

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 31, 2006

1:30 pm – BOARDROOM

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

C. Bryson, Chair
N. Gale
G. Garbutt
M. Harding
L. Kloosterhuis
G. Nelson
C. Trottier
J. Virdiramo

Regrets:

I. Angus
R. Buitenhuis
V. Catalan
C. Teichroeb

Absent:

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
G. Daniels, A/Business Administrative Officer
E. DePeuter, A/Director, Health Promotion & Chronic Disease Prevention

Recorder: B. McClain

Meeting Called to Order – 1:32 pm

1. Attendance and Announcements

- Dr. Etches joined the meeting via teleconference.
- Regrets were received from C. Teichroeb, I. Angus, R. Buitenhuis and V. Catalan.
- The Chair read two pieces of correspondence: a congratulatory note from Councillor Rebecca Johnson regarding the Commitment to Quality Award; and a note from Dr. David Williams regarding the appointment of Dr. Nancy Cameron as Medical Officer of Health.

- It was noted that the next Board of Health Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 20 with Dr. Cameron.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were none declared.

3. Agenda Approval

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Item 9.1 under Other Business, "Response to aPHa".

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: M. Harding

THAT the Agenda for the Regular Board of Health Meeting of May 31, 2006 be approved as amended.

CARRIED

4. Presentation

5. Minutes

5.1 Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of April 18, 2006

The Minutes of April 18, 2006 were approved.

Moved by: M. Harding

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Board of Health Meeting of April 18, 2006 be approved.

CARRIED

5.2 Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of May 8, 2006

The unconfirmed Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of May 8, 2006 were presented for information.

6. Matters Arising from the Minutes

6.1 Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting of March 24, 2006

The following resolution carried at the Executive Committee Meeting of March 24, 2006 was brought into public session for information only.

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: M. Harding

THAT the Executive Committee of the Board of Health approve the employment contract offer to Dr. Nancy E. Cameron, for the position of Medical Officer of Health/CEO for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit, per final discussion at the Executive Committee Meeting of March 21, 2006; and

THAT this resolution remain In-camera until such time that the appointment of Dr. N. Cameron as Medical Officer of Health/CEO has been approved by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care as required under the Health Promotion and Protection Act (HPPA), S. 64.

CARRIED

7. Standing Reports

7.1 Divisional Reports

7.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

Ken Allan presented the Divisional report, noting that Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) is working towards meeting the provincial target for client assessment with the Larson Prenatal Screening Tool; information will be entered into the Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS) data base for future electronic charting. The Breastfeeding Committee for Canada Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) Assessment Team will be at the Health Unit, including Branch Offices, the week of June 5, 2006. It was noted that the Coordinator of Superior Points Harm Reduction Programs was a key partner in the development of the provincial document "Best Practice Recommendations for Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs) in Ontario" which was released in April. Staff ensured public health standards were in place and maintained in Thunder Bay during the evacuation of First Nations citizens due to flooding in their communities.

7.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Ena DePeuter reviewed the Divisional report, noting that May is Speech and Hearing Month; Take Heart Thunder Bay successfully implemented a number of initiatives focusing on physical activity and nutrition for children and youth during March. The Health Unit, in partnership with the Drug Awareness Committee, facilitated the successful Photovoice: Youth and Alcohol Project to illustrate how alcohol affects youth; the photos will be displayed locally and in select communities throughout the province. Smoke-Free Ontario is effective May 31, 2006; emphasis in the Tobacco Control Unit will be on the implementation of the Act and on Youth Prevention.

7.2 A/Chief Executive Officer Report

Doug Heath noted that the appointment of Dr. Nancy Cameron as Medical Officer of Health has been approved by the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, and that she will start with the Health Unit on June 5, 2006. Appreciation was extended to the Sudbury & District Board of Health, and to Dr. Penny Sutcliffe and Dr. Vera Etches of Sudbury & District Health Unit for the provision of Medical Officer of Health services during the transition months. Appreciation was also expressed to the Thunder Bay District Board of Health for their ongoing support during this time.

The 2006 budget was submitted as approved in November, 2005 and reflects the needs of the District. The most significant issue for the Health Unit will be the method the Ministry decides to utilize to allocate available resources for public health unit budget requests, within the Ministry-suggested funding cap. alPHa (Association of Local Public Health Agencies) will be requested to advocate for an allocation method based on need rather than an equal, across the board distribution.

The final report of the Capacity Review Committee (CRC) was released, and circulated to Board Members. Summarized recommendations and comments on potential impacts on the Health Unit will be presented at the June Board Meeting.

Moved by: L. Kloosterhuis

Seconded by: M. Harding

THAT the Board of Health accept the report of the A/Chief Executive Officer as presented in Report No. 27-06.

CARRIED

7.3 A/Business Administrative Officer

Georgina Daniels provided a progress report on Phase II of renovations which is expected to be complete by June 15. Preliminary engineering services for the design and tender of the roof repairs for Phase III are underway, and construction components will be tendered in July. First Quarter Financial Statements ending March 31, 2006 were reviewed. Administration continues to take a cautious approach towards operations due to budget uncertainty, and the budget documents represent implementation strategy, rather than approved budget, balances. The Volunteer Appreciation Reception was held April 26, 2006 and was well received by those in attendance.

8. New Business

8.1 Amending the Highway Traffic Act

Ena DePeuter presented the report which urges the Ministry of Transportation to amend the Ontario Highway Traffic Act to restrict the number of passengers riding in a motor vehicle to the number of working seatbelts.

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

WHEREAS Ontario's Highway Traffic Act does not restrict the number of passengers who can ride in a motor vehicle to the number of working seatbelts; and

WHEREAS the Canada Safety Council advocates that motor vehicle regulations be amended to limit the number of passengers to the number of working seatbelts; and

WHEREAS in 2003, Transport Canada reports that failure to wear a seatbelt resulted in 37% of passengers being fatally injured and 20% being seriously injured; and

WHEREAS Transport Canada also reports that only 86% of all vehicle occupants wore seatbelts in 2002/03 in contrast to Canada's National Road Safety Target for seatbelt use of 95% by 2010; and

WHEREAS the Durham Region Health Department has passed a resolution supporting the amendment of the Ontario Highway Traffic Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Thunder Bay District Board of Health urge the Ministry of Transportation to amend the Ontario Highway Traffic Act such that the number of passengers who can ride in a motor vehicle is restricted to equal the number of working seatbelts, with the exception of those vehicles that are exempted from the Ontario Highway Traffic Act; and

FURTHER THAT copies of the letter be sent to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Children and Youth Services, the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Health Promotion, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA), Ontario Public Health Association (OPHA), all Ontario Boards of Health and member municipalities for their support and action.

CARRIED

8.2 In-camera Session

Moved by: G. Garbutt

Seconded by: L. Kloosterhuis

THAT the Board of Health move to in-camera discussion regarding a Labour Relations matter.

CARRIED

In-camera items were dealt with in their entirety.

Moved by: G. Nelson

Seconded by: J. Virdiramo

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

CARRIED

9. Other Business

9.1 Response to alPHa

M. Harding inquired if a response to alPHa regarding the release of the CRC Final Report had been forwarded. It was clarified that the Health Unit had responded to alPHa's request for completion of the 2006 Budget Survey.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 pm

11. Date of Next Meeting: June 20, 2006

Chair, Board of Health

A/Chief Executive Officer

Recording Secretary