



September 26, 2024
Board of Health Meeting
Open Session Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, September 26, 2024 commencing at 1:04 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. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
Dr. J. Lock	Acting Medical Officer of Health
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Mr. A. Bartley	Lead, Platinum Leadership
Ms. C. Walsh	Lead, Platinum Leadership
Ms. K. Bastian	Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Ms. S. Croteau	Epidemiologist
Ms. J. Gordon	Administrative Assistant
Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. S. Maclsaac	Program Director
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink	Director, Finance
Ms. C. Richards	Manager, Foundational Standards
Ms. N. Rowe*	Manager, Communications
Mr. Y. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

MEDIA:

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

REGRETS:

Dr. N. Tran

Mr. J. Preston

Medical Officer of Health (ex officio)

Board Member

**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 1:04 p.m.

1.2 AGENDA

B. Martin noted a revision to the September 26, 2024 Board of Health Agenda, wherein the 5.3 Governance Standing Committee report would be deferred to the October 24, 2024 meeting in light of additional reference materials to be added.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-1.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for September 26, 2024 be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.2 Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when the Item Arises, including any related to a previous meeting that a member may not have been in attendance for.

1.4 Reminder that meetings are recorded for minute-taking purposes, and open session portions are publicly available for 30 days after being posted on Southwestern Public Health's website.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-2.1)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for June 27, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

J. Herbert and B. Martin indicated that they have signed up for alPha’s Fall Symposium.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-3.1)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health receive and file consent agenda items 3.1: alPha for its Virtual 2024 Fall Symposium, November 6-8, 2024.

Carried.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION

The Board discussed the letter of support for Bills S223 and C223, which propose a national framework for guaranteed livable basic income. It was noted that Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) has already taken action regarding the living wage initiative by encouraging local municipalities to do the same. M. Ryan proposed an amendment to send the letter to obligated municipalities. The motion, as amended, was carried, with the recognition that the bills are under review and may be delayed in the legislative process.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-4.1)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health support and circulate to the obligated municipalities correspondence 4.1: Support for Bills S-233 and C-223 “An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income.”

Carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.DECISION

5.1 SWPH Strategic Planning Report

K. Bastian reviewed the report.

B. Martin thanked C. Walsh and A. Bartley for their communication and engagement with the Board thus far. C. Walsh and A. Bartley left the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-5.1)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Strategic Plan Report for September 26, 2024.

Carried.

5.2 Medical Officer of Health Report for September 26, 2024

B. Martin noted that Dr. Tran sends his regrets as he begins his parental leave sooner than expected. S. Molnar welcomed Dr. J. Lock as the Acting Medical Officer of Health during Dr. Tran's leave.

S. Molnar inquired about rapid antigen test (RAT) kits, noting limited supply and expiration concerns. S. MacIsaac confirmed that SWPH has approached the ministry regarding RATs as the remaining stock has expired, but there has been no confirmation thus far.

J. Couckuyt asked about SWPH's partnership with local veterinarians to provide low-cost rabies vaccination clinics. S. MacIsaac noted the clinic is part of SWPH's current push to raise public awareness of rabies risk factors and what should be done to protect their domestic animals as well as themselves.

L. Rowden reported the recent news of 52 Covid-related hospitalizations and inquired about Covid-19 case rates and vaccine supply. S. MacIsaac indicated SWPH is seeing increased outbreaks in congregate living settings, retirement homes, and long-term care homes, but expects to receive updated vaccines and guidance from the Ministry in light of Health Canada's recent approval.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-5.2)

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by J. Couckuyt

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's Report for September 26, 2024.

Carried.

5.3 Governance Standing Committee Report is deferred to October 24, 2024

5.4 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed her report.

C. St. John noted the Community Health Status Reports developed by the Foundational Standards team will be public-facing and shared via social media and partners. Partner agencies have expressed appreciation for the reports and Board members are encouraged to share them when opportunities arise.

J. Herbert asked if there were any changes in school vaccination requirements. S. MacIsaac confirmed there are no changes, and the Covid-19 vaccine is not mandatory for schools.

D. Warden asked for additional clarity on SWPH's projected year-end surplus. C. St. John reported that as of June 30, 2024, SWPH is projecting a surplus of approximately \$1.3 million, partly due to new hires starting at different steps in their salary grids, and staff on leave of absence (LOA). Additional COVID-19 funding has also contributed to the surplus. C. St. John

clarified that SWPH expects a better understanding of the surplus nearer to year's end. D. Warden asked if there will be options or recommendations for this surplus in the next report. C. St. John indicated options would be noted in a future report.

J. Couckuyt praised the health status reports and looks forward to seeing more of them. He also asked for more clarification regarding base funding and municipal contributions.

C. St. John explained that prior to 2020, certain public health programs were 100% funded by the provincial government. However, in 2019, the provincial government announced changes to the funding model, shifting to a cost-sharing formula that required municipalities to contribute more.

C. St. John noted the government also converted many of the previously fully-provincially funded programs (with a few exceptions, such as seniors' dental and MOH compensation top-up) into cost-shared programs. This change increased the financial burden on municipalities.

To ease the transition, the province introduced mitigation funding in 2020, which was intended to offset the additional costs borne by municipalities because of the Ministry of Health's decision. The mitigation funding has remained unchanged at approximately \$1.4 million from 2020 to 2024, despite inflation and increased program costs.

J. Couckuyt asked if municipalities will be paying less as a result. C. St. John noted that the 2024 base funding has now been changed to include the mitigation funding that has been frozen at 1.4M for the last 4 years. The Ministry of Health has confirmed only a 1% base funding growth for 2024 and 2025 which is far below inflation. As a result, municipalities have had to pick up more public health programs and services costs.

D. Mayberry asked if the surplus could be used to support underfunded programs, such as those related to mental health in schools. He emphasized the importance of addressing mental health issues, which impact both students and classroom dynamics. D. Mayberry encouraged flexibility in using surplus funds to address these needs.

C. St. John noted that SWPH is meeting its current staffing and program targets, although a long-standing manager vacancy in health information management has delayed progress in that area. She also mentioned that SWPH still has nurses in schools, but not at the same level as we had many years ago where a nurse was in a school several days a week. C. St. John indicated that a comprehensive report on schools will be presented to the Board later this year.

D. Mayberry asked if there are any concerns from senior staff regarding the amending agreement. C. St. John replied that there were no issues or concerns, and that if any were noted, please be assured that they would be brought to the Board's attention.

J. Herbert asked if the 7% increase in funding for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program was a surprise given the size of the increase. C. St. John noted that the program had not received an increase for so many years, so yes it was a surprise. While the increase is highly appreciated, it does not reflect how inflation has significantly eroded the program's budget that

has been frozen for over a decade, and a far greater increase would be required to address inflationary pressures over the past few years.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-5.4-2.1)

Moved by J. Couckuyt

Seconded by M. Ryan

That the Board of Health approve the second quarter financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2024 for Southwestern Public Health.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-5.4-2.2)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Amending Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Southwestern Public Health effective January 1, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-5.4)

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for September 26, 2024.

Carried.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-C7)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by C. Agar

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.

S. Molnar left at 1:50 p.m.

8.0 RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-C8)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-C3.1-1.2)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by J. Couckuyt

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health appoint Dr. Joyce Lock as Acting Medical Officer of Health as of September 26, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-C3.1)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by M. Ryan

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Report for September 26, 2024.

Carried.

9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0926-10)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Warden

That the meeting adjourns to meet again on Thursday, October 24, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. or earlier at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Confirmed: _____

