



A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 commencing at 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. C. Agar	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. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
Dr. N. Tran	Medical Officer of Health (ex officio)
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Ms. Michelle Alvey	Presenter, Health Promoter
Ms. Amy Pavletic	Presenter, Manager, Environmental Health
Ms. Meaghan Lichti*	Public Health Nurse
Ms. Rebecca Wallace*	Public Health Nurse
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. N. Rowe*	Manager, Communications
Mr. I. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

MEDIA:

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

REGRETS:

Mr. J. Preston	Board Member
Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	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 1:06 p.m.

AGENDA

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-1.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for May 23, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

1.3 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.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-2.1)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for April 18, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-2.2)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by L. Rowden

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

Carried.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

D. Mayberry requested that a follow-up letter be sent to the Minister of Finance if Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) does not receive a response to its May 14th correspondence in a timely manner. C. St. John indicated staff would prepare to do so.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-3.1-3.2)

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health receive and file consent agenda items 3.1 -3.2: alpha Letter to Minister Lecce re Vape, Tobacco and Nicotine Products in Schools and SWPH Letter to Minister of Finance Peter Bethlenfalvy re Alcohol Policy.

Carried.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.DECISION

5.1 SWPH Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment Report for May 23, 2024.

Michelle Alvey presented the report.

C. Agar inquired about the identified populations, questioning whether there should be an agricultural representative on the advisory committee. M. Alvey noted outreach to the Elgin Federation of Agriculture, which appreciated the report and its acknowledgment of their contributions. C. Agar requested to see the letter from the Federation.

D. Mayberry thanked the contributors, including the University of Waterloo, for their input on the report. He emphasized that while the report primarily focused on adaptation, it lacked a focus on prevention and suggested conducting workshops or orientations about prevention. Mayberry stressed the importance of municipal involvement in mitigation efforts and highlighted the significant impact on mental health, calling for more upstream preventative measures. He questioned the balance between prevention and protection activities among the 100 identified activities, to which M. Alvey responded that specific numbers of preventative actions were not yet available. D. Mayberry further asked if there should be an assessment of SWPH's involvement, and M. Alvey mentioned an upcoming evaluation.

L. Rowden questioned current SWPH actions, with A. Pavletic explaining the reactive nature of the vulnerability assessment and the next steps towards prevention. L. Rowden noted the loss of green space despite discussions about its preservation. C. Agar raised concerns about support for vulnerable populations during extreme heat events, referencing the BC heat dome example. She asked if there was an action plan to monitor and support individuals, such as those with schizophrenia, during such events. A. Pavletic emphasized the importance of communication with community partners and healthcare providers to ensure they are informed and prepared to assist vulnerable individuals.

Dr. Tran discussed the development of tailored strategies for identified vulnerable populations, such as outdoor workers and seniors, to ensure effective information dissemination and appropriate actions. D. Mayberry reiterated the need for upstream preventative measures and urged SWPH to consider its carbon footprint. Dr. Tran acknowledged ongoing internal conversations and future reports focused on both adaptation and prevention. D. Mayberry requested a timeline for these actions, and A. Pavletic noted it was part of SWPH's program planning and emphasized the necessity of comprehensive social support.

D. Mayberry agreed on the need for proper planning and social design but highlighted the organization's responsibility in both contributing to and solving the problem. He noted that while climate change is perceived as a global issue, it is the cumulative effect of many smaller actions, and as an organization, SWPH must do its part to address this.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-5.1-3.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health receive the Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Assessment and its associated recommendations for May 23, 2024.

Carried.

5.2 Medical Officer of Health's Report

Dr. Tran reviewed his report on the Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) in Elgin and Oxford.

G. Jones asked if the OHTs are making a difference, to which Dr. Tran responded affirmatively, noting that the OHTs appreciate the support and partnership of SWPH and the experience and information it brings. D. Mayberry expressed concerns about whether the OHTs are effectively simplifying the healthcare system and improving health outcomes, both physically and mentally.

Dr. Tran acknowledged the complexity of the healthcare system and emphasized the need for dedicated efforts from both patients and providers. He mentioned that while key performance indicators (KPIs) such as cancer screening are in place, the focus of OHTs is currently on various

points of the healthcare system, including patient admissions and readmissions. More data performance indicators will be introduced across the province in the future.

D. Mayberry voiced support for OHTs in aiding vulnerable populations to navigate the system but also noted the system's creation by the same stakeholders now aiming to streamline it. Dr. Tran highlighted the focus on vulnerable populations, including Indigenous and Low-German Speaking Mennonite communities, and mentioned applications for supportive housing facilitated by OHTs.

D. Shinedling clarified that OHTs are primarily organizations that facilitate communication between healthcare entities rather than direct patient care providers. Dr. Tran added that there are citizen representatives on a subcommittee to provide patient navigation perspectives, embedding the experiences of those with lived experience in the system's design.

D. Shinedling inquired about maturity challenges faced by OHTs. Dr. Tran identified the need for time to complete the work and funding constraints as significant issues. While collective OHTs receive funding, there is no growth funding available. He noted that while there are more mature OHTs, all are still in relatively early stages of development, as the redesign process occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-5.2)

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's Report for May 23, 2024.

Carried.

M. Peterson left at 2:00pm.

5.3 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed her report.

J. Herbert sought further information regarding the vaccination rates for the Grade 7 group, asking if consent is required and if they are first-time doses. S. MacIsaac noted that consent begins from the start of their school life and it lasts until they withdraw their consent, and Dr. Tran clarified that many of the Gr. 7 students will have been vaccinated prior with other vaccines. They are getting their first Hep B and HPV in Grade 7.

G. Jones asked if the rabies data provided pertains to dogs only. S. MacIsaac noted the cases address a variety of animals and situations. For rabies treatment, it depends on if public health inspectors can quarantine and monitor the animal and make an assessment from there.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-5.3-3.1)

Moved by D. Warden
Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health to approve the first quarter financial statements for Southwestern Public Health.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-5.3-3.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health ratify the signing of the 2023 program-based grants annual reconciliation report and accompanying letters.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-5.3-3.3)

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by J. Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health direct staff to invest the 2023 surplus dollars into the SWPH Board of Health Reserve Fund.

Carried.

D. Mayberry moved to leave the surplus with the Board of Health (BOH), stating that the amount is small relative to Oxford's overall budget and suggesting that it be reinvested into the Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) reserve fund. J. Herbert seconded the motion. D. Mayberry highlighted that while SWPH had directed more investment into community health development, they had not spent all the funds, and he did not want to reduce that commitment prematurely. He emphasized the importance of continued investment without immediate demands for detailed outcomes.

G. Jones agreed with the surplus being put into the Board of Health reserve fund, provided it is revisited in the next budget cycle. D. Warden recalled that SWPH had returned money to municipalities previously. J. Herbert supported placing the surplus in reserve but acknowledged that municipalities might prefer a refund. D. Mayberry noted the importance of the board's autonomy and historical context of handling reserve funds, particularly during the threat of amalgamation, when a significant surplus was returned to avoid it being absorbed by another potential merged entity.

G. Jones concluded that the current surplus is small enough to keep with SWPH, aligning with D. Mayberry's view that reinvestment into the reserve fund is appropriate given the small scale of the amount and the municipalities' pre-approved budgets.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-5.3)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by C. Agar

That the Board of Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report, effective May 23, 2024.

Carried.

D. Mayberry expressed his hope that they will see a progress report nearer to the end of the year on the additional investments approved by the Board in June 2023 recognizing that the progress was over a 3-5 year window. C. St. John indicated that an update will be presented this year as to how we are tracking our progress.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-C7)

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by D. Shinedling

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-0523-C8)

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-C3.1)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the verbal report of the Special Ad Hoc Building Committee for May 23, 2024, and agree with the Committee's direction and recommendations.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-C3.2)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Report for May 23, 2024.

Carried.

9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-0523-10)

Moved by L. Rowden

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the meeting adjourns to meet again on Thursday, June 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. or earlier at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Confirmed: 