



BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting
May 24, 2013
Dryden Best Western Centennial Meeting Room

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**PRESENT:** Julie Roy, Chair  
Carol Baron, Dennis Brown, Dave Canfield, Paul Ryan, Bill Thompson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  
Dr. Jim Arthurs, Medical Officer of Health (MOH)  
Mark Perrault, CEO  
Jennifer McKibbin, Manager, Enforcement  
Dorothy Strain, Secretary to MOH/BOH (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** John Albanese, Jim Belluz, Doug Squires  
**ABSENT:** Shayne MacKinnon

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

### 2. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBER

Chair Julie Roy introduced Carol Baron, joint appointee for Red Lake and Ear Falls municipalities, who was appointed following Margaret Harland's resignation from the Board of Health in December 2012.

### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions: Agenda #13, Non Agenda Items:  
13.1 Board of Health Orientation Refresher Session

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 72-2013</b>                                                         |                        |
| THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated May 24, 2013, be approved as amended. | P. Ryan<br>B. Thompson |

### 4. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None was declared.

### 5. IN CAMERA SESSION

At 8:40 a.m. Board of Health members moved to an in camera session.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 73-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                     |                     |
| THAT the Board of Health moves to an in camera session to discuss:<br>- <i>Board of Health education/orientation session: Risk Communication</i><br>- <i>Personal Matters concerning individuals...</i> | D. Brown<br>P. Ryan |

At 10:35 a.m. Board of Health members moved out of the in camera session to resume regular business.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 74-2013</b>                                                     |                        |
| THAT the Board of Health moves out of the in camera session to resume regular business. | P. Ryan<br>B. Thompson |

The following motions arising from the in camera session were approved:

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 75-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |                        |
| THAT revisions to the Northwestern Health Unit organizational chart be approved as presented. Revisions reflect adjustments to management portfolios to facilitate achievement of strategic planning objectives. | P. Ryan<br>D. Canfield |

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 76-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                     |                        |
| THAT the 2013 non-union salary grid be approved as amended, as revised for the addition of a new Human Resource Coordinator position on the existing Finance Coordinator position grid. | B. Thompson<br>P. Ryan |

## 6. MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING, May 3, 2013

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 77-2013</b>                                                       |                            |
| THAT the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting held May 3, 2013, be approved as written. | B. Thompson<br>D. Canfield |

## 7. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

### 7.1 Medical Officer of Health Report – *Dr. Jim Arthurs, Medical Officer of Health* Reference # 2013-05-24-7.1

#### Purpose

To provide an update on reflections from my March report, ongoing issues within the Northwestern Health Unit, and current activities.

#### Background

- No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy (Report of the Healthy Kids Panel)
- Infectious Disease Surveillance from World Health Organization, U.S. Center for Disease Control, and Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

#### Link to the Strategic Plan

Implementing our goals in all four domains of our strategy map.

#### Discussion

##### Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention Program

Attached to my report is a draft letter for the Board of Health's consideration to send to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Children and Youth Services. This letter

encourages implementation of the recommendations emerging from the Healthy Kids Panel Report, No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy:

- Start all kids on the path to health.
- Change the food environment.
- Create healthy communities.

This represents our focus on healthy eating and physical exercise. At the alPHa AGM and Meeting, June 2-4, 2013, a presentation will be provided by Michael Moss, author of the book Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us. Clearly, the issue of unhealthy eating is a national concern.

#### Infectious Disease Program

Avian influenza (H7N9) Surveillance Update: On March 29, 2013, the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention completed laboratory confirmation of three human infections with an avian influenza A(H7N9) virus not previously reported in humans (1). These infections were reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on March 31, 2013, in accordance with International Health Regulations. On April 24, 2013, the WHO confirmed the first human case infected with the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus outside mainland China. This new case, in Taiwan, is being treated as an imported case as infection likely originated in mainland China where the individual worked. Avian influenza A(H7) viruses normally circulate among birds, and the avian influenza A(H7N9) virus is one subgroup among the larger group of H7 viruses. Human infections with avian influenza viruses are rare but have occurred in the past, most commonly after a person is exposed to infected poultry. However, human infections have now been detected.

The disease is of concern because most patients have been severely ill. As of May 10, 2013, there were 131 confirmed cases and 32 fatalities. There is no indication thus far that it can be transmitted between people, but both animal-to-human and human-to-human routes of transmission are being actively investigated. There is no vaccine currently available for this influenza virus. Current influenza antiviral medications are useful. The risk posed to the people of Ontario by this virus is considered low. There is no evidence of sustained human-to-human transmission, and there is a limited geographic area with illness detection. There have been no travel restriction advisories, though any traveler to China who develops a respiratory illness is advised to seek medical attention.

Coronavirus Surveillance: Since September 2012, 33 cases of human infection with the novel coronavirus, including 18 deaths, have been confirmed in six countries (United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Jordan, Qatar, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and France). The coronavirus causes severe respiratory infections similar to SARS. Recent confirmed cases have been identified as originating in the single health care facility in Saudi Arabia with symptom onset within the previous window; no new cases in Saudi Arabia are a result of further spread of infection. One additional case reported on May 8, 2013, in France, has a travel history to Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Cases have generally presented with pneumonia, though a number have also had renal failure. As of May 9, 2013, no sustained person-to-person transmission has been identified. Although a family cluster in the United Kingdom and the most recent cluster in a health care facility in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia confirms that the virus can spread between humans, the risk is considered to be low. No cases have been identified in North America.

Health Hazards Program

Red Lake Area: The Northwestern Health Unit was informed by the Ministry of Environment of soil sample contamination in the mining area in and around Red Lake. The contamination is from heavy metals, with Arsenic being the greatest concern. While there are no confirmed cases of acute poisoning, our enforcement/environmental program staff and I felt that a public advisory was appropriate for long-term exposure.

I have had personal face to face and phone conversations with Red Lake Mayor Phil Vinet. The Northwestern Health Unit released a media alert and health information advisory to residents of the Red Lake area on May 7, 2013.

Rainy River: This week we prepared a letter of support for the Town of Rainy River regarding their grant application for funding assistance to update their municipal water treatment plant. Rainy River has reported elevated THMs (Trihalomethanes) for several years. THMs are the by-product of chlorine disinfection of water sources in combination with natural occurring organic materials in surface waters. Long-term exposures may cause kidney problems and potential urinary tract cancers. Levels are higher during spring and summer, and lower through the winter months. Several efforts have been made to reduce levels with temporary changes in the water plant; however, they have not been sustainable. Together with a representative from the Ministry of Environment, Brian Norris (Public Health Inspector, Fort Frances office), and I met with Mayor Deb Ewald, Rainy River Council, and water treatment plant staff in February 2010 to discuss options of resolution. A professional engineering company was retained and submitted a comprehensive plan for plant improvements to improve their water quality.

Dryden: The Health Unit will soon be presenting a Drinking Water Order to four trailer parks in the Dryden area whose deep, drilled wells have varying elevations of uranium. This is natural occurring uranium from the rock formation. Previous advisories of health hazard alerts to supply bottled water or water treatment to remove uranium have not been followed.

Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Program

The issues of use and abuse of prescription opioid drugs continues to be a major problem across northern Ontario. Dr. David Williams, Medical Officer of Health, Thunder Bay District Health Unit, has submitted information regarding the establishment of a 'Center of Excellence' electronic surveillance project to help identify the actual rates, rather than continue our dependence on anecdotal information. The proposal is to use current staff and equipment of Lakehead University and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. A copy of the proposal was reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting of May 3 and referred to the Board of Health meeting of May 24 for Board discussion.

Emergency Preparedness

Recent melt and flooding in the James Bay area has required evacuations of many First Nation individuals to our northern communities. In addition to Thunder Bay, Kapuskasing and Greenstone communities, there has been an evacuation of 84 Attawapiskat individuals to Fort Frances, where they will be lodged in local hotels and fed in local restaurants. The duration of evacuation is unknown at present; for now, the Northwestern Health Unit has no specific services to provide.

2013-2016 Strategic Plan

On May 21, 2013, the Northwestern Health Unit's first public telephone survey of local community residents will begin. This effort will support our strategic plan goal of increasing community awareness of the Health Unit services. It will provide a baseline of information for 2013 and will be repeated in 2016 to identify trends in awareness, service use, contact information and website use.

**Budgetary Impact**

None in addition to existing Northwestern Health Unit 2013 budget allocations for provision of mandated programs and services. Costs associated with the four-year telephone survey project have been, and will be allocated to the Foundations Team budget.

**Attachment**

Draft letter to Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, and Children and Youth Services

**Recommendation**

- That the Board of Health receives the report of the Medical Officer of Health.
- That the Board of Health approves the attached letter for sending to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care, and Children and Youth Services

Verbal Update – Provided by Dr. Arthurs

Attachment to MOH Report, Letter to Ministers: Dr. Arthurs reviewed the proposed letter to be sent to co-chairs of the governmental committee struck to address the recommendations arising from the Healthy Kids Panel report, No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy.

Board of Health members agreed that the letter is appropriate to be sent by the Board of Health.

| Motion / Resolution: 78-2013                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                 |
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| <p>WHEREAS an identified strategy of the Healthy Kids Panel's report, <u>No Time to Wait: The Healthy Kids Strategy</u>, "Change the Food Environment" includes recommendations towards providing access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate foods for children and youth; and</p> <p>WHEREAS these recommendations align with the Northwestern Health Unit Strategic Plan 2013-2016 objective to "Increase the percentage of children and youth who meet the guidelines in Eating Well with Canada's Food Guide by 5% over baseline by December 2016";</p> <p>THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit commends the Ontario government for commissioning an inter-ministerial working group to direct government action towards implementing the recommendations emerging from the Healthy Kids Panel report; and</p> <p>FURTHER THAT a letter be sent to the Ministers of Health and Long-Term Care and Children and Youth Services, to express support for the inter-ministerial working group and to endorse the Report recommendations for ensuring that all children have access to nutritious, affordable and appropriate foods.</p> | <p>B. Thompson<br/>D. Brown</p> |

Association of Local Public Health Agencies AGM, June 2-4: Michael Moss, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author of Salt Sugar Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us, will be a keynote speaker at alPHA's 2013 Annual Conference.

Infectious Disease Program: International surveillance coordinated by the World Health Organization is ongoing for Avian Influenza and the current identified coronavirus. Ontario health units are updated several times / week by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Chief Medical Officer of Health's office. At this time the risk to North Americans remains low if they do not travel to affected areas.

## **7.2 Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Program Report - Submitted by Gillian Lunny, Manager, Sexual Health and Harm Reduction Program**

*Reference # 2013-05-24-7.2*

*The report will be retained on file.*

### Verbal Update – Provided by Dr. Arthurs

Harm Reduction program: The Ontario Chief Coroner's office has issued an alert to health care providers regarding the potential lethal consequences of the recreational use of bupropion, a pharmaceutical smoking cessation aid.

Harm Reduction Workshop: A written report by Board of Health member Doug Squires was distributed, of his attendance at a workshop in Sioux Lookout on May 14 facilitated by Dr. Gabor Maté, "The Hungry Ghost: A Biopsychosocial Perspective on Addiction, from Heroin to Workaholism." Northwestern Health Unit program staff involved with hosting the workshop were recognized and commended for an excellent session.

Rainy River Invitation: An invitation received for the grand opening of the Rainy River Multi-Use Community Trails on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, will be forwarded to Board of Health members.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 79-2013</b>                                        |                     |
| THAT the Report of the Medical Officer of Health be accepted as presented. | D. Brown<br>P. Ryan |

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 80-2013</b>                                   |                         |
| THAT the Sexual Health and Harm Reduction program report be accepted. | D. Brown<br>B. Thompson |

## **8. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION**

### **8.1 Chief Executive Officer Report :**

#### **8.1.1. Organizational Chart**

The revised Northwestern Health Unit organizational chart and 2013 non-union salary grid were approved immediately after the in camera session, agenda #5.

**8.2 Finance Report – Mark Perrault, CEO***Reference #2013-05-24-8.2**Distributed to the meeting.*

Financial data report sheets for the first quarter were reviewed. There has been no response to date from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care regarding the Health Unit's 2013 budget submission. Administration is confident it will be able to maintain the approved 2013 balanced budget should the requested funding increase not be approved.

Discussion, Questions

Part 8 (Sewage) Program: Options for 'proactive advocacy' were discussed, for ensuring compliance with legislation requiring mandatory septic field inspections when residences are sold.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 81-2013</b>  |                        |
| THAT the Finance Report be accepted. | P. Ryan<br>B. Thompson |

**8.2.1 NWHU 2013 Budget: Diabetes Prevention Strategy***Report Reference #2013-05-24-8.2**The report will be retained on file.*

Mark Perrault, CEO, provided background for the renewed funding agreement. The Health Unit will be connecting with local and regional agencies to coordinate prevention strategies and to ensure that Health Unit programs and activities will complement, and avoid duplication with, current regional activities.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 82-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                         |
| THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit approves the amended funding agreement for the Diabetes Prevention Program. Term of the contribution agreement is three years, commencing April 1, 2013, and expiring March 31, 2016, with funding in the amount of \$218,000 to be provided each budget year, April 1-March 31, for a total funding amount of \$654,000. Full (100%) funding for the Diabetes Prevention Program is provided by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Promotion Division. | D. Canfield<br>C. Baron |

Board of Health members recessed at 12:00 p.m.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

**9. THUNDER BAY DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE PROPOSAL**

Dr. Arthurs described the identified need to establish and/or assemble evidence data for the incidence of opioid and other addictions in the northwestern Ontario, as a starting point for strategies that lead to improved health outcomes for the populations of this region.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 83-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                 |
| <p>THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit supports Thunder Bay District Health Unit Resolution #16-2013, which endorses recommendations of the expert panel report, The Way Forward: Stewardship for Prescription Narcotics in Ontario (2012); and requests the Minister of Health of Ontario to explore opportunities for the establishment of a foundation, such as a Centre of Excellence, to enhance the evidence, community capacity and multi-sectoral collaboration for the Northwest region of Ontario;</p> <p>AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this Resolution of support be forwarded to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, area MPPs, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Regional Chief-Chiefs of Ontario, Grand Chief – Nishnawbe Aski Nation, northern Ontario health units, and Northwestern Health Unit obligated municipalities for their information and support.</p> | <p>C. Baron<br/>B. Thompson</p> |

#### 10. NWHU Policies: Revisions- 'Personnel Changes'; 'Travel'

Chair Julie Roy noted the requested edits to Policy, 'Personnel Changes'.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 84-2013</b>                                                                                                                 |                                |
| THAT the revision to Policy, Personnel Changes, be approved, to clarify protocol for notification of Board of Health members of staff terminations. | <p>P. Ryan<br/>D. Canfield</p> |

Mark Perrault, CEO, explained that the revisions to Policy, 'Travel', will comply with Canada Revenue Agency's 'reasonable rate' that is set each year in January.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 85-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                    |                             |
| THAT the revision to Policy, Travel, be approved. The revision adjusts direction for provision of mileage to comply with Canada Revenue Agency regulations and is effective immediately, May 24, 2013. | <p>P. Ryan<br/>C. Baron</p> |

#### 11. 2013 PERFORMANCE TARGETS

*Report Reference #2013-05-24-8.2*

*The report will be retained on file.*

Dr. Arthurs noted that, based upon the Health Unit's 2012 results and 2013 plans, the Health Unit considers the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's proposed 2013 performance targets for the Accountability Agreement health protection indicators #1,2,4,5 and 7 to be reasonable.

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| <b>Motion / Resolution: 86-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                    |
| THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit approves the performance targets for 2013 for the Accountability Agreement health protection indicators #1,2,4,5,7, as proposed for the Northwestern Health Unit by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. | <p>D. Canfield<br/>B. Thompson</p> |



**12. NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 26, 2013**

Chair Julie Roy conveyed suggestions for an annual public meeting that were compiled by members of the Executive Committee at an informal discussion held May 23.

Discussion

Suggestions for a timeline for preparing a draft agenda and communications plan were discussed. Board of Health members agreed that a fall public meeting is more appropriate than the original proposed July 26 date.

The suggestions were referred to administration to present to the Leadership Council for further ideas for implementing plans for an annual public meeting.

**13. NON AGENDA ITEMS****13.1 Board of Health Orientation Refresher**

Chair Julie Roy suggested an orientation 'refresher' be held for new Board of Health members and interested current members. Tentative date is October 19, 2013. It was agreed that this would be valuable. Administration will follow up.

**13.2 Northwestern Health Unit Bursary, 2013 Winners**

Mark Perrault, CEO, informed that successful applicants for the 2013 Carl Lindstrom Bursary are Kristina Wilson from Red Lake District High School, and Julia Withers from St. Thomas Aquinas High School, Kenora. The \$500 bursary will be presented to each student at their graduation ceremony.

**13.3 Board of Health 2012 Self Evaluation**

Mark Perrault reported that a review of the September 2012 self-evaluation results revealed errors in calculations of percentages for answers to survey questions. Adjusted percentages were provided.

**14. NEXT MEETING DATE****Regular Meeting**

Date: Thursday, June 27, 2013 Start time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Sioux Lookout municipal office Council Chamber

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:30 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:

CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN

THIS ..... DAY OF .....2013

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CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH

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RECORDING SECRETARY