



Ottawa Board of Health MINUTES 23

Monday, April 25, 2022, 5:00 PM

Electronic participation

Contact for the Ottawa Board of Health:

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Board Members:

Chair: K. Egli

Vice-Chair: T. DeGiovanni

**Members: E. Banham, J. Cloutier, E. El-Chantiry, G. Gower, T. Kavanagh,
L. Leikin, S. Menard, S. Pinel, P. Tilley**

The Ottawa Board of Health met via Zoom on Monday, April 25, 2022, beginning at 5:00 PM.

Councillor Keith Egli, Chair of the Board of Health, presided over the meeting.

ROLL CALL

Members El-Chantiry, Leikin and Pinel were absent during the roll call.

REGRETS

Members El-Chantiry and Pinel sent regrets.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (INCLUDING THOSE ORIGINALLY ARISING FROM PRIOR MEETINGS)

No declarations of interest were filed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of February 28, 2022.

CONFIRMED

COMMUNICATIONS

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

MOTION TO INTRODUCE REPORTS

Motion 23/1

Moved by Member Banham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Board of Health Policies and By-Laws – 2022 Review and Updates; Participation in the Association of Local Public Health Agencies’ (alPHa) 2022 Annual General Meeting and Conference; Emergency Management at Ottawa Public Health – Annual Update; Ottawa Public Health’s Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 – Update from Quarter Four of 2021; 2021 Operating & Capital Budget Year-End Results – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report; and Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of July 1 to December 31, 2021, be received and considered.

CARRIED

Following a ‘Consent Agenda’ process, the Board considered the held items in the order in which they appear on the Agenda.

1. CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT

ACS2022-OPH-BOH-0003

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

RECEIVED

Chair Egli reported on Dr. Etches being invested into the Ordre de la Pléiade, an Order of Merit of the Parliamentary Assembly of la Francophonie, intended

to recognize the remarkable contribution of personalities who have distinguished themselves by serving the ideals of the APF. He noted that this was an honour Dr. Etches proudly accepted on behalf of the entire Ottawa Public Health (OPH) team. He took the opportunity to congratulate all of this year's recipient of this prestigious award. He talked about Canadian Public Health Week, held April 4th to 8th, which provided an opportunity to recognize the contributions of public health and highlight issues that are important to improving our health and well-being. He referenced the new Neighbourhood Wellness Hubs that OPH began operating on April 5th in five (5) locations across the City as a pilot project in partnership with [the City of Ottawa's Community and Social Services Department](#), [Upstream Ottawa](#), [AccessMHA](#), [Counselling Connect](#) and [1Call1Click](#). In closing he encouraged everyone to get vaccinated for every COVID-19 dose they are eligible for, noting the importance of booster doses for lowering the risk of severe illness and reducing the risk of transmission of COVID-19 to others.

The discussion on this item lasted approximately 10 minutes. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Chair's Verbal Update.

At approximately 6:49 p.m., during discussions on Agenda item 2, the Board approved a motion to extend the time of the meeting beyond 7:00 p.m.

Motion 23/2

Moved by Member Banham

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

CARRIED

2. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT

ACS2022-OPH-MOH-0004

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

RECEIVED, as amended by Motions 23/4

Dr. Etches began her verbal report by highlighting that May 5th is National Day of Awareness of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls – also known as Red Dress Day. She encouraged everyone to wear red on that day to demonstrate allyship and solidarity with Indigenous communities while raising awareness of this tragedy and injustice. She then provided updates on the OPH budget and the local COVID-19 situation.

With respect to the OPH budget, Dr. Etches. noted that the health unit was able to balance its 2021 budget thanks to the Province confirming, on March 31, 2022, that they will fully cover all COVID-19 related extraordinary expenditures.

As for the local COVID-19 situation, Dr. Etches reported that the wastewater signal continues to point to very high levels of COVID-19 in the community, though a slight down-turn in the 7-day average level looks to have begun on April 11 and the percent of people eligible for testing that test positive, is relatively stable – as are the number of new hospitalizations for people requiring active COVID-19 treatment and the number of new outbreaks. She also outlined actions OPH continues to take to respond to the pandemic.

Looking ahead, Dr. Etches highlighted some key initiatives that will be the focus of OPH's work for the next eight (8) months while continuing to respond to community needs relating to COVID-19. Namely, she talked about continuing efforts to gradually decrease COVID-19 related work over the next several months while being mindful to maintain capacity to respond to future variants; continuing to ramp up and to restore key parts of the health unit's core work in harm reduction, healthy growth and development, mental health and substance use health, dental services, chronic disease and injury prevention and non-COVID immunization work, as well as moving beyond risk-based approaches to safe food and water, personal service setting inspections and support for schools heading into the next school year. She also talked about the importance of focusing on employee recovery, noting that OPH employees have done

amazing work over the last two years and are tired from the prolonged pandemic response. Lastly, she reported on a key project that is underway – an independent review of how OPH has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and what we may need to reflect on for the future. She indicated that this work will provide another perspective from an external reviewer on how we can learn from COVID-19 and apply these learnings into our future work.

In closing, Dr. Etches recognized Dr. Sarah Funnell who, earlier this month, left her position as Associate Medical Officer of Health with OPH to work full time at the University of Ottawa's Centre for Indigenous Health Research and Education where she is pursuing her passion and working to establish collaborative approaches for research and education with Indigenous communities and organizations.

Following Dr. Etches' Verbal report, Member Menard read the following motion into the record:

WHEREAS Ottawa continues to see high rates of COVID-19, based on available monitoring indicators, and can anticipate future resurgences of COVID-19 as the virus remains present in the environment and population immunity may wane;

AND WHEREAS masking and vaccination lowers the risk of severe outcomes and reduces the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others, thereby reducing the amount of COVID-19 circulating in the community;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario prematurely removed mask mandates in essential service settings, schools, and indoor spaces where people work closely together, thereby increasing risk of transmission prior to a sixth wave of the virus;

AND WHEREAS the Province reversed parts of the Reopening Ontario Act, largely preventing local public health officials from issuing letters of instruction, which can mandate masking requirements in local jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health and community partners continue to do intensive outreach work in high priority neighbourhoods to increase vaccine confidence and grow vaccination coverage, and dedicated funding is only available for some neighbourhoods in Ottawa with lower vaccine coverage rates, and other needs for intensive outreach now

include promoting testing and treatment for people at higher risk for severe outcomes who do not have access to a primary care provider;

AND WHEREAS, going forward, it will continue to be important for local public health units to have a variety of tools and resources available to enable them to respond to any future resurgences and/or future variants;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa request that the Province of Ontario:

- **Continue to actively promote vaccination and amplify messaging about how the public and employers can adjust their use of the layers of protection to prevent COVID-19 transmission as levels of COVID-19 fluctuate in the province; and**
- **Re-enable local Medical Officers of Health to issue letters of instruction, including for masking in essential service settings, schools and indoor spaces where people work closely together as part of the local toolkit to reduce the impact of COVID-19; and**
- **Extend and expand eligibility for High Priority Communities funding to additional neighbourhoods with lower vaccine coverage rates and greater barriers to health, to support tailored interventions to increase uptake of vaccination, testing, treatment and access to wrap around supports and personal protective equipment.**

The Board heard from one (1) public delegation:

- Tanya Nayler, resident

Dr. Etches then responded to questions from Board Members and the Board debated the motion introduced by Member Menard. During the debate, Member Menard accepted as a friendly amendment a suggestion to add the words “or other similar powers” to the second bullet under the motion’s substantive clause and Member Gower moved an amendment to the Menard motion.

Discussions on this item lasted approximately 1 hours and 45 minutes. The report was then received by the Board, as amended. The attached memo includes the Medical Officer of Health’s Verbal Update.

Motion 23/3

Moved by Member Gower

That Member Menard's motion be amended by deleting the word "prematurely" from the third WHEREAS clause.

CARRIED on a division of 8 YEAS and 2 NAYS, as follows:

YEAS (8): Members Banham, Cloutier, El-Chantiry, Gower, Kavanagh and Tilley, Vice-Chair DeGiovanni and Chair Egli

NAYS (2): Members Leikin and Menard

Motion 23/4

Moved by Member Menard

WHEREAS Ottawa continues to see high rates of COVID-19, based on available monitoring indicators, and can anticipate future resurgences of COVID-19 as the virus remains present in the environment and population immunity may wane;

AND WHEREAS masking and vaccination lowers the risk of severe outcomes and reduces the risk of transmitting COVID-19 to others, thereby reducing the amount of COVID-19 circulating in the community;

AND WHEREAS the Province of Ontario removed mask mandates in essential service settings, schools, and indoor spaces where people work closely together, thereby increasing risk of transmission prior to a sixth wave of the virus;

AND WHEREAS the Province reversed parts of the Reopening Ontario Act, largely preventing local public health officials from issuing letters of instruction, which can mandate masking requirements in local jurisdictions;

AND WHEREAS Ottawa Public Health and community partners continue to do intensive outreach work in high priority neighbourhoods to increase vaccine confidence and grow vaccination coverage, and dedicated funding is only available for some neighbourhoods in Ottawa with lower vaccine coverage rates, and other needs for intensive outreach now include

promoting testing and treatment for people at higher risk for severe outcomes who do not have access to a primary care provider;

AND WHEREAS, going forward, it will continue to be important for local public health units to have a variety of tools and resources available to enable them to respond to any future resurgences and/or future variants;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa request that the Province of Ontario:

- **Continue to actively promote vaccination and amplify messaging about how the public and employers can adjust their use of the layers of protection to prevent COVID-19 transmission as levels of COVID-19 fluctuate in the province; and**
- **Re-enable local Medical Officers of Health to issue letters of instruction or other similar powers, including for masking in essential service settings, schools and indoor spaces where people work closely together as part of the local toolkit to reduce the impact of COVID-19; and**
- **Extend and expand eligibility for High Priority Communities funding to additional neighbourhoods with lower vaccine coverage rates and greater barriers to health, to support tailored interventions to increase uptake of vaccination, testing, treatment and access to wrap around supports and personal protective equipment.**

CARRIED, as amended by Motion 23/3, on a division of 9 YEAS and 1 NAY as follows:

YEAS (9): Members Banham, Cloutier, Gower, Kavanagh, Leikin, Menard and Tilley, Vice-Chair DeGiovanni and Chair Egli

NAYS (1): Member El-Chantiry

3. BOARD OF HEALTH POLICIES AND BY-LAWS – 2022 REVIEW AND UPDATES

ACS2022-OPH-BOH-0004

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

- 1. Approve updates to the Board of Health Procedure By-law, as described in this report and detailed in Document 1;**
- 2. Approve updates to the Board of Health Delegation of Authority By-law, as described in this report and detailed in Document 2;**
- 3. Approve housekeeping updates to the Board of Health By-law 2011-4 and By-law 2011-5, as described in this report;**
- 4. Approve updates to the Board of Health Code of Conduct, as described in this report and detailed in Document 3;**
- 5. Approve updates to the Medical Officer of Health Performance Appraisal Policy, as described in this report and detailed in Document 4; and**
- 6. Adopt the City of Ottawa's Election-Related Resources policy, as described in this report and attached at Document 5.**

CARRIED

4. PARTICIPATION IN THE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES' (aIPHa) 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE

ACS2022-OPH-BOH-0005

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve the participation of Chair Egli and Members Cloutier and El-Chantiry at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aIPHa) 2022 Annual General Meeting and Conference, to be held virtually on June 14, 2022.

CARRIED

5. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AT OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH – ANNUAL UPDATE

ACS2022-OPH-HPS-0001

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

RECEIVED

6. OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2019-2022 – UPDATE FROM QUARTER FOUR OF 2021

ACS2022-OPH-KPQ-0001

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

RECEIVED

Though this item was RECEIVED on consent at the beginning of the meeting, with the consent of the Board, Chair Egli returned to it.

Member Leikin took the opportunity to applaud the work on promoting mental health initiatives in the context of the pandemic response, particularly the Neighbourhood Wellness Hubs pilot project. He felt this represents a targeted, rigorously, methodologically sound public health intervention.

7. 2021 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET YEAR-END RESULTS – BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE CITY OF OTTAWA HEALTH UNIT STATUS REPORT

ACS2022-OPH-PCS-0003

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive the 2021 operating and capital budget year-end results for information.

RECEIVED

8. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY – CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2021

ACS2022-OPH-PCS-0002

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

RECEIVED

INFORMATION PREVIOUSLY DISTRIBUTED

- A UPDATE ON THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19 ON CONGREGATE LIVING SETTINGS IN OTTAWA

ACS2021-OPH-HIS-0001-IPD

- B UPDATE ON OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH (OPH) CLIMATE CHANGE HEALTH VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR EXTREME HEAT TO IMPROVE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

ACS2021-OPH-HIS-0002-IPD

- C REDUCING THE HARMS FROM GAMBLING IN OTTAWA: PROGRESS REPORT TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH

ACS2021-OPH-HPP-0001-IPD

MOTION TO ADOPT REPORTS

Motion 23/5

Moved by Member Banham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Board of Health Policies and By-Laws – 2022 Review and Updates; Participation in the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aLPHa) 2022 Annual General Meeting and Conference; Emergency Management at Ottawa Public Health – Annual Update; Ottawa Public Health's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 – Update from Quarter Four of 2021; 2021 Operating & Capital Budget Year-End Results – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report; and Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of July 1 to December 31, 2021, be received and adopted.

CARRIED

MOTIONS REQUIRING SUSPENSION OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

There were no Motions requiring suspension of the rules.

NOTICES OF MOTION (FOR CONSIDERATION AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING)

There were no Notices of Motion (for consideration at a subsequent meeting).

CONFIRMATION BY-LAW

Motion 23/6

Moved by Member Banham

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2022-3, 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 25, 2022, be read and passed.

CARRIED

INQUIRIES AND ANSWERS

There were no inquiries filed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 20, 2022 - 5:00 PM

BOARD SECRETARY

BOARD CHAIR