



## BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting  
June 27, 2013  
Sioux Lookout Municipal Office Council Chamber

~~~~~

**PRESENT:** Julie Roy, Chair

John Albanese, Carol Baron, Jim Belluz, Dennis Brown, Dave Canfield, Shayne MacKinnon,  
Paul Ryan, Doug Squires

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Dr. Jim Arthurs, Medical Officer of Health

Mark Perrault, CEO

Alex Berry, QI Officer

Dorothy Strain, Secretary to MOH/BOH (Recorder)

**REGRETS:** Bill Thompson

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

|                                                                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Motion / Resolution: 87-2013</b>                                               |                        |
| THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated June 27, 2013, be approved. | P. Ryan<br>J. Albanese |

**3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None was declared.

**4. IN CAMERA SESSION**

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

|                                                                                                                                                                                        |                        |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Motion / Resolution: 88-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                    |                        |
| THAT the Board of Health moves to an in camera session to discuss:<br><i>4.1 Board of Health education/orientation session- Risk Management; Policy &amp; Procedure Review Project</i> | D. Canfield<br>P. Ryan |

At 10:25 a.m. Board of Health members moved out of the in camera session to resume regular business.

|                                                                                         |                             |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Motion / Resolution: 89-2013</b>                                                     |                             |
| THAT the Board of Health moves out of the in camera session to resume regular business. | S. MacKinnon<br>D. Canfield |

## 5. MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING, May 24, 2013

|                                                                                            |                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Motion / Resolution: 90-2013                                                               |                           |
| THAT the Minutes of the Board of Health meeting held May 24, 2013, be approved as written. | D. Canfield<br>D. Squires |

## 6. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

7.1 Medical Officer of Health Report – *Dr. Jim Arthurs, Medical Officer of Health*  
Reference # 2013-06-27-6.1

## Purpose

To provide an update on reflections from previous reports, ongoing issues within the Northwestern Health Unit, and current activities.

## Link to the Strategic Plan

Health determinants and status – Increase behaviours that prevent chronic disease.

## Discussion

Do we know that the best thing you can do for your health is to go for a 30 minute daily walk? And, it is free? Do we know what foods make up healthy eating?

Of course we do.

Do all of us do the activities every day?

Of course not.

Do we really understand the addictive nature of unhealthy behaviours and addictions like tobacco, alcohol, substance abuse and abuse of medical prescriptions?

Do we really know what it takes to make a healthy community?

How do we make habits of healthy lifestyles?

How do we break habits of unhealthy behaviours?

Big industries like tobacco, alcohol, pharmaceuticals, and food have all used the same marketing strategies to enhance our habits to buy or use their products. Can these be regulated? Only partially. Policies need to be well written and enforceable; and they need to be timely, relative to the public and political will.

Michael Moss, author of Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us, was the keynote speaker at the recent Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) AGM, June 2-4 in Toronto. His talk was engaging and was a good review of his book. His take-home message was less about solutions for unhealthy eating, overweight and obese populations, and more about stressing that we need to understand what we are up against.

Athletes, musicians and other performers increase and maintain skills with continuous practice and repetitions. Breaking unhealthy habits and building new habits is also about repetition and practice. Simply knowing something is healthy does not make that a lifelong habit. While we do not have the marketing resources of big industries, we do need to repeat our healthy message continuously with new ideas and new ways.

On June 12 I visited Rainy River and participated in their Grand Opening of a new multi-use community trail network. The Grand Opening was the successful culmination of many years' work overseen by the Trails Planning Committee. The Northwestern Health Unit participated in this community partnership. The entire community of preschool and school children, community leaders and residents turned out to go for a walk and support the community spirit of healthy lifestyles.

On June 17 in Kenora I attended a workshop on Breastfeeding sponsored by the Northwestern Health Unit. Once again I reflected on what I/we know, and what do we not know. How do we get the message out to our partners and clients, and especially those most at risk – low level of education, young mothers, low incomes, and mothers who smoke or abuse drugs.

Our message, no matter what the issue, should be evidence-based. However, just knowing is not sufficient. Developing all healthy lifestyle habits requires practice and repetition.

#### **Budgetary Impact**

None.

#### **Recommendation**

- That the Board of Health receives the report of the Medical Officer of Health.

#### Verbal Update – Provided by Dr. Arthurs

Rainy River Multi-Use Community Trails – Dr. Arthurs provided additional information about the Grand Opening held June 12, 2013.

There was discussion regarding the community's support for the Trails project. Rainy River office staff member Heidi Ivall, Health Educator, was recognized for her ongoing commitment and her instrumental role with the Trails Planning Committee that contributed to the project's completion.

Population Survey – The telephone survey of public awareness of the Northwestern Health Unit and its programs and services is complete and the survey agency is preparing a report. The data will be utilized to create a 'baseline' for measuring progress towards objectives outlined in the 2013-2016 strategic plan.

Health Hazards program – The Northwestern Health Unit is facilitating water testing for individuals in the Red Lake area in connection with public information provided regarding soil contamination from heavy metals.

Coronavirus (MERS-CoV)- Documentation regarding incidence to date in Europe and North Africa / Middle East (Saudi Arabia) was circulated. To date there are no confirmed cases in North America.

Avian Influenza – Confirmed cases remain limited to China. Numbers of new confirmed cases seems to have 'levelled off'.

Alberta Flooding – An Alberta Regional Health Authority has notified the Ontario Chief Medical Officer of Health's office of an anticipated need for public health inspectors to assist with recovery activity following recent disastrous flooding. The information was shared

with Ontario health units. The potential for Northwestern Health Unit public health inspector staff to participate was discussed among administration and management staff. The Health Unit will await further communication from Alberta authorities.

## 7.2 Epidemiologist Report - Submitted by Dorian Lunny, Epidemiologist

Reference # 2013-06-27-6.2

*The report will be retained on file.*

|                                                                            |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Motion / Resolution: 91-2013                                               |                            |
| THAT the Report of the Medical Officer of Health be accepted as presented. | D. Squires<br>S. MacKinnon |

|                                                    |                            |
|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Motion / Resolution: 92-2013                       |                            |
| THAT the Report of the Epidemiologist be received. | D. Squires<br>S. MacKinnon |

## 7. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

### 7.2 Finance Report – Mark Perrault, CEO

Reference #2013-06-27-7.2

*The report will be retained on file.*

Expenditure lines and significant variances to May 31, 2013, were reviewed. The current variance for Small Drinking Water Systems program will diminish with the commencement of seasonal inspections for isolated facilities.

Part 8 (Sewage) Program: Activity is on par with June 2012 activity.

### 7.1 Chief Executive Officer Report -Mark Perrault, CEO

Reference # 2013-06-27-7.1

*The Report was distributed to the meeting.*

#### Purpose

To inform the Board of Health of any issues or activities of the Chief Executive Officer that do not warrant a separate report because they are for information and or discussion purposes only and there is no financial commitment.

#### Link to the Strategic Plan

Internal Services & Resources: Maintain a full complement of qualified staff

Integration and Responsiveness: Strengthen partnership and collaboration

#### Discussion

#### Preschool Speech and Language Program

Discussions with Firefly regarding contracted speech language services in Kenora and Red Lake have resulted in an agreement for the Health Unit to continue contracting one full-time speech pathologist in Kenora. The contract will be rewritten to reflect the new reduced cost and the cost savings will go to pay for existing Health Unit staff and to provide service to Red Lake.

We will also be applying for permanent funding for one additional speech pathologist, based in Sioux Lookout due to the high demand. As you are aware, the Ministry of Children and Youth Services had offered short term contract funding for a speech pathologist; but we have been unable to recruit appropriate staff due to the short-term nature of the contract.

#### Northern Dental Pilot – University of Toronto Study

We have been engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (the Ministry) regarding a study to examine the impact of the Northern Dental Pilot on primary health care spending due to dental disease, which includes emergency room visits and surgical costs. The University of Toronto is willing to conduct the study with the services of a PHD student. We are currently examining options for paying for the cost of the study, which is estimated to be \$48,000 per year over five years. It appears the Ministry is interested but also wants a commitment from their federal counterparts for assistance to support the project. As this is a 100% funded program, there is no financial impact on the Health Unit if this study proceeds.

#### Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA) Implementation of a Public Health System Working Group

The Northwestern Health Unit is one of several partners on this working group, which is examining how to implement a public health system on First Nation communities. We met by teleconference for three hours on June 14. A face-to-face meeting is scheduled for July in Thunder Bay. As the legal boundaries of the Northwestern Health Unit include much of the territory covered by the SLFNHA, we have a stake in the outcomes of these discussions. Ideally, we want to see that all of the citizens of Ontario, regardless of where they live, have the same legal protections when it comes to their health. Whatever the outcome is, we will want to establish a close partnership with the resulting service provider in order for us to meet our mission.

#### Leadership and Change Management

With all of the changes to programs and management resulting from the implementation of the strategic plan, our Human Resources department organized training and support for managers and also for all staff to adapt to the changes. I would like to share with you what I wrote to introduce the topic for both the managers' session and the all staff webinar session:

As you are aware, we, the Northwestern Health Unit, are embarking on a whole new way of doing things. Integration, whether of programs or administration, is the new status quo. We need to do things better, and we can only do things better if we work together on all of our collective goals, rather than each of us (program or individuals) only working on our own set of goals.

We all need to take both leadership roles and the role of a supporting partner in order for this to work. It is hoped that this learning that we will be doing today is just one step in the continuum of learning about ourselves and how we react to change and how we can be agents of change, not just in our own domains but also to accomplish the mission of the Northwestern Health Unit – To improve the quality and length of life of our population – Health Lifestyles, Longer Lives Lived Well.

The management session focused on leadership, including:

- Identify core leadership behaviours and then document how to put them into action
- Be able to actively listen to your employees and give necessary feedback
- Better able to lead your organization through change

The all staff session focused on strategies to overcome any challenges encountered in the change process.

#### Integration of Finance and Human Resources Progress Report

One of my stated goals for the current restructuring is the integration of finance and human resource functions to create more efficiencies. We have physically connected the two departments and are actively integrating the filing system. Our first planning meeting with Alex Berry, QI Officer, is happening on Tuesday, June 25, 2013, where we will be looking at roles and responsibilities.

#### Finance Update

Our 2012 Settlement with the Ministry of Health and Long-term Care has been prepared and we are just waiting for the Ministry to fix an error on their template before we can submit it to our auditors. The settlement is due September 30, 2013.

#### Report of Conference Attended

Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) Meeting and AGM, June 3-4, 2013:

I attended the alPHA meeting with Julie Roy, Doug Squires, and Dr. Arthurs, and found the meeting worthwhile. Of particular note was the Boards of Health Section meeting on the second day. One of the discussion topics concerned changing the format of alPHA meetings and eliminating the two separate meetings that are conducted – one being the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH) and the other being the Boards of Health Section. Each table of attendees discussed the issue. All tables with the exception of the one with Thunder Bay District Health Unit representatives agreed that there should not be a separate COMOH meeting; and that other health unit leaders, such as CEOs and Chief Nursing Officers, should be allowed to hold office for the alPHA executive positions. As you are aware, the Northwestern Health Unit has been in the lead for requesting this change, and one can presume that our former representative to alPHA's Board of Directors, Russ Fortier, had some influence in bringing this topic to the forefront.

#### Budgetary Impact

- None.

#### Recommendation

- That the Board of Health receives the Report of the Chief Executive Officer.

#### Verbal Update – Provided by Mark Perrault

Dental Health Program: The Ontario Dental Association has been lobbying for dental benefits (Ontario Works, Children in Need of Treatment – CINOT) to be administered by an



independent (external) company, to be chosen through a tender process. One tender is expected to be submitted by an insurer agency owned by the Ontario Dental Association.

|                                                                          |                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Motion / Resolution: 93-2013</b>                                      |                       |
| THAT the Report of the Chief Executive Officer be accepted as presented. | J. Belluz<br>D. Brown |

|                                                   |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Motion / Resolution: 94-2013</b>               |                          |
| THAT the Finance Report be accepted as presented. | J. Albanese<br>J. Belluz |

## 8. REPORTS OF CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE, alPha AGM, JUNE 2-4, 2013

Verbal reports were provided by Board of Health delegates Julie Roy and Doug Squires. Highlights of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPha) conference included:

- Presentation by Michael Moss, author of Salt, Sugar, Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us.
- Motivational speaker Steve Foran - developing leadership capacity and healthier lives by incorporating appreciation and gratitude.
- Public Health Ontario (PHO) update for the influenza immunization program with Ontario pharmacies; and PHO's review of the Healthy Smiles Ontario program.
- Six resolutions were considered by the alPha membership. Five were approved with some amendments. One was referred to the Board of Directors.

Disappointment was expressed that the time slot allotted for the Honourable Ministers Deb Matthews (Health & Long-Term Care), and Teresa Piruzza (Children and Youth Services) was so short (20 minutes).

## 9. NORTH WEST REGION REPRESENTATIVE TO alPha BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair Julie Roy identified a conflict of interest. Doug Squires, Vice-Chair, spoke to the matter.

The current term of the North West Region representative to alPha Board of Directors extends to June 2014. The position is currently vacant after Director Russ Fortier's public appointment expired February 2013. The alPha Board of Directors will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term, in September.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Motion / Resolution: 95-2013</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                      |
| THAT the Board of Health for Northwestern Health Unit endorses Julie Roy as a candidate for appointment to the position of North West region representative to the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPha) Board of Directors, for the remainder of the 2012-2014 term of this position. | D. Brown<br>C. Baron |

## 10. NON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no non agenda items.

## 11. NEXT MEETING DATE

### Regular Meeting

Date: Friday, July 26, 2013 Start time: 8:30 a.m.

Location: Kenora NWHU City View office boardroom

### Executive Committee Meeting

Date: Friday, July 12, 2013 Start time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Kenora NWHU City View office boardroom

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:

CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN

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

---

CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH

---

RECORDING SECRETARY