



Ottawa Board of Health

Minutes

Date: November 3, 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 Nwanneka Ejiofor, Member Jessica Bradley, Member Emily Gruenwoldt

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm. All members were present at the time of roll call.

3. Regrets

None.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2025.

Carried

6. Communications

One communication item has been received (held on file with the Board of Health Secretary).

7. Motion to Introduce Reports

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Renewal of Ottawa Public Health's approach to Supporting Older Adults in Ottawa to Age Well, Risk Management at Ottawa Public Health and Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (ALPHA) Fall Symposium be received and considered;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the that the Rules of Procedure be suspended to receive and table the report titled "2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health".

Carried

7.1 Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report

File ACS2025-OPH-BOH-0013 – City-wide

The Chair welcomed attendees and introduced the 2026 Draft Operating Budget, noting it is the first step in the annual process and emphasizing the need for fair provincial funding to sustain services and meet growing health needs. The Chair reiterated that tonight's meeting is for introduction and consultation, with full discussion and voting scheduled for December. The report acknowledged City Council's recent motion on food insecurity and reaffirmed the Board's commitment to addressing its root causes. The Chair highlighted Ottawa Public Health's endorsement of the 2025 Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play and called for formal Board support. Finally, the Chair noted Dr. Arnason's new biweekly media segment aimed at improving health literacy and countering misinformation.

Discussion of the item lasted approximately 8 minutes and no questions were received from the board on the topics discussed.

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

WHEREAS research shows regular physical activity helps reduce the impact of or prevent many chronic diseases, helps prevent premature death, and helps improve quality of life and physical functioning;

AND WHEREAS access to active play in nature and outdoors – with its risks – is essential for healthy child development, including physical and mental well-being;

AND WHEREAS promoting physical activity is part of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) and aligns with key elements of Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, the City of Ottawa Official Plan, and the City of Ottawa Transportation Master Plan;

AND WHEREAS Outdoor Play Canada, an Ottawa-based national not-for-profit organization that brings together advocates, practitioners, researchers and partner organizations to promote, protect, and preserve access to play in nature and the outdoors for all people living in Canada, launched the evidence-based 2025 Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play (AOP10) on September 25, 2025;

AND WHEREAS the AOP10 calls for systemic change and includes calls to action for individuals, communities and different sectors which aim to make active outdoor play a fundamental right and sustainable part of societies;

AND WHEREAS OPH staff were present at the Canadian Centre for Outdoor Play for the launch of the AOP10 to show support and make a statement regarding the health benefits of active outdoor play;

AND WHEREAS a formal endorsement by the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:

Can enhance the social norm that active outdoor play is beneficial for health and well-being and;

Can be used by Ottawa Public Health staff as a framework for supporting physical activity policies, training, and infrastructure initiatives with other City of Ottawa departments and external partners;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit formally endorse the Outdoor Play Canada 2025 Position Statement on Active Outdoor Play and express its strong support for Ottawa Public Health to work with partners and support changes that advance the individual, population, and community health benefits of active outdoor play;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit request that its Members, collectively and individually and with support from Ottawa Public Health employees, serve as public health champions by advocating for active outdoor play in accordance with this motion at every opportunity, including at other Boards, at working groups, at standing committees, at sub-committees and at City Council.

Carried

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

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-0007– City-wide

The Medical Officer of Health reported on the closure of Ottawa Public Health's supervised consumption and drug checking services at Clarence Street due to the expiry of federal exemption and lack of provincial approval, noting continued harm reduction and outreach services remain in place.

He confirmed the end of Ontario's measles outbreak while cautioning about imported cases and emphasized maintaining high vaccination coverage.

Updates were provided on wastewater surveillance for COVID-19, flu, and RSV, which will continue through 2026, and on the availability of seasonal vaccines.

The report also highlighted preparations for implementing revised Ontario Public Health Standards in January 2026 and introduced the 2026 Draft Operating Budget. The MOH acknowledged staff and partners for their dedication and stressed the importance of evidence-based, collaborative approaches to address complex public health challenges.

Dr. Arnason took questions from Board Members. Discussion on the item lasted approximately 12 minutes.

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

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

Received

7.3 2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health

File ACS2025-OPH-BDS-0007– City-wide

Kibria Mohammad presented the 2026 Draft Operating Budget to the Board, accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. Board members asked questions regarding electronic systems used in public health and their integration with hospital-based systems, as well as OPH's approach to electronic records retention. Discussion also focused on provincial funding assumptions and contingency plans should anticipated funding does not materialize. The Board emphasized the importance of addressing the funding shortfall with the Province.

Discussion on this item lasted approximately 30 minutes.

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

That, at its meeting of November 3, 2025, the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:

- 1. Receive and table the 2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health; and**
- 2. Direct staff to forward the 2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health to Ottawa City Council on November 12, 2025, as part of City Council's tabling of the City of Ottawa 2026 Draft Operating Budget; and**
- 3. Request the Province of Ontario to provide an additional one-time in-year funding of \$450,000 to address the 2026 budget pressure in the cost-shared mandatory program resulting from cost-of-living adjustments to employee compensation and benefits.**
- 4. Request that the Province of Ontario address the provincial funding shortfall to cover 75% of OPH's cost-shared budget by implementing a funding formula review and providing annual base funding increases of 3–4% to align with rising operating costs driven by cost-of-living adjustments and employee benefits; and**
That, at its meeting of December 1, 2025, the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit:
- 5. Approve the 2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health;**
- 6. Upon the Board of Health's approval of the 2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health, direct staff to forward the report to Ottawa City Council, for consideration on December 10, 2025, as part of City Council's approval of the City of Ottawa 2026 Draft Operating budget; and**
- 7. Upon approval of the 2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health by the Board of Health and Ottawa City Council, direct the Medical Officer of Health (or delegate), on behalf of the Board of Health, to forward the 2026 Annual Service Plan and Budget Submission to the Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH) for consideration based on the approved 2026 Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health.**

Carried

7.4 Renewal of Ottawa Public Health's approach to Supporting Older Adults in Ottawa to Age Well

File ACS2025-OPH-HPP-0004– City-wide

Kelly Biggs and Erinn Salewski delivered a PowerPoint presentation to the Board outlining the renewed Older Adults Plan.

Board members expressed appreciation for staff collaboration with the City and asked questions about what distinguishes this plan, how its impact will be measured, and what success indicators will be used. Discussion included plans for rural areas, opportunities to partner with organizations such as the Heart Institute and initiatives like the “Mole-Mobile.” Members also inquired about consultation with groups advocating for adults with different abilities, noting the need for health promotion activities alongside disease prevention. Staff indicated that while direct work has not yet occurred, collaboration with colleagues in Community and Social Services is possible, and current efforts include using Neighborhood Health and Wellness Hubs for promotion activities. Strength and balance programming was highlighted as a priority, given that falls remain a leading cause of hospitalization among older adults.

The Board also heard from two delegations: Community and Social Services Department and Age-Friendly Ottawa.

Discussion on this item lasted approximately 45 minutes.

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa:

- 1. Receive for information this report titled *Renewal of Ottawa Public Health's Approach to Supporting Older Adults to Age Well in Ottawa*, which outlines the refreshed strategic direction for programs and services supporting older adults; and**
- 2. Approve Ottawa Public Health's continued alignment with the *City of Ottawa's Older Adult Plan (2025-2030)*, pending its approval by Council in November 2025, to enhance the reach, integration, and impact of public health programs and services for older adults.**

Carried

7.5 Risk Management at Ottawa Public Health

File ACS2025-OPH-KPQ-0002 - City-Wide

Dr. Trevor Arnason provided a brief comment emphasizing the report as a key component of Ottawa Public Health's accountability to the Board and the Ministry of Health. He noted that the report outlines strategies to mitigate major risks such as climate change, technological challenges, and increasing complexity of community health needs amid stagnant provincial funding, and reaffirmed OPH's commitment to proactive risk management and ongoing reporting.

Dr. Arnason and Cameron Keyes responded to questions from Board members.

Discussion on this item lasted approximately four minutes.

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

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

Carried

7.6 Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aLPHa) Fall Symposium

File ACS2025-OPH-BOH-0014- City-wide

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

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) Fall Symposium, to be held November 5-7, 2025.

Carried

8. Information Previously Distributed

8.1 Monitoring Food Affordability in Ottawa: 2025 Nutritious Food Basket

File ACS2025-OPH-HPP-0005 - City-Wide

9. In Camera Items*

None.

10. Motion to Adopt Reports

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Renewal of Ottawa Public Health's approach to Supporting Older Adults in Ottawa to Age Well, Risk Management at Ottawa Public Health and Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (ALPHA) Fall Symposium be received and adopted;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report titled "2026 Draft Operating Budget for the Ottawa Board of Health" be tabled, for consideration at the Board of Health meeting of 1 December, 2025.

Carried

11. Motions of Which Notice has been Previously Given

None.

12. Motions Requiring Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

None.

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

None.

14. Confirmation By-law

Moved by Member Sabrina Chung

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2025-7, 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 November 3, 2025, be read and passed.

Carried

15. Inquiries

None.

16. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:41pm.

17. Next Meeting

Monday, December 1, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Monday, December 1, 2025 - 5:00 PM

Original signed by C. Whitar, Board
Secretary

Original signed by Councillor C.
Kitts, Board Chair

draft