

THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

March 23, 2005

3:30 pm – BOARDROOM

MINUTES

Members Present:

C. Bryson, Chair
I. Angus
R. Buitenhuis
V. Catalan
G. Garbutt
M. Harding

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

Regrets:

D. Bell

Officials Present:

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

K. Allan, Director – Health Protection and Clinical
Services Division
L. Chow, Director – Health Promotion and Chronic
Disease Prevention

1. Meeting Called to Order – 3:30 p.m.

2. Attendance and Announcements

Regrets were received from Mr. David Bell. The Annual Staff Conference is set for Thursday, May 19, at the Valhalla Inn. Additional details will be available in April. A request was made for Board of Health representation on the OPHA/alpha Conference Joint Steering Committee.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none 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 March 23, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

5. **Presentation**

Ken Allan, Director of Health Protection and Clinical Services introduced Dr. Bob Bannatyne, Microbiologist, and Marilyn Stewart, RN, of the Infectious Disease Control team. A session on "Influenza 101" was presented, which included information on what is flu, flu vaccine, and Avian flu, and on Pandemic Planning. It was noted that Influenza Fact Sheets are available on the Health Unit website. Board Members' questions were addressed.

6. **Minutes**

The Minutes of February 16, 2005 were approved.

Moved by: J. Virdiramo

Seconded by: G. Nelson

THAT the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Health of February 16, 2005 be approved.

CARRIED

7. **Matters Arising from the Minutes**

7.1 Regional Infection Control Networks (RICNs) Approval by MOHLTC

Dr. Williams provided an update on the Ministry approval of 14 RICNs in the province, one of which was approved for Northwestern Ontario. The initial meeting will be held in Toronto on April 1, 2005. Approximately \$1 M has been approved for each RICN, administered by a regional health sciences centre. The Networks will coordinate, collate, and communicate about infectious disease throughout their respective regions. The formal Ministry announcement is pending.

7.2 Public Appointee Process

Connie Bryson, Chair, outlined several options in order to proceed with filling the provincial appointee positions. Information on provincial appointee positions on the Board of Health, and the on-line application process, will be promoted through a media release, on the website, and internally.

8. **Standing Reports**

8.1 Divisional Reports

8.1.1 Health Protection and Clinical Services

Ken Allan, Director of Health Protection and Clinical Services presented the Divisional Report. It was noted that \$82,000 of the funding request for Healthy Babies/Healthy Children has been approved by the Ministry for 2005. Other grant application opportunities are available for additional funding. It was noted that the fee schedule recommendations for safe water testing is not final.

With the assistance of Phil Avella, Manager of Information Technology, and Darlene Binette, Manager of Infectious Disease Programs, Ken presented a visual overview of the development, implementation and use of iPHIS (integrated Public Health Information System) for reporting reportable diseases. The Health Unit is an early adopter of the system, and this new information system will "go live" at the Health Unit on April 1, 2005. This system replaces the Reportable Disease Information System (RDIS). The last health unit is scheduled to "go live" at the end of September 2005.

8.1.2 Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention

Lori Chow, Director of Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Prevention presented the Divisional report. The Board was advised that the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care had postponed progress on the Ontario Tobacco Strategy; details of the postponement are not available at this time. It was noted that March is Nutrition Month and the theme is "Healthy Weights". A parenting campaign focusing on children's healthy eating is under development by staff. Direction was requested on further advocacy of the Healthy Weights initiative. An overview of the misuse of prescription opiates in the District was given, noting that educational sessions from the Ontario College of Physicians, and Centre for Addiction and Mental Health will be available to health care workers and physicians in late April 2005.

8.2 Medical Officer of Health Report

Dr. David Williams reviewed the Medical Officer of Health report which focused on the Ontario UIIP (Universal Influenza Immunization Program). The website link to the Influenza page receives great interest. Ontario has two of the five vaccine-producing sources in the world. It was noted that the majority of vaccines are administered to the general public, and the lowest rate is administered to professional health care workers in hospitals. The Board was requested to support the resolution of the Board of Health of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit regarding annual vaccination for all health care workers. Questions were addressed.

Moved by: V. Catalan

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Board of Health support the resolution of the Board of Health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, requesting that the province require mandatory annual vaccination against influenza for all health care workers in Ontario through legislation; and

THAT the Board of Health write to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care stating its support for this position;

AND FURTHER THAT the Premier of Ontario, local MPPs, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, ALPHA, and all Ontario boards of health be so advised.

CARRIED

Moved by: V. Catalan

Seconded by: G. Garbutt

THAT the Report of the Medical Officer of Health dated March 23, 2005 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED

8.3 Business Administrator's Report

Doug Heath presented this report, providing a history of health unit funding, and noting that over the last four years the District received a significant increase in services at a cost that was largely borne by the Province. One-time funding requests were reviewed in order to access immediate government funds before March 31, 2005.

Moved by: L. Kloosterhuis

Seconded by: R. Buitenhuis

That the Board of Health request cost-shared one-time funding of \$25,500 from 2004 surplus funds for expenditures incurred prior to March 31, 2005 and identified in the Business Administrator's report of March 23, 2005.

CARRIED

9. **New Business**

10. **Other Business**

11. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: April 20, 2005