

**THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**May 15, 2007**

**12:30 pm – BOARDROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

C. Bryson, Chair  
N. Gale  
M. Harding  
S. Hunt  
J. MacEachern  
N. MacOdrum  
J. Masters (until 2:50 pm)  
B. Metzler (until 1:45 pm)  
A. Savela  
I. Sullivan  
L. Tolmonen  
J. Virdiramo (until 1:45 pm)

**Regrets:**

S. Harasen  
L. Kloosterhuis

**Administration Present:**

Dr. N. Cameron, Medical Officer of Health / CEO  
D. Heath, Business Administrative Officer  
J. Black, A/Director, Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

**Recorder:** B. McClain

**Meeting Called to Order – 12:35 pm**

**1. Attendance and Announcements**

- Regrets were received from Steven Harasen and Lucy Kloosterhuis.
- Jack Masters was appointed to the Board by order of the Lieutenant Governor, and was welcomed as a new member.
- The Chair noted that, on May 9, she attended the Nurses' Week Coffee Break and media event at the Health Unit, and the SmartRisk Heroes presentation and reception.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

**3. Agenda Approval**

*Moved by: N. Gale*

*Seconded by: A. Savela*

*THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of May 15, 2007 be approved.*

CARRIED

**4. Presentation**

Janine Black introduced Lori Molendyk, Manager of Healthy Communities, who presented on Health Promoting Schools.

**5. Minutes**

5.1 Minutes of April 17, 2007

*Moved by: N. Gale*

*Seconded by: A. Savela*

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of April 17, 2007 be approved.*

CARRIED

5.2 Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of April 17, 2007

The Minutes of the Executive Committee of April 17, 2007 were presented for information only. It was noted that they had been approved at the Executive Committee Meeting of May 9, 2007.

**6. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

6.1 Meeting Time

*Moved by: L. Tolmonen*

*Seconded by: N. Gale*

*THAT the Board of Health rescind Resolution 05-115.*

CARRIED

6.2 CINOT (Children in Need of Treatment) Fees

M. Harding advised that she had shared the Board's concerns regarding CINOT fees with aIPHa.

*Moved by: J. Virdiramo*

*Seconded by: B. Metzler*

**WHEREAS** the CINOT program exists for children who have no access to dental insurance or any other government program, and for whom the

*cost of necessary dental treatment would cause financial hardship for the family;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the Thunder Bay Board of Health and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) recognize the important role that the CINOT program plays in helping vulnerable children access dental care and reducing the depth of child poverty;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the prevalence of dental disease is not evenly distributed throughout the Province – rural areas, Northern Ontario and communities with large refugee or Aboriginal populations often experience a disproportionate demand for the CINOT program, beyond what can be borne by local resources;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the demand for the CINOT program in the Thunder Bay District (TBD) is not highly predictable from year to year, yet has grown significantly over the past seven years, with 464 claims in 1999 compared to a high of 815 claims in 2005;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the CINOT program currently reimburses dentists on average 59% of the Ontario Dental Association (ODA) approved fee schedule, resulting in a financial disincentive for local dentists to participate in the program;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** *the Thunder Bay District Board of Health request that the provincial government resume 100% funding of the CINOT dental treatment program;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *CINOT fees to service providers remain reasonably attractive by increasing them to at least 75% of the ODA approved fee schedule, reviewing them on a regularly scheduled basis and incorporating a ‘cost of living’ increase.*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *a copy of this resolution be sent to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa), the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, local Members of Provincial Parliament, member municipalities and Ontario Boards of Health for their support and action, and to District dentists.*

## **7. Standing Reports**

### **7.1 Divisional Reports**

#### **7.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services**

Dr. N. Cameron presented the monthly Divisional report on behalf of the Director. Questions were addressed, and follow-up will take place regarding the requirement for hand washing facilities in classrooms.

### 7.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Janine Black presented the Divisional report which focused on Youth. Inquiries of the Board Members were addressed.

Joe Virdiramo advised that the City of Thunder Bay was designated as a "Youth Friendly Community" by the province. Appreciation was expressed to Sheila Hansen and Susan Andrew-Cotter for the community effort in applying for the designation, and for the coordination and promotion of Youth Week. The City plaque will be temporarily displayed at the Health Unit.

### 7.1.3 Business Administrative Officer Report

Doug Heath presented the monthly report including the review of the Management Letter from the Auditors in conjunction with the year-end financial statements. The interim financial reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2007 were reviewed.

## 7.2 Medical Officer of Health Report

Dr. N. Cameron presented the monthly report. It was noted that recruitment is in progress for a Chief Medical Officer of Health. The Strategic Plan, which was approved by the Board on April 17, 2007, was presented to staff on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Appreciation was expressed to those Board Members who were able to attend the staff presentation.

*Moved by: M. Harding                      Seconded by: N. Gale*

*THAT the Board of Health accept the Report of the Medical Officer of Health as presented in Report No. 27-07.*

*CARRIED*

## 8. New Business

### 8.1 Contraband Tobacco

Janine Black introduced Simon Hoad, Area Coordinator, NW T-CAN, who reviewed the issue of the increasing number of contraband cigarettes provincially and nationally which undermine public health efforts on tobacco control. Discussion took place and inquiries of the Board were addressed.

*Moved by: L. Tolmonen                      Seconded by: N. Gale*

***WHEREAS** the number of contraband cigarettes has significantly increased in the past few years in Ontario and Quebec and is now spreading to other provinces such as Manitoba and New Brunswick;*

**AND WHEREAS** contraband cigarettes, due to a lower cost, encourage more children to start smoking, make it harder for current smokers to quit and increase the risk of relapse amongst former smokers;

**AND WHEREAS** contraband cigarettes undermine the efforts made by the federal and provincial governments and the health community over the past ten years to protect the Canadian population from the devastating health consequences of tobacco use;

**AND WHEREAS** contraband cigarettes rob governments and taxpayers of millions of dollars each year in revenue which could be used for health care and other social programs;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Thunder Bay District Board of Health support a call on the federal and provincial governments to implement, or to support the implementation by project CATCH of the following measures:

1. Prohibit the supply of raw materials to unlicensed manufacturers;
2. Revoke licenses of unlawful tobacco manufacturers;
3. Impose quota and refund systems for tax-exempt tobacco products supplied to First Nation reserves;
4. Introduce an effective tracking and tracing system;
5. Introduce legislation that holds all tobacco manufacturers strictly liable if their products are seized on the smuggling market;
6. Accelerate ability of First Nations to impose their own tobacco taxes.

**AND FURTHER THAT** this resolution be sent to the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, the Attorney General of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, local members of the Federal Parliament, and member municipalities for support and action.

CARRIED

## 8.2 Ontario Fluoridation Office

Janine Black presented the report requesting support for the establishment of an Ontario Fluoridation Office in order to centralize data and research on the effectiveness of fluoridation. It was noted that the Board passed Resolution 06-50, "Endorsing the Sudbury Children's Dental Health Report". Board Members' inquiries were addressed.

Moved by: N. Gale

Seconded by: L. Tolmonen

**WHEREAS** oral health is an important component of total health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta identified

*community water fluoridation as one of the ten most important public health measures in the twentieth century;*

**AND WHEREAS** *myths and misconceptions about the health risks associated with water fluoridation continue to persist and the associated legal challenges are costly and ineffective for health units to continue to defend on an individual basis;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the municipality of Thunder Bay is among the 30% of municipalities in the province of Ontario that does not have access to fluoridated water;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the Thunder Bay District Health Unit will be supporting the introduction of community water fluoridation to the municipal water supply in the municipality of Thunder Bay and in all communities in the District;*

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** *the Thunder Bay District Board of Health support the formation of an Ontario Fluoridation Office funded by the province;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *this resolution be sent to the Minister of the Environment, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, the local Ministers of Provincial Parliament, and member municipalities for their action and support in the formation of an Ontario Fluoridation Office funded by the province, and the Ontario Dental Association.*

CARRIED

8.3 Board Members' Conference Report

N. MacOdrum presented the report on the Ontario Hospital Association Conference for Finance Committee Members held April 26, 2007, on behalf of B. Metzler and himself.

8.4 Loss of OHIP Revenue

Dr. N. Cameron provided background on the issue of loss of clinic revenue due to a change in billing practice. Maureen Twigg, Manager of Clinical Programs, attended as resource. Discussion followed and Board Members' questions were addressed. A report on strategies to mitigate the loss of revenue, including recommendations for consideration, will be presented to the Board at the June meeting.

8.5 Strategic Planning

An addendum to Report No. 32-07 was distributed and reviewed by Dr. Cameron regarding the next steps in the strategic planning process.

*Moved by: J. Masters*

*Seconded by: J. MacEachern*

