

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

February 16, 2005

3:30 pm – BOARDROOM

MINUTES

Members Present:

C. Bryson, Chair
D. Bell
R. Buitenhuis
V. Catalan
G. Garbutt
M. Harding

L. Kloosterhuis
N. MacOdrum
C. Teichroeb
J. Virdiramo

Regrets:

I. Angus
G. Nelson

Absent:

C. Trottier

Officials Present:

Dr. D. Williams, Medical Officer of Health
D. Heath, Business Administrative Officer

K. Allan, Director – Health Protection and Clinical
Services Division
L. Chow, Director – Health Promotion and Chronic
Disease Prevention

1. **Meeting Called to Order – 3:30 p.m.**

2. **Attendance and Announcements**

Regrets were received from Iain Angus and Gary Nelson. Tiina Ahokas, Acting Communications Officer, was introduced.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

4. **Agenda Approval**

The agenda was revised to include an in-camera session as Item 9.4, and the agenda was approved as amended.

Moved by: J. Virdiramo

Seconded by: C. Teichroeb

THAT the agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of February 16, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

5. **Presentation**

Superior Points Harm Reduction Program

Darlene Binette, Manager of Vaccine Preventable Disease, introduced Don Young and Rick Thompson of the Superior Points Harm Reduction Program, and student Stacey Hare-Hodgins. A presentation of the program was provided, and changes in activity trends were outlined. It was noted that this program is one of the busiest in the province, and that there is an extensive education component of the program throughout the District. Many volunteers give time to the program from a cross-section of services in the community. The possibility of a future presentation at a City of Thunder Bay Council Meeting was raised.

6. **Minutes**

6.1 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 26, 2005 were approved.

Moved by: J. Virdiramo

Seconded by: C. Teichroeb

THAT the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Health of January 26, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

6.2 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health of January 26, 2005 were approved.

Moved by: J. Virdiramo

Seconded by: D. Bell

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of January 26, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

7. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

8. **Standing Reports**

8.1 Divisional Reports

8.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

Ken Allan, Director, presented the report. Highlights of the report included the success of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program in reaching target numbers; in the Sexual Health Program, a Syphilis Awareness Program will be launched shortly to target groups such as bars, hotels, escort agencies, and in the fall to the college and university populations. It was noted that travel and immunization clinics have been busy.

8.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Lori G. Chow, Director, presented the divisional report, focusing on

extensive funding for the recently announced Ontario Tobacco Strategy, for which the Health Unit is a lead health unit. It was noted that funding for the variance for Pre-school Audiology funding has been provided by Ministry of Youth and Children Services (MYCS) as well as funding to purchase equipment for the remote diagnostics set up for the Infant Hearing Program. "Take the Stairs to Better Health", a new initiative of Healthy Communities, which has been distributed to 55 worksites in Thunder Bay and the District, was outlined.

8.2 Medical Officer of Health Report

Dr. Williams presented the report of the Medical Officer of Health. It was noted that Mrs. L. Chow is a member of the Capacity Review Committee which was established by the Minister of Health to review the core capacity and functions of provincial health units. The expected process of the Committee was outlined. It was noted that funding for the PHRED is on hold by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and that there will be increased expectations for Environmental Health involvement in Ministry programs. Dr. Williams shared information on the formation of the Public Health Agency Implementation Task Force, announced by the Minister to develop the assessment and plans for a provincial Public Health Agency. The Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee (PIDAC) is currently comprised of three subcommittees, and deals with urgent issues and priority setting. It will also act as an anchor and assist in developing a framework for the implementation of regional networks for infection control. iPHIS is currently being implemented, and TBDHU is one of four early adopters.

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: N. MacOdrum

THAT the Report of the Medical Officer of Health dated February 16, 2005 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

8.3 Business Administrator's Report

Doug Heath, Business Administrative Officer, addressed this report. It was noted that concerns regarding water and drainage, heating deficiencies and HVAC would be handled comprehensively, coordinated by Ms. Margot Colquhoun, Architect. Proposed plans for necessary renovations to accommodate increasing staff numbers at the Health Unit were presented. Questions were addressed. The in-camera session was not required.

At the Board's direction, a call for proposals for architectural services will be sent out by Administrative Services.

Moved by: D. Bell

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Board of Health approve that Wardrop Engineering be engaged to complete a building investigation at a cost to be determined (\$4,250.00 + GST), as outlined in the Business Administrator's Report, (No. 11-05).

CARRIED

At the Board's direction, formal notification to the previous contractors and architect will be forwarded regarding ongoing issues.

Initial review of draft financial statements will be undertaken at the April Executive Committee meeting.

9. **New Business**

9.1 Hepatitis C Funding

Darlene Binette, Manager of Vaccine Preventable Disease, presented the report on the need for continued Health Canada funding beyond March 31, 2005 to maintain the Hepatitis C Mobilization program. Direct client contact is a key component of the success in receiving federal funding. The success of the Superior Points Harm Reduction Program would be compromised in the absence of this funding as the two programs complement one another. Discussion followed and questions were addressed.

A resolution to seek Provincial Hep C funding will be brought to a future Board meeting which will be developed by Health Protection and Clinical Services.

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: N. MacOdrum

WHEREAS injection drug users are at increased risk for HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and other blood borne pathogens;

AND WHEREAS the discontinuation of the Hepatitis C Mobilization Program may result in the increase of blood borne pathogens and other risk behaviors;

AND WHEREAS needle exchange programs reduce risk behavior and facilitate referrals to drug treatment programs;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health advocate the federal government to continue to flow funds to maintain the current level of Hepatitis C services and further that this resolution be forwarded to the local Members of Parliament, the local Members of Provincial Parliament and the Member Municipalities.

CARRIED

9.2 Regional Infection Control Network (RICN)

Ken Allan, Director of Health Protection and Clinical Services presented the report on the development of regional infection control networks, a recommendation of the Walker Panel. The networks would facilitate access to infection control expertise, resources and information. It was noted that 14 RICNs will be established. The proposal for a Northwest RICN, developed by the Health Unit with regional health care providers, was submitted to the Ministry; a final decision is imminent.

9.3 Provincial Appointee Process

Connie Bryson, Chair, reviewed the current situation, and requested the Board's direction on pursuing the process of filling the provincial appointee positions. It was agreed that the process will be initiated at this time.

10. **Other Business**

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: March 23, 2005