



A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, February 22, 2024 commencing at 1:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Couckuyt *	Board Member
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member (Vice-Chair)
Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer
Dr. N. Tran	Medical Officer of Health
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

**GUESTS:**

Ms. M. Cornwell*	Manager, Communications
Ms. K. Chambers	Registered Dietitian, Healthy Communities
Ms. J. Gordon	Administrative Assistant
Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. R. Gregoire	Public Health Nurse, Healthy Communities
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink*	Director, Finance
Mr. I. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director
Ms. M. Van Wylie	Program Manager, Healthy Communities
Ms. R. Wallace	Public Health Nurse, Healthy Communities

**MEDIA:**

Mr. R. Perry*	Aylmer Express
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*\*represents virtual participation*

**REGRETS:**

Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
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Mr. J. Preston	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Ms. S. Maclsaac	Program Director

## **REMINDER OF DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF WHEN ITEM ARISES**

### **1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

### **AGENDA**

#### **Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-1.2)**

Moved by Mark Peterson  
Seconded by Marcus Ryan

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for February 22, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

### **1.3 Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when Item Arises.**

### **1.4 Reminder that meetings are recorded for minute-taking purposes.**

### **2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-2.1)**

Moved by J. Herbert  
Seconded by M. Peterson

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for January 25, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

### **3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

No Items.

#### **4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION**

C. St. John and D. Smith reviewed the briefing note from the Ontario Association for Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD), *The Roles of Public Health in the Future State of Oral Health*.

J. Herbert asked how patients can access the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). D. Smith noted that those that qualify are currently receiving letters which explain how you apply and outline the next steps to access the federal program. Currently, the provincial senior's dental program is via public health units where staff provide system navigation.

J. Herbert asked if there was any support for emergency oral services. D. Smith noted that this is one of the gaps in the system which need to be addressed. Dr. Tran noted that the provincial program and those who are eligible for the service should get registered early before emergencies occur. M. Peterson notes that seniors who have no family or friends to support them would not know about these services easily. C. St. John agreed that people who face most barriers are those who are most vulnerable.

The group noted that more could be done regarding access to programs and removing barriers to service such as applying for another service card. M. Ryan recommended the Board support simpler healthcare access and advocate for ease of access to navigate the oral healthcare system.

#### **Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-4.1)**

Moved by Stephen Molnar

Seconded by Mark Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health support correspondence 4.1 Briefing Note: Enhancing Public Health Functions for Optimal Oral Health in Ontario, additionally advocating for ease of access to navigate the oral healthcare system.

Carried.

#### **5.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.DECISION**

##### **5.1 Municipal Collaboration and the Social Determinants of Health Report for February 22, 2024**

Ashlyn Brown presented the report to the Board of Health.

M. Ryan and S. Molnar noted the excellence of a report. S. Molnar suggested further action to engage municipalities such as a symposium of municipal partners.

J. Herbert inquired about logistics and implementation timelines for the report's suggestions. M. Van Wylie emphasized the importance of planning and stakeholder engagement. B. Martin mentioned current actions such as Planet Youth and Living Wage initiatives that are in place already.

G. Jones highlighted the need for engagement and delegation for implementation that will likely require delegation or training amongst lower-tier municipalities, noting the team should factor in the added time for municipalities to assess cost considerations. C. St. John and the team expressed readiness to engage with municipalities. C. St. John noted that part of the consideration today is for each Board member to further promote that work as leaders in the communities and public health champions.

L. Rowden noted that work should be done in the HUs with community centres in terms of getting the public to understand public health work and initiatives. A. Brown agreed that each of the actions requires a public communications rollout plan.

A. Brown noted there is currently a review of evidence to examine governance structures for sustainable food systems, drawing insights from successful models in other communities, particularly in large rural and small urban settings. Progress is already underway in this regard. Following the completion of this review, the team will consider more direct outreach to groups such as the Oxford County and Elgin County Federations of Agriculture.

M. Ryan proposed amendments to involve individual councillors and community safety and wellbeing plans, which received support from S. Molnar.

C. Agar raised questions when the climate change study results will be available. Dr. Tran noted this will likely be ready this spring. C. Agar suggested including physiological and psychosocial assessments regarding the climate change portion, which A. Brown noted in agreement.

#### **Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-5.1)**

Moved by Marcus Ryan

Seconded by Jim Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the report titled, “Municipal Collaboration and the Social Determinants of Health,” for February 22, 2024, and that the report to be circulated to all local Municipal Community Safety & Wellbeing Plan Committees asking for a recommendation to their Councils that a resolution of support be passed by the respective Council directing municipal staff to work with SWPH staff to implement the recommendations in the report.

Carried.

M. Ryan emphasized the amendment will ensure municipal staff actively engage with public health outreach. Without clear direction, municipal staff may prioritize other tasks even in face of how public health work aligns with municipal strategic goals. Engaging councils through community plans is constructive as it respects resources and council structures, ensuring effective collaboration.

The motion was carried as amended.

A. Brown and M. Van Wylie left the meeting at 1:51pm

## 5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed her report.

C. St. John noted that a limited number of solar eclipse viewing glasses would be available to the public at both SWPH sites with the hope that vulnerable populations will be able to access them if needed. D. Smith noted the messaging will be to protect your eyes from 3:00pm – 4:30pm on April 8, 2024 if you are in the geographical path of totality.

### Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-5.2)

Moved by Grant Jones

Seconded by Lee Rowden

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for January 25, 2024.

Carried.

## 6.0 NEW BUSINESS

J. Herbert asked if SWPH practices mock emergency preparedness exercises.

D. Smith responded that SWPH does engage in emergency preparedness exercises, noting that under the new Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS), annual exercises are now mandated and the results of the exercise will now be publicly available on SWPH's website.

## 7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

### Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-C7)

Moved by Mark Peterson

Seconded by Grant Jones

That the Board of Health move to closed session in order to consider one or more the following as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act:

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;

- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26.

Other Criteria:

- (a) a request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, if the council, board, commission or other body is the head of an institution for the purposes of that Act; or
- (b) an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, a local board or a municipally-controlled corporation by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, an Ombudsman referred to in subsection 223.13 (1) of this Act, or the investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2014, c. 13, Sched. 9, s. 22.

Carried.

## 8.0 RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION

### Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-C8)

Moved by Mark Peterson

Seconded by Stephen Molnar

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

### Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-C3.1)

Moved by Mark Peterson

Seconded by Grant Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Special Ad Building Committee Report for February 22, 2024.

Carried.

### Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-C3.2)

Moved by Stephen Molnar

Seconded by Marcus Ryan

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Special Ad Hoc Strengthening Public Health Committee Report for February 22, 2024.

Carried.

### Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-C3.3)

Moved by Grant Jones

Seconded by Jim Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the Chief Executive Officer's Report for February 22, 2024.

Carried.

**9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS**

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

That the meeting adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

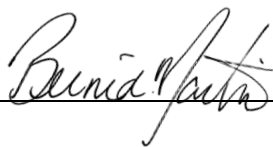
**Resolution # (2024-BOH-0222-10)**

Moved by Marcus Ryan

Seconded by Lee Rowden

That the meeting adjourns to meet again on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m.

Carried.

Confirmed:  \_\_\_\_\_