for repeat offenders)
- Conducting inventory-wide mailouts to seasonal operators and reminding operators of their required training

The HKPR District Health Unit has many SDWS within its jurisdiction. This is due to the large geographical area it covers, the presence of many seasonal recreational properties, fewer municipal water services provided to towns and villages; and the impacts of municipal official plans not optimizing current municipal water services as part of development plans in accordance with the provincial policy statement.

In 2024, 600 SDWS within the counties of Northumberland and Haliburton, and the City of Kawartha Lakes will require a risk assessment and inspection.

Moved by Mr. Logel

Seconded by Mr. Crate

THAT the presentation on the Small Drinking Water program be received for information.

2023-130
carried

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Corporate Services Updates

Mr. Vrooman presented the draft unaudited operating statements for the month ending October 31, 2023 and the following updates:

Reports Submitted to the Ministry of Health

The following report was recently submitted to the Ministry of Health:

Q3-2023 Standards Activity Report

- Reports on Q1-Q3 Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) program expenditures and end of year forecast (currently forecasting to spend 100% of budget).
- Includes preliminary program data for immunization services, school health, and oral health screening.
- Reports on Board of Health risk register as per Ministry risk management framework.

Risk Management

The Ontario Public Health Standards state that boards of health are accountable for achieving a high standard and quality of practice in the delivery of public health programs and services, including the requirement to have a formal risk management framework in place that identifies, assesses, and addresses risk. Progress on the high-risk categories that are being managed is reportable on every third quarter Standards Activity Report, which was submitted to the Ministry on October 31, 2023.

Moved by Mr. Crate

Seconded by Dr. Hankivsky

THAT the draft unaudited operating statement for the ten-month period ending October 31, 2023 in the amount of \$18,067,718 be received for information AND FURTHER THAT, the update on reports submitted to the Ministry of Health, risk management updates and insurance renewal be received for information.

2023-131
carried

8.2 2024 Budget Development

Dr. Bocking provided the Board of Health with context for development of the 2024 Budget.

The Board requested more information regarding the Program Budgeting and Marginal Analysis (PBMA) process that was undertaken to prioritize programs and services in order to achieve more with limited funding. The Board also directed staff to explore the market of benefit providers to investigate opportunities for reducing the increased costs of benefit premiums.

The Board of Health agreed in principle to support “Scenario A”, which utilizes surplus. The final budget will be presented to the Board for approval at its December 7th meeting.

Moved by Mrs. Richardson

Seconded by Mr. Perry

THAT the Board of Health receive the briefing note, 2024 Budget Development, for information and the Board of Health approve an overall 5% increase to our obligated municipalities for the 2024 cost-shared budget. And FURTHER THAT, staff provide more information regarding the PBMA process, and explore the market of benefit providers.

2023-132
carried

8.3 Q3-2023 Board of Health Quarterly Report for Programs and Services Summary

Moved by Mr. Logel

Seconded by Mr. Ryall

THAT the Board of Health receive the summary of the Q3-2023 Board of Health Quarterly Report for Programs and Services for information.

2023-133
carried

8.4 Letter of Support re: Bill 103, *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids)* 2023.

Dr. Bocking shared a draft letter of support for Bill 103, *Smoke-Free Ontario Amendment Act (Vaping is not for Kids)* 2023.

The *Smoke Free Ontario Amendments Act*, Bill 103 will address the following:

1. Prohibiting the promotion of vapour products.
2. Amending the legal age to purchase products to 21 years old and above.
3. Prohibiting vapour flavouring and restrict high concentration vapour products.

4. Restricting vapour products to being sold at specialty vape stores or designated stores in remote/rural communities, with approval from the Board of Health. Selling or offering to sell vapour products online be prohibited.
5. Minister provided the ability to direct tax revenue from vapour product sales at specialty stores to be used for education on the health risks of vaping.
6. Require Ontario Health prepare an annual report to the Ministry on youth vaping with recommendations to the Minister in developing policies.

The Board of Health requested that staff advocate for regulations around nicotine pouches; a letter will be drafted for the Board's consideration to send to Health Canada.

Moved by Mr. Perry

Seconded by Mr. Crate

THAT the Board of Health approve the draft letter of support re: Bill 103 and that it be sent to Minister Jones and FURTHER THAT, staff draft a letter to advocate to Health Canada for regulations around nicotine pouches.

2023-134

carried

8.5 Strengthening Public Health – Voluntary Mergers

Dr. Bocking shared that HKPR and Peterborough Public Health have been in discussions to explore merging, and that the next step in the process is a feasibility assessment. A Joint Board Merger Exploration Working Group will be meeting for the first time today to discuss the scope of the assessment.

Moved by Mr. Logel

Seconded by Dr. Hankivsky

THAT the Board of Health receive the update on Strengthening Public Health – Voluntary Mergers for information.

2023-135

carried

9. BUSINESS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Hankivsky shared that she met with Minister Tibollo recently to discuss a proposal for a Youth Wellness Hub in the area.

Dr. Hankivsky also shared that progress is being made on the reopening of the Port Hope Walk-in Clinic, although more physicians are needed.

Mr. Ryall requested information about who provides the “all clear” following an algae bloom and following sewage release when a system is intentionally released to prevent overflow. (Algae blooms are reported to the Ministry of Environment, Conservation, and Parks and they also have jurisdiction over sewage releases).

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Moved by Mr. Crate

Seconded by Mr. Logel

THAT the following correspondence be received and filed:

- A Report to the Ministry of Health -White Paper Highlighting the Vital Role of Public Health Inspectors with a Responsive and Effective Public Health Workforce
- alPHa Summary – 2023 Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review – Building a Stronger Ontario Together

2023-136
carried

11. IN-CAMERA SESSION

Moved by Mr. Crate

Seconded by Mr. Perry

THAT the Board of Health move in-camera to review the closed session minutes from the October 19, 2023 in-camera session, property, and a personnel item.

2023-137
carried

Moved by Mr. Logel

Seconded by Mr. Crate

THAT the in-camera be dissolved, and the membership return to the Board of Health open session.

2023-138
carried

Moved by Dr. Hankivsky

Seconded by Mr. Crate

THAT the Board of Health approve the in-camera minutes from October 19, 2023.

2023-139
carried

Moved by Dr. Hankvisky

Seconded by Mr. Perry

THAT the Board of Health receive the information provided under property item 11.2.

2023-140
carried

Moved by Mr. Logel

Seconded by Dr. Hankvisky

THAT the Board of Health grant permanent status to Matthew Vrooman, Director of Corporate Services, after having successfully completed his six-month probationary period.

2023-141
carried

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held at the Dalewood Golf & Country Club in Cobourg, on December 7, 2023, from 9:30am – 11:30am.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. Richardson

Seconded by Dr. Hankivksy

THAT the meeting be adjourned. The meeting adjourned at 11.38 am.

“All in favour”

2023-142
carried

Board of Health Chair
Approved December 7, 2023

Recorder