



**Ottawa Board of Health
Minutes**

Meeting #: 6
Date: September 18, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair Catherine Kitts, Vice-Chair Tammy DeGiovanni, Member Elyse Banham, Member Brent Bauer, Member Danielle Brown-Shreves, Member Marty Carr, Member Sabrina Chung, Member Laura Dudas, Member Glen Gower, Member Theresa Kavanagh, Member Rawlson King

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1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public
Please see the attached document for public notices and meeting information, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; processes and timelines for

written and oral submissions; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and remote participation details.

2. Roll Call

Member Dudas was absent during the roll call.

3. Regrets

No members sent regrets.

4. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of June 19, 2023.

Carried

6. Communications

Sixteen communication items have been received (held on file with the Board of Health Secretary).

7. Motion to Introduce Reports

Motion No. BOH 06/01

Moved by Member Brent Bauer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Ottawa Public Health's 2023-2024 Respiratory Season Preparedness Plan; 2022 Annual Report and Attestation to the Ministry of Health; 2023 Operating and Capital Budget Q2 – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report; Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of January 1 to June 30, 2023; and 2024 Ottawa Board of Health Meeting Schedule, be received and considered.

Carried

7.1 Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report

File ACS2023-OPH-BOH-0009 – City-wide

In her verbal report, Chair Kitts talked about attending the annual conference of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario in August and the Minister of Health's announcement about restoring the previous 75 per cent provincial, 25 per cent municipal cost-shared funding formula and providing an annual one per cent funding increase to all public health units through 2026. She then highlighted recent Capital Pride festivities and acknowledged Rowan's Law Day. She noted the significance of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day, encouraging everyone to take the time to learn and reflect on the meaning of this day. In closing, she talked about Bill 93, also known as Joshua's Law, or Lifejackets for Life, a Private Members' Bill introduced in the Ontario Legislature this past spring. If enacted, the Bill would require parents and guardians to ensure their children who are 12 years of age or younger wear a personal flotation device or life jacket while on a recreational boat.

In the context of the Chair's verbal report, the Board of Health considered and adopted a motion to support Joshua's Law and to urge all parties to vote in support of the Bill.

Motion No. BOH 06/02

Moved by Member Brent Bauer

WHEREAS drowning is preventable, yet there are still on average 152 preventable water-related deaths in Ontario each year;

AND WHEREAS prevention is the most important and effective way of reducing morbidity and mortality from injuries, including drowning;

AND WHEREAS at this time, the laws in Canada only require that there be one properly fitting lifejacket/personal flotation device for each person onboard a recreational boat and there are no laws making it mandatory that the lifejacket/personal flotation device be worn while on the water;

AND WHEREAS Bill 93, Joshua's Law (Lifejackets for Life) seeks to prevent drownings by ensuring that children 12 years of age or younger wear a lifejacket/personal flotation device while on the water rather than simply requiring that a lifejacket/personal flotation device be onboard;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health (OPH) has reviewed Bill 93, Joshua’s Law (Lifejackets for Life) and is supportive of it;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health unit express its support for Bill 93, Joshua’s Law (Lifejackets for Life) and request that the Chair of the Board of Health write to the Provincial Government to convey its support and urge all parties to vote in support of this Private Members’ Bill.

Carried

The Board then voted to receive the Chair's Verbal Report. Discussions on this item lasted approximately 10 minutes.

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this verbal report for information.

Received

7.2 Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report

File ACS2023-OPH-MOH-0006 – City-wide

In her verbal report, Dr. Etches provided updates on substance use and overdose in Ottawa and efforts to catch up on routine childhood vaccination. With respect to substance use and overdose, Dr. Etches talked about OPH’s role related to surveillance and reporting, working with partners to increase needed supports, prevention, and response. On routine childhood vaccination, she talked about OPH’s work over the past year to help children and youth catch up on their routine immunizations – both through its own initiatives and through work with partners.

In the context of Dr. Etches’ verbal report, the Board of Health the Board heard from eight (8) public delegations, as follows:

- Stéphanie Plante, Councillor, Ward 12
- Steve Ball, President of the Ottawa Gatineau Hotel Association, Byward Market Balanced Community Taskforce
- Logan Martin, Lead, Paramedic Community Wellbeing Outreach Team
- Sarah Taylor, Director of the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan, CSSD

- Liz Wigfull and Sahada Alolo, Directors, Guiding Council
- Sylvie Bigras, President, Lowertown Community Association
- Calla Barnett and Louise Lapointe, Action Sandy Hill
- Wendy Stewart, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre/OASIS Program

At approximately 6:52 p.m., during discussions on this item, the Board approved a motion to extend the time of the meeting beyond 7:00 p.m.

Motion No. BOH 06/03

Moved by Member Brent Bauer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health approve that the meeting time be extended past 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Subsection 8(1)(c) of the Procedural By-law.

Carried

The Board also considered and approved a motion directing further action on substance use and overdose prevention and response.

Motion No. BOH 06/04

Moved by Member Marty Carr

WHEREAS the drug overdose crisis, made worse by the increasingly toxic and unpredictable unregulated drug supply, continues to have devastating impacts and cause significant harms on communities and families across Canada;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa, like many Canadian cities, has seen a significant increase in the harms of fatal and non-fatal overdoses since the start of the pandemic and these rates have remained elevated;

AND WHEREAS this complex issue is compounded by interrelated challenges of increased mental health concerns and an increase in the number of people needing homelessness services in the community, therefore requiring a broad multi-faceted response;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health, along with a large network of partners, including the City's Community and Social Services Department, community health, social and housing services

organizations, people with lived and living experience of substance use, hospitals, pharmacies, emergency services (police, paramedics and fire), mental health, substance use health and addictions service providers, and the regional coroner's office, have been working together on multiple coordinated and interconnected strategies and action plans to help reduce harms from substance use and save lives, including but not limited to the Ottawa Community Action Plan, the Community Safety and Well-Being Plan and the 10 Year Housing and Homeless Plan 2020-2030;

AND WHEREAS the pandemic has further highlighted the need to address the inequitable access to community resources and reinforced the knowledge that to improve the health and wellness of individuals and communities, it is necessary to address root causes of ill health such as adverse events in early childhood development, poverty, lack of housing, racism, colonialism, and other factors that influence health;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health and the Ottawa Board of Health recognize that this is a crisis and there is a need for further actions to address these issues and respond to community needs, in collaboration with community and partners;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health unit direct the Medical Officer of Health and the team at Ottawa Public Health to work with their various partners to:

- Increase public awareness and understanding of the work that is underway, through multiple coordinated and interconnected strategies and action plans;
- Further develop a comprehensive, multi-sector overdose response strategy to address and respond to the drug overdose crisis, its contributing factors, and its unintended consequences on people and communities; and
- Increase the type of data available as well as the timeliness of the data published on Ottawa Public Health's Mental Health, Addictions and Substance Use Health Dashboard to better inform policy decisions and the planning, development and coordination of services and interventions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health unit request that the Medical Officer of Health bring

forward a report to the Board on work to enhance the multi-sector Overdose Response Strategy and the Mental Health, Addictions and Substance Use Health Dashboard.

Carried

The Board then voted to receive the Medical Officer of Health's Verbal Report. Discussions on this item lasted approximately 1 hour and 45 minutes.

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this verbal report for information.

Received

7.3 Ottawa Public Health's 2023-2024 Respiratory Season Preparedness Plan
File ACS2023-OPH-MOH-0007 – City-wide

The Board received a presentation from Dominique Bremner, Manager, Environmental Health Branch, Jacqueline Willmore, Epidemiologist, Marie-Claude Turcotte, Manager, Immunization, Eric Leclair, Program Manager, Health Information and Public Engagement, Dr. Laura Bourns, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Michelle Wasser, Program Manager, Infection Prevention and Control Unit, and Denise Hébert, Program Manager, Emergency Management Branch, which served to provide an overview of the report. A copy of their presentation is held on file with the Board of Health Secretary.

Following the presentation, staff responded to questions from Board Members.

The Board also received three written submissions from:

- Dwight Williams, resident;
- Rachel Snelgrove, resident;
- Mike Buckthought, resident.

These submissions were circulated to Board Members ahead of the meeting and are held on file with the Board of Health Secretary.

Discussions on this item lasted approximately 35 minutes. The Board then voted to receive the report.

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.

Received

7.4 2022 Annual Report and Attestation to the Ministry of Health

File ACS2023-OPH-PCS-0007 – City-wide

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.

Received

7.5 Operating and Capital Budget Status Report for Q2 2023 – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report

File ACS2023-OPH-PCS-0006 – City-wide

Staff responded to questions on this item. Discussions lasted approximately three minutes. The Board then voted to receive the report.

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive the 2023 Q2 operating and capital budget status reports for information.

Received

7.6 Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of January 1 to June 30, 2023

File ACS2023-OPH-PCS-0005 – City-wide

Member King noted that line item eight (8) in the supporting document did not have a vendor identified. Staff committed to following up and correcting the record. The Board then voted to receive the report.

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive this report for information.

Received

7.7 2024 Ottawa Board of Health Meeting Schedule

File ACS2023-OPH-BOH-0010 – City-wide

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve the 2024 meeting schedule, as outlined in this report.

Carried

8. Information Previously Distributed

8.1 Chronic Disease Prevention: Restricting Marketing of Unhealthy Food and Beverages to Children: Health Canada Consultation

File ACS2023-OPH-HPP-0002 – City-wide

9. Motion to Adopt Reports

Motion No. BOH 06/05

Moved by Member Brent Bauer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Ottawa Public Health's 2023-2024 Respiratory Season Preparedness Plan; 2022 Annual Report and Attestation to the Ministry of Health; 2023 Operating and Capital Budget Q2 – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report; Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of January 1 to June 30, 2023; and 2024 Ottawa Board of Health Meeting Schedule, be received and adopted.

Carried

10. Motions Requiring Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

There were no motions requiring suspension of the rules.

11. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

12. Confirmation By-law

Motion No. BOH 06/06

Moved by Member Brent Bauer

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2023-5, a by-law of the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit to confirm the proceedings of the Ottawa Board of Health at its meeting of September 18, 2023, be read and passed.

Carried

13. Inquiries

There were no inquiries.

14. Adjournment

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

15. Next Meeting

Monday, November 6, 2023 - 5:00 PM

D. Blais, Board Secretary

Councillor C. Kitts, Board Chair

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