

# **THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT**

## **BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**March 21, 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  
C. Trottier  
J. Virdiramo

#### **Regrets:**

D. Bell

#### **Administration Present:**

Dr. V. Etches, A/Medical Officer of Health (T/C)  
D. Heath, A/Chief Executive Officer  
K. Allan, Director, Health Protection and Clinical Services  
L. Chow, Director, Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention  
G. Daniels, A/Business Administrative Officer

**Recorder:** B. McClain

#### **Meeting Called to Order – 1:30 pm**

##### **1. Attendance and Announcements**

- Dr. Vera Etches, A/Medical Officer of Health, joined the Board Meeting via teleconference on behalf of Dr. Penny Sutcliffe
- Regrets were received from David Bell; Iain Angus advised of a delayed arrival to the meeting
- The All Staff Conference is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2006 at the Valhalla Inn. The theme is "Diversity". The pre-conference potluck meal will be held on Wednesday, May 31 at 12:00 pm in the Atrium. Additional details will be shared as they are received.
- The alPHa Conference has been re-scheduled to June 15 and 16 in Toronto, and will focus on the implications of the Capacity Review Committee's final report. Full registration details are pending from alPHa.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were none declared.

## **3. Agenda Approval**

With the approval of the members, the following items were added to the agenda: Item 5.3, Unconfirmed Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of March 20, 2006; Item 9.1, Board Member Attendance; Item 9.2, "Agency Implementation Task Force Report".

*Moved by: L. Kloosterhuis*

*Seconded by: G. Garbutt*

*THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of March 21, 2006 be approved, as amended.*

CARRIED

## **4. Presentation**

Ken Allan, Director of Health Protection and Clinical Services, introduced Lee Sieswerda, Epidemiologist, and Don Young, Superior Points Harm Reduction Program. Mr. Sieswerda addressed the high prevalence of Hepatitis C in the District, and outlined its chronic, long-term symptoms and epidemiological characteristics. The TBDHU incidence rate is estimated to be about 27% higher than the Provincial rate. Mr. Young reviewed the "Street Involved Youth Drug Use Report" which has been well received throughout the province by various interest groups. The survey was conducted in Thunder Bay, Marathon, Terrace Bay and Pic River in the at-risk youth community, and 313 questionnaires were returned. It was noted that the report will be used in bringing recommendations to the province. The number of younger people accessing the program has increased. The TBDHU program is the busiest needle exchange program in the province based on actual numbers. Drugs of choice and routes of administration were reviewed.

Board Members' inquiries and comments were addressed.

## **5. Minutes**

### **5.1 Minutes of February 21, 2006**

*Moved by: G. Garbutt*

*Seconded by: C. Trottier*

*THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of February 21, 2006 be approved.*

CARRIED

### **5.2 Unconfirmed Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of March 9, 2006.**

The unconfirmed Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of March 9, 2006 were presented for information.

5.3 Unconfirmed Minutes of Executive Committee of March 20, 2006

The unconfirmed Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of March 20, 2006 were presented for information.

**6. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

**7. Standing Reports**

7.1 Divisional Reports

7.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

Ken Allan, Director, presented the monthly report. It was noted that Healthy Babies Healthy Children has now moved into the former clinic area; information was provided on Larson Screening Tools and Nursing student placements. The Superior Points Harm Reduction Program hosted a successful Hep C Conference, entitled "Blood Sweat and Fear", made possible through Federal funding. Participants represented health care, social services, emergency responders, law enforcement, and those affected and infected.

7.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Lori Chow, Director, presented the Divisional Report. Year Three of the "Take a Break with Your Kid Campaign" was launched in March. The 2006 Campaign promotes positive parenting and family involvement. It was noted that Take Heart Thunder Bay qualified for \$15,370.00 in funding from the Ministry of Health Promotion. Included in the Tobacco Enforcement Update was the announcement of Bill 164 Regulations by the Chief Medical Officer of Health on March 2; enforcement of the legislation will be the responsibility of health units.

7.2 A/Chief Executive Officer

Doug Heath, A/CEO, presented this report which focused on the March 2, 2006 funding announcement of the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care that the provincial funding envelope will not exceed 5%. It is recommended that the budget, as approved by the Board of Health, be submitted to the Ministry. Senior Management Team will continue to monitor the funding situation, and the consequences for the health unit.

*Moved by: G. Garbutt                      Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis*

*THAT the Board of Health accept the report of the A/Chief Executive Officer as presented in Report No. 17-06.*

CARRIED

7.3 Business Administrative Officer Report

Georgina Daniels, A/Business Administrative Officer, presented the Divisional report. It was noted that renovations are continuing:

Phase I to address Health & Safety concerns is complete; Phase II, comprised of relocation of staff into renovated areas is underway and will continue as areas are renovated; and Phase III will address the roof repair in the Spring. Further details will be brought to a future Board meeting. It was noted that follow-up discussions on funding will take place with the Ministry. Parameters for CUPE negotiations will be brought to the April Board Meeting.

## **8. New Business**

### **8.1 Meeting Food Costs for All Low Income and Social Assistance Recipients**

Lori Chow, Director of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention, presented on the report and resolution to urge the Provincial government to review the adequacy of Ontario Works and Disability Support Program rates from a health perspective, and to advocate that allowances for basic needs and shelter be based on actual current representative costs. Board members' questions were addressed.

*Moved by: N. Gale*

*Seconded by: C. Trottier*

*WHEREAS the cost of eating well in the District of Thunder Bay is consistently an average of \$60 per month higher than the provincial average for a reference family of four and continues to increase, with the largest rise in one year occurring between 2004 and 2005;*

*AND WHEREAS current social assistance and minimum wage rates create a significant barrier to accessing adequate nutrition in order to support health and well-being;*

*AND WHEREAS adequate nutrition is essential for proper growth and development as well as a significant factor in preventing many chronic diseases;*

*AND WHEREAS barriers to food access include both economic and physical factors such as higher food prices, poor selection of healthy foods, and long distances to food retail outlets;*

*AND WHEREAS people with low incomes are the most vulnerable to poor health;*

*THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health support ALPHA Resolution No. A05-18 that "the Government of Ontario be further urged to review the adequacy of Ontario Works and Ontario Disability Support Program rates from a health perspective and that allowances for basic needs and shelter be based on actual current representative costs" and that "the Government of Ontario be urged to review the current minimum wage from a health perspective and establish a living wage for all Ontario workers";*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health endorse the recommendation of November 29, 2005 made by the Toronto Board of Health to the Government of Ontario "that all low*

*income and social assistance recipients get an increase for food in addition to the special diet requirements related to any medical condition”;*

*AND FURTHER THAT the Thunder Bay Board of Health urge the Ontario Minister of Community and Social Services to take hunger issues into consideration, if and when dealing with any amendments proposed to the Special Diet Allowance;*

*AND FURTHER THAT copies of the letter be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, local members of the Provincial Parliament, the Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa), Ontario Boards of Health, the Thunder Bay District Social Services Administration Board (DSSAB), and member municipalities for their support and action.*

CARRIED

8.2 In-camera

*Moved by: C. Trottier*

*Seconded by: N. Gale*

*THAT the Board of Health move to in-camera discussion regarding Personnel Matters.*

CARRIED

In-camera items were dealt with in their entirety.

*Moved by: N. Gale*

*Seconded by: R. Buitenhuis*

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

CARRIED

## **9. Other Business**

### **9.1 Board Member Attendance**

C. Bryson, Chair, requested direction from the Board regarding the attendance of the Municipal representative from Marathon, who has extended regrets for three consecutive meetings. The Board determined that the representative's absence on these occasions was for "just cause" and, therefore, did not warrant further action.

### **9.2 Agency Implementation Task Force - Report Highlights**

Dr. Vera Etches, A/Medical Officer of Health, provided highlights of the final report of the Agency Implementation Task Force, "From Vision to Action: A Plan for the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion" which was released March 20, 2006. The Agency's mandate is to provide scientific and technical advice for those working to protect and promote the health of Ontarians. Its vision is to be an internationally recognized centre of expertise dedicated to the protection and promotion of the health of Ontarians through the application and advancement of science and knowledge. The Agency will be accountable to support health care providers, the public health system and partner Ministries in making informed decisions and taking informed action to improve health and security of all Ontarians through the provision of credible scientific advice and practical tools. The report includes 38 recommendations, many of which are related to what is required to create the Agency. It was noted that public health units will not lose their reporting requirements to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). The Task Force recommends a phased implementation of transition of the Ontario Public Health Lab into the operational structure of the Agency by the end of 2008. The funding for the Agency is estimated at \$45 M/year, which will be phased in. It is recommended that inter-Ministry committees be established through the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The Agency should operate under the existing emergency structure, rather than be the lead agency in an emergency. It was noted that the MOHLTC will respond to the Task Force recommendations; those recommendations to be implemented will depend on the Ministry's response.

The Chair expressed the Board's appreciation of Dr. Penny Sutcliffe's participation on the Task Force.

## **10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.

## **11. Date of Next Meeting: April 18, 2006**