



Ottawa Board of Health MINUTES 22

Monday, February 28, 2022, 5:00 PM

By 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, February 28, 2022, beginning at 5:00 PM.

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

ROLL CALL

All members participated.

REGRETS

No regrets were filed.

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 November 29, 2021.

CONFIRMED

Confirmation of minutes of the meeting of January 24, 2022.

CONFIRMED

COMMUNICATIONS

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

MOTION TO INTRODUCE REPORTS

Motion 22/1

Moved by Member Cloutier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of January 1 to June 30, 2021 and Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aLPHa) Board of Health Section Meeting, 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-0002

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

RECEIVED

Chair Egli began his Verbal Report by thanking his Board colleagues for their flexibility and willingness to postpone the meeting, which had been scheduled for

February 14th, due to the protests and State of Emergency in Ottawa. He then asked Members to join him in a moment of reflection in solidarity with the brave Ukrainian citizens fighting against the current threat in their country.

He talked about: Black History Month and the importance of reflecting upon and honouring the legacy of Black Canadians who have played a tremendous part in shaping our shared history; and the recent discovery of more unmarked graves – this time on the grounds of a former residential school in Williams Lake First Nation and of how important it is that we continue to recognize the impacts of colonization and that we keep working to raise awareness and to advance Reconciliation.

Chair Egli reported on a meeting held on January 31, 2022, with the Honourable Michael Tibollo, Ontario's Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, and on the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) Winter Symposium and Board of Health Section meeting, held on Friday, February 25th.

He took the opportunity to congratulate Dr. Etches and the entire OPH team further to Mayor Watson's announcement that this year he would be giving the Key to the City to Dr. Etches and the team.

In closing, Chair Egli referenced the Province's accelerated timelines for their reopening plans, noting that this would be a time of change and that not everyone would have the same level of comfort. He asked that people exercise patience and kindness during this transition.

In the context of the Chair's verbal report, Vice-Chair DeGiovanni and Member Gower also provided their reflections on the aLPHa Winter Symposium.

The discussion on this item lasted approximately 15 minutes. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Chair's Verbal Update.

At approximately 6:44 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 22/2

Moved by Member Cloutier

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-0002

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

RECEIVED

Dr. Etches began her verbal report by acknowledging the common stressor that the pandemic has been for people in Ottawa and the fact that people have various losses to grieve – loved ones, employment, social celebrations, educational achievements – and that some have been harder hit than others. She called on Ottawans to be compassionate and kind towards each other as we transition to fewer restrictions and turn to recovering our well-being.

She then provided an update on the local COVID-19 situation, noting that some of the trends OPH monitors had been slowly declining since early January but that we are seeing the decline begin to plateau. She indicated that OPH continues to promote vaccination and currently, 84% of Ottawa's population has at received two (2) doses of a COVID-19 vaccine and 52% have received three (3) doses.

She advised that, though OPH is not currently planning to recommend further public health measures as provincial restrictions are lifted, we will continue to promote individual behaviours that deter transmission - vaccination, personal risk assessment, and mitigation strategies such as daily screening, monitoring

for symptoms, staying home when ill, frequent hand washing, physical distancing and reducing close contacts, increased ventilation and avoiding closed, crowded settings, and especially masking in indoor public settings. OPH will also continue monitoring key indicators, monitoring internationally for new variants, and working with community partners to support people at higher risk of serious COVID-19 illness.

Dr. Etches then provided updates on: a Board direction from the previous meeting with respect to proof of vaccination requirements and a commitment she had made to follow-up with the Province on new isolation requirements – 5 days versus 7 days; the OPH budget and Provincial commitments to fund all COVID-19 related work; and the recent signing of the Collaborative Decision-Making Agreement with the Kids Come First Health Team.

Looking ahead, Dr. Etches talked about OPH's recovery planning work, describing the Recovery Roadmap (attached), which includes five (5) steps to reach a point where COVID-19 related work is embedded in our routine work and where we have returned to capacity to serve the community with more of our typical health protection and health promotion programs and services. She indicated we are now in Step 2 and gathering input from staff, partners and stakeholders. Step 3 is when the senior leadership team will begin to make decisions about potentially shifting resource allocation, noting that while the plan is to scale back the COVID response step-by-step, the health unit must remain flexible and be ready to respond to pressures created by the virus when needed.

She added that, as part of OPH's recovery planning, we are also examining how we can support the community recovery. She went on to describe various initiatives already underway or under development to support the community's recovery relating to economic, health and social well-being. This includes the development of the [*Working Towards Recovery: Workplace Health and Wellness Guide*](#) to help support the mental health and wellness of both employers and employees in the workplace, working through the Human Needs Taskforce structure and partnerships to collaborate with City partners and various key community partners to connect and assist residents with a range of needs, including but not limited to food security, housing, social services and employment supports, safety and mental health, and promoting mental health directly in our communities by implementing several pilot Wellness Hubs in the locations of the neighbourhood vaccination hubs, among other things.

She concluded with two (2) key messages, which may sound contradictory but that we must learn to do:

1. **The decrease in Omicron in our community may be stalling and, as provincial guidance changes, a shift to individual risk assessment and risk mitigation is key.** This means that you can still decrease the chances of infection by being vaccinated with a booster dose, wearing a mask in indoor spaces, practicing physical distancing and being careful about the number of close contacts, time in crowds and in closed spaces - especially if you or someone you live with is at risk for severe COVID-19 illness if infected.
2. **Social connections and engagement in workplaces are an important part of recovery from the pandemic.** This means reconnecting with friends and family, returning to in-person meetings and supporting local businesses - keeping in mind the first point about individual risk assessment and risk mitigation.

In closing, Dr. Etches informed the Board of Ashley Brambles' recent departure from OPH. She provided highlights of Ashley's achievements while at OPH and thanked her for her dedication and passion. She advised that Jessica Breckenridge has agreed to serve as Acting Director of Communications and Community Engagement until the position can be filled via a formal recruitment process.

The Board heard from one (1) public delegation:

- Mark Cerullo, resident

Dr. Etches then responded to questions from Board Members. The discussion on this item lasted approximately an hour and 45 minutes. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Medical Officer of Health's Verbal Update.

3. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY – CONTRACTS AWARDED FOR THE PERIOD OF JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 2021

ACS2022-OPH-PCS-0001

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

RECEIVED

4. ATTENDANCE AT THE ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES' (aPHa) BOARD OF HEALTH SECTION MEETING

ACS2022-OPH-MOH-0003

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve the participation of Chair Egli, Vice-Chair DeGiovanni and Member Gower at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aPHa) Winter Symposium and Board of Health Section Meeting, to be held virtually on Friday, February 25, 2022.

CARRIED

MOTION TO ADOPT REPORTS

Motion 22/3

Moved by Member Cloutier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled Delegation of Authority – Contracts Awarded for the Period of January 1 to June 30, 2021 and Attendance at the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' (aPHa) Board of Health Section Meeting, 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 22/4

Moved by Member Cloutier

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2022-2, 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 February 28, 2022, be read and passed.

CARRIED

INQUIRIES

There were no inquiries filed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting

Monday, April 25, 2022 - 5:00 PM

BOARD SECRETARY

BOARD CHAIR