

**THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT**

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**January 26, 2005**

**3:30 pm – BOARDROOM**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:**

C. Bryson  
I. Angus  
V. Catalan  
G. Garbutt  
L. Kloosterhuis

N. MacOdrum  
G. Nelson  
C. Teichroeb  
C. Trottier  
J. Virdiramo

**Regrets:**

D. Bell  
R. Buitenhuis

M. Harding

**Officials Present:**

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

K. Allan, Director – Health Protection and Clinical  
Services Division

**Regrets:**

L. Chow, Director – Health Promotion and  
Chronic Disease Prevention

1. **Meeting Called to Order** – 3:20 p.m.
2. **Attendance and Announcements**

Regrets were received from Maria Harding, David Bell and Rudy Buitenhuis.

Statement of Travel Expense forms and Board Meeting Evaluation forms will no longer be included in agenda packages. Additional expense forms are available from B. McClain. Members were requested to advise the Chair directly of any meeting concerns.

Members were reminded of the alpha All Members meeting scheduled for April 21-22, 2005 in Toronto, and were requested to complete the Conference/Workshop Request for approval by the Chair by March 1<sup>st</sup>, if they are considering attending.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

4. **Agenda Approval**

The agenda was approved as presented.

*Moved by: G. Nelson*

*Seconded by: J. Virdiramo*

*THAT the agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of January 26, 2005 be approved.*

*CARRIED*

5. **Presentation**

6. **Minutes**

6.1 Minutes of December 15, 2004

*Moved by: J. Virdiramo*

*Seconded by: G. Nelson*

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of December 15, 2004 be approved.*

*CARRIED*

7. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

8. **Standing Reports**

8.1 Divisional Reports

8.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

K. Allan, Director, presented the Divisional report. Highlights included the impact of the Haines Report, safe food handling training requirements, and the potential role of the Health Unit. The possibility for partnership with the College will be investigated by the Division. It was noted that there is a positive HBHC presence in the communities. The Superior Points program will be profiled at the February Board meeting. It was noted that the Health Unit is a lead unit in the iPHis implementation process; roll-out is scheduled for February 28, 2005. There was an increase in the number of patients seen at the Sexual Health Clinics in 2004.

8.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Dr. David Williams presented the Divisional report on behalf of Lori Chow, Director. It was noted that there is pending legislation regarding a provincial tobacco ban. The Ontario Tobacco Strategy Steering Committee is co-chaired by Dr. Sheela Basrur, and Dr. Terry Sullivan. The Health Unit is a lead health unit in this initiative. The Healthy Weights Strategy was outlined, and the potential role of the Health Unit in the Community Youth Coalition. Information was provided on the Local Public Health Capacity Review Committee, of which L. Chow is a member.

8.2 Medical Officer of Health Report

Dr. Williams presented his report which noted Health Unit involvement in the Ontario Tobacco Strategy, the potential PHRED initiative; potential role in the Preventive Oncology Unit, and working within the upcoming LHINs environment which will be implemented April 1, 2005. It was noted that public health does not fall within the mandate of the LHINs. It was noted that the expansion due to the various initiatives will have staffing and accommodation impacts on the Health Unit, which will have to be reviewed and addressed.

Moved by: C. Teichroeb

Seconded by: G. Nelson

*THAT the Report of the Medical Officer of Health dated January 26, 2005 be accepted as presented.*

*CARRIED*

### 8.3 Business Administrator's Report

D. Heath presented this report. Potential changes to funding allocations were outlined.

Moved by: C. Trottier

Seconded by: G. Nelson

*THAT the Board of Health approve the addition of \$50,000 to the one-time 2005 budget request to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for the purpose of accessing funds approved in 2004 that were not spent in that fiscal year to repair the roof and complete the digital storage of records, as outlined in Report No. 06-05.*

*CARRIED*

## 9. Board Business

### 9.1 Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment

Ena DePeuter, Manager of Healthy Living, presented the report and resolution on behalf of L. Chow, Director. The Call to Action was originally presented at the September 2004 Board Meeting; to date 10 health units have passed supporting resolutions. The current status of the initiative at the Health Unit was outlined. The Call to Action will be complemented by the Healthy Weights Strategy.

Moved by: V. Catalan

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

**WHEREAS** *the Thunder Bay District Health Unit is mandated to work with all schools and school boards to implement health promotion programming; and to work with school boards, school advisory councils, principals/teachers and parents to develop and implement guidelines that support healthy eating;*

**AND WHEREAS** *many children or youth in Northern Ontario consume less than the recommended daily servings of fruits and vegetables, lack a varied diet, and demonstrate trends towards being overweight or obese;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the current school nutrition environment is a significant public health issue that requires urgent action at both the local and provincial levels;*

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** *the Thunder Bay District Board of Health endorse the recommendations brought forward in the Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment, Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health, March 2004 (summary of recommendations attached);*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *the Thunder Bay District Board of Health write to the Premier of Ontario to request the government implement the proposed Call to Action*

*recommendations for achieving a healthy school nutrition environment, including implementing mandatory Food Standards for all Ontario elementary and secondary schools;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *copies of this letter be sent to the Minister of Education, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, local members of the Provincial Parliament, the Association of Local Public Health Agencies, the Ontario Public Health Association, the Thunder Bay Municipal League, all Boards of Health, and member municipalities;*

**AND FURTHER THAT** *copies of this letter be sent to the District Boards of Education, the teacher unions, support staff unions, and School Councils, and that the Thunder Bay District Health Unit seek collaboration with the Boards of Education to implement the Call to Action recommendations.*

CARRIED

## 9.2 West Nile Virus

Ken Allan introduced Tony Pacifico, Manager of Environmental Health, and Dr. Ken Deacon, Bioconsultant, who provided a visual presentation on the 2004 West Nile virus risk assessment. Recommendations for the 2005 study were outlined. Discussion followed and questions were addressed. Dr. Williams identified the need for continued study to determine the need for appropriate Provincial legislation.

*Moved by: V. Catalan*

*Seconded by: G. Garbutt*

**WHEREAS** *the province of Ontario has legislated, through Bill 199, municipalities to engage in mosquito larvaciding programs;*

**AND WHEREAS** *proposed mosquito abatement programs potentially have an environmental and financial impact on communities;*

**AND WHEREAS** *a comprehensive risk assessment for West Nile virus that considers the bio-diversity of the entire province would require more than five years of data from light traps, larval dipping and geographic information system mapping;*

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT** *the Thunder Bay District Board of Health requests the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide adequate and continued funding and resources for ongoing risk assessment, to ensure a scientifically sound and environmentally sensitive implementation of Bill 199, in order to protect the citizens of Ontario against West Nile virus.*

CARRIED

## 9.3 Ontario Tobacco Strategy

Ena DePeuter, Manager of Healthy Living, presented the report, visual presentation, and resolution on behalf of L. Chow, Director. The Province announced the initiative on December 21, 2004. The various program and funding opportunities within the overall strategy, and their respective deadlines for application were outlined. The Health Unit was invited to be a regional lead

health unit in the strategy. The program will be complemented by the Healthy Weights Strategy and the Call to Action: Creating a Healthy School Nutrition Environment. Questions were addressed. Dr. Williams expressed appreciation to the Working Group for their quick and successful response to the short application timelines.

*Moved by: I. Angus*

*Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis*

**WHEREAS** *smoking is the number one preventable cause of premature death and illness in Ontario, and currently 28.6% of individuals over 12 years of age smoke in the District of Thunder Bay;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the Thunder Bay District Health Unit supports the Ontario Tobacco Strategy goals of:*

- *preventing smoking initiation and habitual use among children and adults;*
- *reducing smoking in Ontario; and*
- *eliminating involuntary exposure to environmental tobacco smoke;*

**AND WHEREAS** *the Thunder Bay District Board of Health is encouraged by the development of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy-Northwestern Region, and is committed to establishing a unique alliance with the Northwestern Health Unit to ensure that our mutual program initiatives reflect the northern, rural and remote characteristics of the region and address program development with the First Nations;*

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** *that the Thunder Bay District Board of Health accepts the Public Health Division's selection of the TBDHU as the Lead Public Health Department for the Northwest Area.*

*CARRIED*

10. **New Business**

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:47 pm.

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 16, 2005**