

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

June 20, 2006

1:30 pm – BOARDROOM

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

C. Bryson, Chair
D. Bell
R. Buitenhuis
V. Catalan
G. Garbutt
M. Harding
L. Kloosterhuis
G. Nelson
C. Trottier
J. Virdiramo

Regrets:

C. Teichroeb

Absent:

I. Angus
N. Gale

Administration Present:

Dr. N. Cameron, Medical Officer of Health / CEO
D. Heath, Business Administrative Officer
K. Allan, Director, Health Protection and Clinical Services
E. DePeuter, A/Director, Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

Recorder: B. McClain

Meeting Called to Order – 1:30 pm

1. Attendance and Announcements

- Connie Bryson welcomed Dr. Nancy Cameron to the Health Unit and invited Board Members to a reception following the meeting to meet with her.
- Regrets were received from Cara Teichroeb who is out of the country.
- Simon Hoad, Area Coordinator, NorthWest TCAN, was a recipient of the alPHa/OPHA Smoke Free Champion Award on June 15, 2006 at the Annual alPHa (Association of Local Public Health Agencies) Conference

- Ken Allan introduced Don Young and Lori Franzen of the Superior Points Harm Reduction Program (SPHRP). The program received an Award of Recognition from the Ontario HIV Treatment Network, the first award of its kind presented in the province for exemplary work in the area of harm reduction. Don Young noted that the award recognizes both the staff and the clients of the program. Appreciation was expressed to the Board for its support of the program.
- Ken Allan advised that the Health Unit was successful in receiving the Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) designation, the first Ontario public health unit to be so designated. Lorraine Repo and Eija Leinonen were introduced. They expressed appreciation to the Board for its support for this initiative over the last seven years, and to all staff who were instrumental in achieving this designation.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

3. Agenda Approval

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of June 20, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation

5. Minutes

5.1 Minutes of May 31, 2006

Moved by: C. Trottier

Seconded by: G. Nelson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of May 31, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

7. Standing Reports

7.1 Divisional Reports

7.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

Ken Allan presented the monthly Divisional Report. Additional information on the BFI Designation process was provided. It was noted the SPHRP is featured in a documentary which was used to launch the "Think Tank on Dissemination, Implementation and Next Steps for the Best Practice Recommendations for Needle Exchange Programs in Ontario". Public Health Inspectors and Nurses are still assisting with Kasechewan community members who were evacuated due to flooding in the community. A successful Pandemic Planning table top exercise was held on June 14 with other emergency partners. Board Members' questions addressed. It was noted that Environmental Health provides advice to well owners to assist them in making an informed decision.

7.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Ena DePeuter reviewed the Divisional Report. It was noted that Provincial Offences Officers will be hired in the Tobacco Control Unit with funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion to manage the regulations of Smoke Free Ontario Act. It was noted that there has been a smooth transition to the provincial Smoke-Free Ontario legislation and there have been no infractions to date in the District. In Injury Prevention, it was noted that ThinkFirst Canada provided free helmets to schools in order to facilitate students participating in school skating activities. The sale and use of ATVs has tripled in the past five years, resulting in a 50% increase in related hospitalizations. A new ATV Committee comprised of community partners has produced and will distribute a series of educational products to "Know the Code". It was noted that the book, "Once Upon a Dragon – Stranger Safety for Kids" was developed with the assistance of Divisional staff. The Natural Helpers Peer Mentor completed its second year; participants from Port Arthur Collegiate Institute and Westgate Collegiate Institute received the provincial "MJ Quality Award for Traffic Safety Excellence" in recognition of student initiatives; inquiries on expanding the program in the District, pending extended funding, have been received. Board Members' inquiries were addressed. It was noted that a resolution on ATV use was carried at the recent alPHa Conference. E. DePeuter will coordinate the review of this resolution and Board of Health Resolution No. 04-79, "Legislation for ATV use among children and youth" by appropriate staff and the ATV Coalition to bring to a future Board of Health meeting for consideration.

7.2 Medical Officer of Health Report

Dr. Nancy Cameron provided an overview of the presentation of Dr. S. Basrur, Chief Medical Officer of Health, at the alPHa Conference of June 14-15. Dr. G. Pasut is leading a review of the Mandatory Health Program and Services Guidelines; Regulation 562 (Food Premises), effective June 15, 2006, exempts Farmers' Markets and public events hosted by churches, service clubs and fraternal organizations from rules that apply to restaurants and other commercial establishments. Ontario Medical Officers of Health will issue a news release noting their concern at the change in the regulation. The change will result in a reactive rather than a proactive approach to food safety at such events; education on food safety will continue. Legislation for Small Drinking Water Systems will be transferred from the Ministry of the Environment to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC); start-up phase is 2007-2008. The final report of the CRC is under active government review; enactment of legislation is anticipated before the summer break of the Legislature to create the Health Protection and Promotion Agency.

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: R. Buitenhuis

THAT the Board of Health accept the Report of the Medical Officer of Health as presented in Report No. 33-06.

CARRIED

7.3 Business Administrative Officer Report

Doug Heath advised that Phase II of the building renovations is close to completion. The tender for the engineering design and specifications for the roof will go to the August Executive Committee Meeting for approval. The 2007 Budget Parameters were reviewed: a budget to build the capacity of public health within the District was approved in November 2005; in March 2006, MOHLTC advised health units of fiscal constraints for 2006 and 2007 budgets. The health unit will continue to take a cautious approach towards operations in 2006, and to look for opportunities to address the funding restraints. Board members' inquiries were addressed. The auditors' Management Letter and Management's response for the 2005 Audited Financial Statements approved at the April Board meeting was reviewed. The final version of the 2005 External Annual Report was distributed.

8. New Business

8.1 Capacity Review Committee Recommendations – Impact on Thunder Bay District Health Unit

Doug Heath presented an overview of the impact of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC) recommendations pertinent to the Health Unit. There was focus on consistent accreditation across the province and all health units, not

only those with PHREDs (Public Health Research, Education, Development) which are now mandated to be accredited; quality governance by autonomous boards of health, stable and predictable funding with recognition that the cost of service delivery needs to be equitable, rather than equal per capita funding. It was noted that there is still lack of funding for unorganized territories. It is anticipated that the Public Health Agency and district LHINs will provide support for health units' Epi services.

Discussion followed on Board direction for the 2007 budget parameters for approval in November 2006, and on maintaining appropriate delivery of mandated programs within the provincial budget constraints.

8.2 In-camera Session

Moved by: M. Harding

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Board of Health move to in-camera discussion regarding a Labour Relations matter.

CARRIED

In-camera items were dealt with in their entirety.

Moved by: M. Harding

Seconded by: R. Buitenhuis

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

CARRIED

Moved by: J. Virdiramo

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Board of Health approve that Doug Heath, Business Administrative Officer, act as liaison with the Medical Officer of Health, effective June 20, 2006 at a rate of compensation commensurate with the amount paid as the Acting Chief Executive Officer; period of time to be determined by Dr. N. Cameron, Medical Officer of Health, not to exceed three months.

CARRIED

8.3 alPHa Conference Reports

Dr. Nancy Cameron, Connie Bryson, Maria Harding, and Joe Virdiramo provided verbal reports of their participation at the alPHa Annual Conference held on June 14-15, 2006 at which there was discussion of the Final CRC Report, and of the role of alPHa.

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 pm.

July Executive Committee Meeting: July 20, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

August Executive Committee Meeting: August 8, 12:00 pm

11. Date of Next Meeting: September 19, 2006

Chair, Board of Health

Medical Officer of Health

Recording Secretary