

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 21, 2006

1:30 pm – BOARDROOM

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

C. Bryson, Chair
I. Angus
V. Catalan
N. Gale
G. Garbutt
M. Harding
L. Kloosterhuis
G. Nelson
C. Teichroeb
C. Trottier
J. Virdiramo

Regrets:

D. Bell
R. Buitenhuis

Administration Present:

Dr. V. Etches, A/Medical Officer of Health
D. Heath, A/Chief Executive Officer
K. Allan, Director, Health Protection and Clinical Services
G. Daniels, A/Business Administrative Officer
E. DePeuter, A/Director, Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

Recorder: B. McClain

Meeting Called to Order – 1:32 pm

1. Attendance and Announcements

Connie Bryson, Chair, introduced Simon Hoad, Coordinator, Tobacco Control Area Network (T-CAN). The Board of Health congratulated him on his recent receipt of the Heather Crowe Award which was awarded to him by The Hon. Jim Watson, Minister of Health Promotion on February 10, 2006.

Dr. Vera Etches, Associate Medical Officer of Health with Sudbury & District Health Unit was introduced and welcomed to the Thunder Bay District Health Unit. It was noted that she is attending the Board Meeting as Acting Medical Officer of Health on behalf of Dr. P. Sutcliffe.

Regrets were received from D. Bell and R. Buitenhuis.

The Chair provided an overview of her participation in a meeting of the Northwest Regional LHIN.

Conferences

The Staff Conference is scheduled for Thursday, June 1 at the Valhalla Inn. The theme is "Diversity".

The alPHa Conference is scheduled for June 8, 9, 2006.

The Chair noted that the release of the 2005 Northwestern Ontario Student Drug Use Survey is scheduled for February 21st. A copy of the Executive Summary and of the News Release was distributed to Board Members.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

3. Agenda Approval

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: V. Catalan

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of February 21, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation

5. Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 17, 2006

Moved by: I. Angus

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Health of January 17, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

5.2 Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of January 17, 2006

Moved by: I. Angus

Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of January 17, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.1 City of Thunder Bay By-law

I. Angus provided an update on the skateboard/rollerblade by-law presented to City Council. It was noted that it was returned to City Administration for further review and was subsequently lost on a tie vote of Council. He noted that he has spoken with E. DePeuter, A/Director Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention on the development of a proposal on the safety aspect to go to City Council for further consideration.

7. Standing Reports

7.1 Divisional Reports

7.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

K. Allan, Director of Health Protection and Clinical Services presented the Divisional report. Highlights included events in the postpartum depression program, the promotion of Healthy Babies Healthy Children services throughout the District; local Pandemic Planning with various community groups, and staff attendance at an upcoming Provincial pandemic planning conference on March 7.

7.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

E. DePeuter, A/Director, provided the handout "Healthy Ontarians, Healthy Ontario – The Ministry of Health Promotion's Strategic Framework". Highlights were shared of the February 9th and 10th visit by the Minister of Health Promotion to the Community Roundtable discussions and to the Health Unit. New provincial tobacco legislation to come into effect on May 31 is expected to increase the Health Unit's responsibility to enforce the new legislation. The Ministry of Health Promotion is currently reviewing funding models and receipt of funding information is pending. Advocacy continues throughout Ontario health units to underscore the importance of adequate social assistance levels to meet basic nutritional requirements, and of the annual Nutritious Food Basket survey conducted by health units. The release of the Results of the Northwestern Ontario Student Drug Use Survey was noted, and questions were addressed. It was noted by a Board member that current municipal tobacco by-laws should be left in place regardless of the pending Provincial legislation. It was noted, in addition, that TBDHU is in the forefront of warning of the dangers of smokeless tobacco.

7.2 A/Chief Executive Officer Report

Doug Heath, A/Chief Executive Officer, expressed his appreciation of all staff and Board members involved to make the recent visit by the

THAT the Board of Health approve that the relocation and addition of various building security devices be awarded to Apex Investigation & Security Inc at a cost of \$14,596.65 (taxes extra), as outlined in Report No. 09-06.

CARRIED

Moved by: M. Harding

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Board of Health approve the transfer of cellular phone and Blackberry services to TBayTel Mobility, effective April 3, 2006, for a two (2)-year and three (3)-year period respectively, as outlined in Report No. 09-06.

CARRIED

8. New Business

8.1 Best Start Initiative

E. DePeuter presented this report with the assistance of Bill Campbell, A/Manager of the Family Health Program, on support for the Best Start Initiative, a program to implement neighbourhood-based Early Learning and Care Centres for pre-school children. There is uncertainty as to whether the new federal government will continue with previously announced funds under the proposed National Plan for Early Learning and Child Care.

In conjunction with this support for continued provincial funding, Iain Angus, Chair of Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB), spoke to their news release, "DSSAB Wants Funding Guarantee from Province for Best Start" requesting assurance from the Minister of Children and Youth Services that funding will go ahead for projects, and that operating funding will be put in place. Support for the DSSAB resolution by the Thunder Bay District Board of Health was requested.

Board questions were invited. Bill Campbell noted he anticipates additional information on funding to be shared at a meeting of MYCS and Healthy Babies Healthy Children on March 2.

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

WHEREAS, in Spring 2005 the Ministry of Children and Youth Services (MCYS) announced the Best Start Initiative, a program funded by the provincial government through the federal funds announced under the proposed National Plan for Early Learning and Child Care; and

WHEREAS, the Boards of Health for the Sudbury & District Health Unit and Durham Region Health Department passed resolutions endorsing the Best Start Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Thunder Bay District Board of Health provides public health programs and services including Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC), Preschool Speech and Language (PSL), and the Infant Hearing Program (IHP); and the implications and expectations for public health programs and services within the Comprehensive Best Start Hub Model will not be known until further consultation during 2006;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health advocate to the Ministry of Children and Youth Services, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and the Ministry of Health Promotion to recognize and fully fund any increases to public health programs and services, including HBHC, PSL and IHP, that are a direct result of the Best Start Initiative; and

FURTHER, THAT copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, Ontario Boards of Health, Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), District School Boards, and member municipalities for their support.

CARRIED

Moved by: I. Angus

Seconded by: M. Harding

THAT the T.B.D. Board of Health support the resolution of the TBDSSAB and request that the Province of Ontario confirm ongoing 100% Provincial funding for the Best Start program.

CARRIED

8.2 In-camera Session

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

THAT the Board of Health move to in-camera discussion regarding Labour Relations and Personnel Matters.

CARRIED

In-camera items were dealt with in their entirety.

Moved by: G. Nelson
Kloosterhuis

Seconded by: L.

THAT the Board of Health move out of in-camera discussion to resume regular business.

CARRIED

Moved by: J. Virdiramo

Seconded by: G. Nelson

THAT the Board of Health approve the Agreement with the Ontario Nurses' Association (ONA) from January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, as presented at the Regular Board of Health Meeting of February 21, 2006.

CARRIED

9. Other Business

9.1 May Board Meeting

The Chair requested that the May Board Meeting be rescheduled to Wednesday, May 31, 2006 to facilitate the attendance of out-of-town Board Members at the Annual Staff Conference on June 1, 2006.

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

THAT the Board of Health approve the rescheduling of the Board of Health Meeting of Tuesday, May 16, 2006 to Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

CARRIED

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

11. Date of Next Meeting: March 21, 2006