



Ottawa Board of Health

Minutes

Date: April 14, 2025
Time: 5:00 pm
Location: Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

Present: Chair Catherine Kitts, Vice-Chair Tammy DeGiovanni, Member Brent Bauer, Member Marty Carr, Member Sabrina Chung, Member Laura Dudas, Member Glen Gower, Member Rawlson King, Member Jessica Bradley, Member Nwanneka Ejiofor

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

All Members of the Ottawa Board of Health were present during roll call.

3. Regrets

None.

4. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Member G. Gower

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2025.

Carried

6. Communications

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

7. Motion to Introduce Reports

Moved by Member G. Gower

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Indigenous Rights, Health and Reconciliation, Update on Ottawa's Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy, 2024 Operating & Capital Year-End Results – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report, Delegation of Authority - Contracts Awarded for the Period of July 1 to December 31, 2024 and Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies 2025 Conference and AGM, be received and considered.

Carried

7.1 Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report

File ACS2025-OPH-BOH-0007 – City-wide

The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the upcoming National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people (Red Dress Day) on May 5, 2025. The Chair

emphasized Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) commitment to reconciliation and cultural safety through ongoing initiatives such as the Indigenous Cultural Safety Organizational Assessment.

The Chair also recognized National Mental Health Awareness Week (May 10–16, 2025), underscoring the importance of community support in mental well-being. OPH was commended for receiving a Mental Health Excellence award from the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario for its youth mental health initiatives, including the Youth Connections Ottawa program.

An update was provided on OPH's successful application for \$630,000 in HealthADAPT funding from Health Canada. The funding will support three climate and health-related projects: enhancing climate change messaging for equity-denied groups, installing misting water fountains, and exploring cooling solutions in social housing.

Finally, the Chair acknowledged the National Day of Mourning on April 28, honoring workers affected by workplace incidents, and encouraged participation in Safety and Health Week (May 5–10, 2025).

The report delivery and discussion lasted approximately 8 minutes.

Moved by Member G. Gower

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 ACS2025-OPH-MOH-0003 – City-wide

The Interim Medical Officer of Health provided updates on key public health initiatives, including routine immunizations and measles monitoring, a staffing announcement, and recognition of National Nursing Week.

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) continues to prioritize routine childhood immunizations, particularly in light of decreased vaccination rates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Over 23,000 routine immunizations were administered in 2024 through OPH clinics and partnerships. Efforts to update immunization records and promote vaccine uptake remain ongoing, especially among school-aged children.

A staffing update was shared, announcing the appointment of Dr. Laura Bourns as Interim Deputy Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Bourns brings extensive experience in public health and will serve in this role until the Medical Officer of Health position is permanently filled later in 2025.

The report concluded with a recognition of National Nursing Week (May 6–12, 2025), celebrating the contributions and dedication of nurses under the theme “The Power of Nurses.” OPH expressed appreciation for its nursing staff and encouraged participation in related events.

The delivery and discussion of the report lasted approximately 6 minutes.

Moved by Member G. Gower

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

Received

7.3 Indigenous Rights, Health and Reconciliation

File ACS2025-OPH-HED-0001 - City-wide

Moved by Member G. Gower

That the Ottawa Board of Health receive, for information, this update on Ottawa Public Health’s continuing efforts to become a culturally safe and humble organization through the continued work of the Indigenous Cultural Safety Organizational Assessment (ICSOA) and the newly formed ICSOA advisory circle.

Received

7.4 Update on Ottawa’s Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy

File ACS2025-OPH-HPP-0001 - City-wide

The Board received a presentation from Ottawa Public Health Staff regarding Ottawa’s Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy. The presentation outlined the current state of the overdose crisis in Ottawa, key trends in opioid-related harms, and the multi-sectoral approach being implemented to address the issue. Emphasis was placed on harm reduction, prevention, treatment, and enforcement strategies, as well as the importance of community partnerships and lived experience in shaping the response.

Following the presentation, the Board heard from nine public delegations who provided comments and perspectives on the strategy. The delegations included individuals with lived experience, community advocates, and representatives from partner organizations.

Members of the Board engaged in discussion with staff and delegates, raising questions and offering comments on the strategy's implementation, evaluation, and future direction.

The presentation, public delegations, discussion, and adoption of the motion lasted approximately one hour and twenty minutes.

Moved by Member G. Gower

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:

1. **Receive for information an update on the collaborative efforts to advance Ottawa's Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy throughout 2024 as well as key priorities in 2025; and**
2. **Request the Chair of the Board of Health to write a letter to the Ontario Minister of Health recommending that they:**
 - a. **Continue to explore, expand, and sustainably fund innovative solutions to the toxic drug crisis and related health and social issues in acute care and community settings, including ensuring a well-funded, supported workforce in alignment with the initiatives outlined in this report;**
 - b. **Support health and social service sectors to effectively track and disseminate mental health, addictions and substance use health data as discussed in the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario performance audit "Implementation and Oversight of Ontario's Opioid Strategy";**
 - c. **Increase sustainable funding for First Nations, Inuit and Métis Mental Health Teams, Inuit Family Health Teams, and the Ottawa Aboriginal Coalition Indigenous Mental Well-Being Strategy to enhance mental health and substance use health supports and services for First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities, including the development of the new Indigenous Family Healing Lodge, the Inuit VAW Shelter and the Aging Out Initiative; and**

3. **Direct the Medical Officer of Health to share this report and the accompanying documents with relevant City departments to inform their plans and strategies that either directly or indirectly impact the toxic drug crisis, including the Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan and the 10-year Housing and Homelessness strategy.**

Carried

7.5 2024 Operating & Capital Year-End Results – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report

File ACS2025-OPH-BDS-0001- City-wide

Moved by Member G. Gower

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive the 2024 operating and capital year-end results for information.

Received

7.6 Delegation of Authority - Contracts Awarded for the Period of July 1 to December 31, 2024

File ACS2025-OPH-BDS-0002- City-wide

Moved by Member G. Gower

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

Received

7.7 Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies 2025 Conference and AGM

File ACS2025-OPH-BOH-0008- City-wide

Moved by Member G. Gower

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve the participation of Chair Kitts and Vice-Chair DeGiovanni at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aLPHa) 2025 Annual General Meeting and Conference, to be held June 18-20, 2025.

Carried

8. Information Previously Distributed

8.1 Ottawa Public Health Submission to Employment and Social Development Canada on School food data and research priorities

File ACS2025-OPH-HPP-0002- City-wide

8.2 Ottawa Public Health Research Projects: 2023 and 2024

File ACS2025-OPH-QES-0001 -City-wide

9. Motion to Adopt Reports

Moved by Member G. Gower

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Indigenous Rights, Health and Reconciliation, Update on Ottawa's Overdose Prevention and Response Strategy, 2024 Operating & Capital Year-End Results – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report, Delegation of Authority - Contracts Awarded for the Period of July 1 to December 31, 2024 and Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies 2025 Conference and AGM, be received and adopted.

Carried

10. Motions of Which Notice has been Previously Given

11. Motions Requiring Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

At 6:53pm the Board of Health passed a motion that the meeting time be extended past 7:00 p.m. pursuant to Subsection 8(1)(c) of the Procedural By-law.

Moved by Member G. Gower

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

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

13. Confirmation By-law

Moved by Member G. Gower

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2025-3, 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 April 14, 2025, be read and passed.

Carried

14. Inquiries

None.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm

16. Next Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Original signed by C. Whiticar,
Board Secretary

Original signed by Councillor C.
Kitts, Board Chair