



Ottawa Board of Health MINUTES 18

Monday, September 20, 2021, 3:00 PM

By Electronic Participation

Contact for the Ottawa Board of Health:

Diane Blais, Board of Health Secretary

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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, September 20, 2021 beginning at 3:00 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 June 21, 2021.

CONFIRMED

COMMUNICATIONS

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

MOTION TO INTRODUCE REPORTS

Motion 18/1

Moved by Member Kavanagh

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Reconcili-Action at Ottawa Public Health: A Time to Reflect, Re-Fresh and Reinforce Commitment, Ottawa Public Health's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan: Strategic Priority Relating to Mental Health and Substance Use Health, Update on Ottawa Public Health Work to Support Schools Through Covid-19 and Beyond, Ottawa Public Health Post-Pandemic Recovery Planning, Ottawa Public Health's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 – Update from Quarter Two of 2021, Office of The Auditor General (OAG) 2021 Interim Audit Work Plan and Proposed Audit of the Pandemic Response, 2021 Operating and Capital Budget Q2 – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report, and Performance Appraisal of Medical Officer of Health – In Camera – Personal Matters About an Identifiable Individual - Reporting Out Date: Not to be Reported Out, 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

ACS2021-OPH-BOH-0007

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 with a land acknowledgement, noting that on September 30th, we will be observing the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. He then talked about Pride activities held in August – a long-standing tradition at OPH. He highlighted three events held between August 31 and September 17 relating to mental health and substance use health, namely Overdose Awareness Day (August 31), Getting to Tomorrow, a two-day dialogue about drug policy in Ottawa (September 14 and 15), and Recovery Day Ottawa (September 17). He provided an update on OPH's Employee Immunization Policy and noted that, leading by example, every Member of the Board of Health had agreed to publicly disclose their vaccination status and that all are fully vaccinated. In closing, he referenced upcoming holidays and observances and urged everyone to celebrate safely if getting together with a small group of friends or family.

The discussion on this item lasted approximately 12 minutes. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Chair's Verbal Update.

2. MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH VERBAL REPORT

ACS2021-OPH-MOH-0004

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

RECEIVED

As part of her verbal report, Dr. Etches provided a brief update on Ontario Health Teams, highlighted Environmental Health Week, talked more about OPH's Employee Immunization Policy and provided an update on the local COVID-19 situation and vaccine rollout in Ottawa, including an update on OPH's initiatives aimed at keeping COVID-19 levels manageable this fall. Dr. Etches also took the opportunity to thank Mr. Anthony Di Monte, General Manager of Emergency and Protective Services, and Mr. Ryan Perrault, Incident Commander of the City's Emergency Operations Centre, for their leadership and

dedication in supporting Ottawa's COVID-19 vaccine program from November 2020 through August 2021.

Dr. Etches then responded to questions from Board Members. The discussion on this item lasted approximately 1 hour. The report was then received by the Board. The attached memo includes the Medical Officer of Health's Verbal Update.

The Board of Health received one (1) written submission relating to this item, which is held on file with the Board of Health Secretary:

- Email from Greg Macdougall dated September 20, 2021

3. RECONCILI-ACTION AT OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH: A TIME TO REFLECT, RE-FRESH AND REINFORCE COMMITMENT

ACS2021-OPH-CCE-0001

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

1. **Receive, for information, this update on Ottawa Public Health's Reconcili-ACTION Plan; and**
2. **Approve proposed revisions and recommended priority actions relating to the Reconcili-ACTION Plan, as outlined in this report and detailed in Document 1.**

CARRIED

Dr. Sarah Funnell, Associate Medical Officer of Health, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation which served to provide Board Members with an overview of the report. A copy of her presentation is held on file with the Board Secretary.

The Board then welcomed First Nation Algonquin Elder, Barbara Dumont-Hill, who provided a powerful testimonial on meaningful public health actions to address anti-Indigenous racism and ways to promote reconciliation.

Following these presentations, Ms. Dumont-Hill and staff responded to questions from Board Members.

The discussion on this item lasted approximately 50 minutes. The Board then voted to approve the report.

4. OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH'S 2019-2022 STRATEGIC PLAN: STRATEGIC PRIORITY RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE HEALTH

ACS2021-OPH-HPP-0001

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

- 1. Receive, for information, an update on Ottawa Public Health's (OPH) work on mental health and substance use health and key OPH actions for 2021-2022 to improve the existing concerns and the impacts of the pandemic across the lifespan and work with partners to measure and improve overall mental health, substance use health, and well-being, as outlined in this report;**
- 2. Approve the guiding principles for a public health approach to substance use health, as outlined in this report;**
- 3. Direct the Medical Officer of Health to share this report and data with the City's Emergency and Protective Services Department to inform their Community Safety and Well-being plan which includes the following priority areas identified through consultation: Mental Well-being; Housing; Financial Security and Poverty Reduction; Gender-based Violence and Violence Against Women; Discrimination, Marginalization and Racism; and Integrated and Simpler Systems;**
- 4. Direct the Medical Officer of Health to share this report and data with Ontario Health to inform their mental health and substance use health pandemic recovery plan and request that Ontario Health address pressing mental health and substance use health needs in Ottawa by:**

- a. Implementing a dashboard that provides monitoring and reporting on mental health and substance use health services, with consideration to wait times for evidence-based mental health and substance use services and crisis responses, with special consideration given to the collection of disaggregated data on ethnicity, race, age, and geographical location;**
- b. Working with the Ministry of Health, improving access to and quality of mental health care for immigrants, racialized populations and low-income communities by ensuring better access to health and social services including family physician availability, such as within Ontario Health Teams;**
- c. Enhancing capacity to address eating disorders amongst children and youth in Ottawa by increasing availability of specialized treatment services in hospital and in the community, including enhanced eating disorders training for clinicians in hospital and community, and increased availability of medical consultations to support community service providers;**
- d. Increasing capacity and availability of specialized intensive mental health services in the community for children, youth, adults and older adults, for example, with the expansion of the Ottawa Bridges Program for the youth population;**
- e. Increasing capacity of emergency departments and hospitals to identify and support people with substance use disorders through the development of specialized addictions medicine teams and enhanced substance use services and supports;**
- f. Increasing access to culturally appropriate services by improving diversity of service providers and increasing access to cultural competency and anti-racism training for clinicians. For example, expanding availability of culturally appropriate local mental health services such as those offered by the Ottawa Newcomer Health Centre, Britannia Woods Community House, and Somali Centre for Family Service;**
- g. Increasing access to 24/7 mobile mental health crisis response capacity, including an Indigenous-led response for First Nations,**

Inuit, and Metis people in Ottawa, and an Indigenous-specific Assertive Community Treatment [ACT] team.

- 5. Direct the Chair of the Board of Health to write a letter to the Ontario Minister of Health recommending:**
 - a. In collaboration with the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services, identifying next steps to address the increased incidence of post-partum depression and challenges to children's development as Public Health Ontario reports on their evaluation of the impact of reduced home visiting programs for new parents and families with young children during the pandemic;**
 - b. Collaborating with other ministries to develop a comprehensive Health-In-All-Policies approach, as recommended in the Auditor General's 2017 annual report. An example of taking a health lens to policy development is to review the provincial housing and homelessness programs to better meet the housing, mental health and substance use health needs of Ontario residents;**
 - c. Evaluating the impact of increasing alcohol availability using a comprehensive approach to assess health, social, and financial impacts, as it is the most used substance and is known to cause harms to individuals, families and society;**
 - d. Taking further action to address the overdose crisis through health promotion and substance use prevention strategies, overdose prevention strategies and harm reduction services, pursuant to evidence outlined in this report.**
- 6. Direct the Chair of the Board of Health to write to the Federal Minister of Health to request that the Government of Canada:**
 - a. Integrate stronger population health outcomes into Canada's National Housing Strategy outcomes measures to assess the strategy's impact and effectiveness on improving mental health and substance use health outcomes;**
 - b. Limit alcohol promotion and marketing, especially to youth, by applying existing policies for tobacco and cannabis marketing as**

guides, to reduce harms caused by alcohol;

- c. Declare the drug overdose crisis to be a national public health emergency and develop a coordinated Canada-wide plan and associated funding to address overdoses, with input and leadership from people with living experience, to support the immediate scale up of prevention, harm reduction and treatment services, including expansion of safer pharmaceutical alternatives to the unregulated toxic drug supply based on evaluation of initiatives underway; and**
- d. Permit the simple possession of drugs for personal use under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act based on meaningful engagement with key stakeholders including people with living experience during each stage of planning, implementation, and evaluation.**

CARRIED

Benjamin Leikin, Program Manager, School and Mental Health and Substance Use Branch, and Kira Mandryk, Program Manager, Harm Reduction Services Branch, spoke to a PowerPoint presentation which served to provide an overview of the report. A copy of their presentation is held on file with the Board Secretary.

The Board then heard from the following eight (8) public delegations, all of whom expressed support for the report and recommendations, as well as for OPH's work and partnerships in this area:

- Supinderjit Rattan, organizer of Langar for Hunger
- Michelle James, Coordinator for the Ottawa Black Mental Health Coalition (OBMHC)
- Gord Gardner, Vice President, Community Addiction Peer Support Association (CAPSA)
- Dr. Kim Corace, Vice President, the Royal Ottawa
- Wendy Muckle, Ottawa Inner City Health

- Rob Boyd, Sandy Hill Community Health Centre
- Doug Hunter, Families for Addiction Recovery
- Chief Peter Sloly and Superintendent Chris Renwick, Ottawa Police Services

After hearing from the public delegations, staff responded to questions from Board Members. The discussion on this item lasted approximately 2 hours and 15 minutes. The Board then voted to approve the report.

At approximately 6:36 p.m., during discussions on the above-referenced item, the Board approved a motion to extend the time of the meeting beyond 7:00 p.m.

Motion 18/2

Moved by Member Kavanagh

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

5. UPDATE ON OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH WORK TO SUPPORT SCHOOLS THROUGH COVID-19 AND BEYOND

ACS2021-OPH-HPS-0003

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

1. **Receive, for information, an overview of Ottawa Public Health's work in supporting local schools and school boards since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and learnings in identifying and addressing the**

needs of school communities; and,

- 2. Receive, for information, Ottawa Public Health's plans to provide enhanced settings-based assessments for the 2021/22 school year that inform interventions to promote the health and wellbeing of students, staff and families in Ottawa with regards to COVID-19 and beyond.**

RECEIVED

- 6. OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH POST-PANDEMIC RECOVERY PLANNING**

ACS2021-OPH-KPQ-0005

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit approve Ottawa Public Health's post-pandemic Recovery Plan, as outlined in this report.

CARRIED

- 7. OTTAWA PUBLIC HEALTH'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2019-2022 – UPDATE FROM QUARTER TWO OF 2021**

ACS2021-OPH-KPQ-0004

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

RECEIVED

8. OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL (OAG) 2021 INTERIM AUDIT WORK PLAN AND PROPOSED AUDIT OF THE PANDEMIC RESPONSE

ACS2021-OPH-MOH-0005

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit support the Auditor General of the City of Ottawa's City-wide operational audit of the pandemic response, based on a limited scope, as described in this report.

CARRIED

9. 2021 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET Q2 – BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE CITY OF OTTAWA HEALTH UNIT STATUS REPORT

ACS2020-OPH-PCS-0005

That the Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit receive the 2021 Q2 operating and capital budget status reports for information.

RECEIVED

IN CAMERA ITEMS*

10. PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - – IN CAMERA – PERSONAL MATTERS ABOUT AN IDENTIFIABLE INDIVIDUAL. REPORTING OUT DATE: NOT TO BE REPORTED OUT

ACS2021-OPH-BOH-0008

Issued separately

CARRIED

This item was CARRIED on consent, eliminating the need for the Board to move In Camera.

MOTION TO ADOPT REPORTS

Motion 18/3

Moved by Member Kavanagh

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Chair of the Board of Health Verbal Report, the Medical Officer of Health Verbal Report, and the reports titled: Reconcili-Action at Ottawa Public Health: A Time to Reflect, Re-Fresh and Reinforce Commitment, Ottawa Public Health's 2019-2022 Strategic Plan: Strategic Priority Relating to Mental Health and Substance Use Health, Update on Ottawa Public Health Work to Support Schools Through Covid-19 and Beyond, Ottawa Public Health Post-Pandemic Recovery Planning, Ottawa Public Health's Strategic Plan for 2019-2022 – Update from Quarter Two of 2021, Office of The Auditor General (OAG) 2021 Interim Audit Work Plan and Proposed Audit of the Pandemic Response, 2021 Operating and Capital Budget Q2 – Board of Health for the City of Ottawa Health Unit Status Report, and Performance Appraisal of Medical Officer of Health – In Camera – Personal Matters About an Identifiable Individual - Reporting Out Date: Not to be Reported Out, 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 18/4

Moved by Member Kavanagh

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Confirmation By-law no. 2021-5, 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 20, 2021, be read and passed.

CARRIED

INQUIRIES

There were no inquiries filed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

NEXT MEETING

Regular Meeting

Monday, November 1, 2021 - 5:00 PM

BOARD SECRETARY

BOARD CHAIR