

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

October 17, 2006

1:30 pm – BOARDROOM

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

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

Regrets:

C. Trottier

Absent:

R. Souckey

Administration Present:

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

Recorder: B. McClain

Meeting Called to Order – 1:30 pm

1. Attendance and Announcements

- Regrets were received from Claudette Trottier.
- Connie Bryson reported on the launch of the 2005 Report to the Community on Monday, October 16, 2006. It was very well received by all attendees: students, parents, teachers, Board Members and staff. It was noted that the Report is on the Health Unit's website. Appreciation was expressed to all staff that organized and participated in the report development, and the launch and presentation.
- Maria Harding commented on her attendance at the Baby Friendly Initiative reception. It was well received, and the attendees extended appreciation to the Health Unit staff that were so proactive in pursuing the designation. The

Health Unit has received world-wide recognition of its success. Numerous southern Ontario health units are working towards this designation and have requested the assistance of the TBDHU.

- The Board of Health Christmas Dinner will be held on December 19; details are pending.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

3. Agenda Approval

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: I. Angus

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of October 17, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

4. Presentation

5. Minutes

5.1 Minutes of September 19, 2006

The Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of September 19, 2006 were approved.

Moved by: I. Angus

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of September 19, 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. The recognition event for the designation of the Baby Friendly Initiative was held September 28, 2006 at which Maria Harding expressed the Board of Health's appreciation to staff for the success of this initiative. The 2006 Ontario Pandemic Influenza Plan has been issued by the Province. A local mock pandemic exercise was held in conjunction with the Navy Reserve on September 30, 2006. As a result, areas of success and those requiring modification were identified. The trends in health hazard reporting were

reviewed by Health Protection staff and it was identified that there was an increase in inquiries/reports following a media series on pest infestations. Possible beach remediation processes will be reviewed with the City of Thunder Bay for the 2007 season in an effort to reduce the number of beach closures. A total of 170 food handlers have been trained and certified in 2006. Board Members' inquiries were addressed.

7.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Janine Black highlighted the "Children's Charter Report 2006", noting that the Health Unit is a member of the Thunder Bay Children's Charter Coalition, and that Board Member Joe Virdiramo is the Children's Advocate representing the City of Thunder Bay. The report has been distributed to homes in the District. The Municipal Candidate Survey, issued by the Children's Charter Coalition, a City of Thunder initiative, was sent to the City of Thunder Bay Mayoral candidates to increase awareness of the importance of active living. The Healthy Schools Club initiative will be piloted in three elementary schools this year. The schools have not yet been chosen. The project brings teachers, principals, students and parents together on a School Health Committee to work towards a healthier school community. Pre-school Speech and Language (PSL) base funding will be increased by \$62,351 annually effective October 2006; Infant Hearing Program (IHP) by \$16,180. The increased funding will assist the two programs to meet mandated deliverables. The "Woman...Take Heart" event was held in Schreiber-Terrace Bay on September 26. Discussion took place on ways to assist parents/caregivers to ensure the proper installation of car seats, and the potential assistance of Emergency Measures Services (EMS) to conduct sessions.

7.1.3 Business Administrative Officer Report

Doug Heath noted that the renovations and roof repairs have been successful. Final completion of the roof repairs is expected by the end of October. A report on the Business Administrators' Conference held in September 2006 was provided. There was a focus on the Capacity Review Committee and the human resource impacts of consolidation recommendations, and on accountability guidelines. A joint presentation was provided by the Ministries of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC), Children and Youth Services, and Health Promotion. MOHLTC is committed to stabilizing growth in public health funding and the cost-shared budget in 2007 is expected to be limited to up to 5%. Programs funded at 100% averaged 2.5% increases for 2006/2007.

Staffing concerns at the Thunder Bay District Health Unit have been addressed through gapping of positions and a review by Senior Management of vacancies as they arise. Reduced staffing levels will affect Health Unit programs.

The insurance renewal for 2006/2007 was reviewed. In recent years, there has been a general lack of competitors for insurance coverage in

this market sector. A review of the coverage will occur during 2007 to ensure that there are appropriate limits of protection due to the recent renovations. Consideration will be given to investigating the feasibility of an insurance consortium for health units.

Moved by: N. Gale

Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis

THAT the Board of Health approve the renewal of insurance coverage for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit with Frank Cowan Company at a total premium cost of \$64,091, as outlined in Report No. 52-06.

CARRIED

The Manager of Information Services is a member of the Steering Committee for the Northern Ontario Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Blueprint. Its goal is to assess the current state of information and communication technology throughout Northern Ontario. Phase I is complete, and the study has been released. The Health Unit will participate in Phase II.

7.2 Report of the Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Cameron provided an overview of the Pediatric Rotation now in place at the Health Unit that provides an opportunity for public health training for the Resident. Dr. Cameron and Ken Allan attended the First Nations Public Health Issues Meeting in Sioux Lookout, hosted by Northwestern Health Unit, to discuss public health issues related to First Nations. Matters related to jurisdictional issues and funding are complex; presently public health units are not funded to provide programs and services on Reserve. A follow-up meeting will be held in Thunder Bay.

The Strategic Planning Committee met to review proposals; further consultation will take place. The Board will be apprised of developments as the process moves forward.

Moved by: N. Gale

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

THAT the Board of Health accept the Report of the Medical Officer of Health as presented in Report No. 51-06.

CARRIED

8. New Business

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis

THAT the Board of Health move to In-camera discussion regarding Personnel, Labour Relations, and Purchasing matters.

CARRIED

In-camera items were dealt with in their entirety.

Moved by: L. Kloosterhuis

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

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

CARRIED

9. Other Business

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 pm.

11. Date of Next Meeting: November 21, 2006

Chair, Board of Health

Medical Officer of Health

Recording Secretary