



**UNAPPROVED MINUTES – SIXTH MEETING**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH SUDBURY & DISTRICTS**  
**BOARDROOM, SECOND FLOOR**  
**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 – 1:30 P.M.**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Ryan Anderson  
Robert Barclay  
Michel Brabant

Pauline Fortin  
René Lapierre  
Ken Noland

Mike Parent  
Mark Signoretti  
Natalie Tessier

**BOARD MEMBERS REGRET**

Renée Carrier

Guy Despatie

Abdullah Masood

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kathy Dokis  
Stacey Gilbeau  
M. Mustafa Hirji

Stacey Laforest  
Rachel Quesnel  
France Quirion

Renée St Onge

**R. LAPIERRE PRESIDING**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m.

- Letter to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recommending the provincial re-appointment of Ryan Anderson, dated July 24, 2024

R. Anderson was congratulated on his reappointment to the Board of Health as a provincial appointee, renewed for a period not exceeding three years.

- City of Greater Sudbury Report and Motion Re Appointment of Michel Brabant on Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, due to resignation of Al Sizer

Michel Brabant has been appointed by the City of Greater Sudbury on the Board of Health to replace Al Sizer who resigned from the Board of Health. M. Brabant was welcomed to his first Board of Health meeting. Al was thanked for his contributions to the Board of Health, including during the Strengthening of Public Health voluntary merger discussions.

## **2. ROLL CALL**

## **3. REVIEW OF AGENDA/DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

The agenda package was pre-circulated. There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

## **4. DELEGATION/PRESENTATION**

### **i) Changing Patterns of Infectious Disease**

– Stacey Laforest, Director, Health Protection Division

S. Laforest was invited to speak to changing patterns of infectious disease including respiratory, vaccine preventable diseases, sexually transmitted and blood borne infections trends, and program impacts. Reporting requirements and public health follow-up for the 72 Diseases of Public Health Significance (DOPHS) were outlined as well as management of DOPHS.

Several of DOPHS are vaccine preventable diseases and the importance of keeping vaccinations up to date was emphasized. Local tuberculosis trends show much higher incidence to historical levels, and also higher in comparison with Ontario incidences rates. Large increases in the incidence rate of iGAS, invasive pneumococcal disease, pertussis (aka Whooping Cough) and varicella (aka Chicken Pox) cases have been observed in comparison with the provincial incidence rate and to the historical levels for Sudbury & Districts. Respiratory outbreak activity has also significantly increased since the pandemic in both number and complexity.

These disease trends have impacted Public Health's workload, and alongside a changing demographic, reduced access to primary health care, the introduction of new ministry vaccine programs and expectations, Public Health has needed to prioritize and streamline services to meet ministry requirements. The COVID-19 vaccine program continues to pose challenges to the VPD program due to the operational requirements of the ministry with no associated base funding to deliver this service.

In conclusion, respiratory and sexually-transmitted blood borne infections are increasing within the PHSD area and program impacts are being observed, with an increase in both investigation number and case complexity. The teams continue to explore ways to streamline processes. Vaccination of eligible persons routinely continues to be prioritized as per the publicly funded schedule and to susceptible persons as part of contact investigation. With increasing case load and outbreak management, the existing Control of Infectious Diseases and Sexual Health teams are beyond the capacity of the current staffing levels. Given the minimum investigation requirements per the OPHS, and provincial data entry requirements, the Executive Committee is exploring options to manage the workload associated with increases in caseloads.

Questions and comments were entertained, and clarification provided regarding education/prevention for sexually transmitted diseases in schools, public health policy to change societal norms, provincial trends for communicable diseases, funding for outbreaks, protection of respiratory pathogens through masking, and unique trends in northern Ontario. In response to an inquiry, additional information will be shared with the Board regarding greatest proportion of cases by age for syphilis.

S. Laforest was thanked for her presentation.

**ii) The Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism Project**

- Sarah Rice, Special Advisor, Indigenous Affairs, Indigenous Engagement Team, Knowledge and Strategic Services
- Jasmine Fournier, Health Promoter, Indigenous Engagement Team, Knowledge & Strategic Services

Dr. Hirji noted that today's presentation aligns with the third strategic direction of [Finding our Path Together: Strengthen our Capacity for a Culturally Competent Workforce](#), as well as the third strategic direction within the [Indigenous Engagement Governance ReconciliAction Framework](#): *The Board of Health will strengthen its capacity to become culturally safe*. This month, ending with the National Day for the Truth and Reconciliation on September 30, we honour the survivors and their families of the residential and day school systems by taking time to learn and reflect on the truths that may bring us closer to a sense of reconciliation.

S. Rice and J. Fournier were welcomed to share a new agency-wide project that will be launching in the coming months, that aims to learn and reflect on these truths and move towards collective action as an agency, along with an invitation for the Board to join the project.

The project, adapted with permission from the BC Health Authority, will examine white supremacy and colonization as determinants of health. The project work is crucial to addressing the root causes of poor health outcomes and the systemic issues that are present in our health care system and in society. As an example, the Coin Model of Privilege was displayed to see how we can use our privilege to evoke change and allows to explore unconscious biases.

Over the last six years, a variety of PHSD strategies and frameworks have been developed to support the agency to do this system-level change work, which includes the work of the Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism project. At the governance level, the Indigenous Engagement Governance ReconciliAction Framework (Motion #37-23) further refines and strengthens this work by committing to participate in ongoing education

opportunities. Board members were provided an example of what a two-month period of the 18-month project would look like for Module 1 Naming Racism & White Supremacy. Module options, learning and time commitments were outlined.

Staff as well as Board members are invited to participate in the Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism project. Board participation would help signal the importance of this work to staff, throughout the system and wider community. Included in today's agenda package is a briefing note outlining a motion to join this important journey that Public Health is embarking on. Questions were entertained regarding the time commitment and project launch. Sarah and Jasmine were thanked.

## 5. CONSENT AGENDA

### i) Minutes of Previous Meeting

- a. Fifth Board of Health Meeting – June 20, 2024

### ii) Business Arising from Minutes

### iii) Report of Standing Committees

- a. None

### iv) Report of the Medical Officer of Health / Chief Executive Officer

- a. MOH/CEO Report, September 2024

### v) Correspondence

- a. Physical Literacy for Communities: A Public Health Approach

*Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts [Motion #34-24](#)*

- Letter from Grey Bruce Public Health Board of Health Chair to the Chief Medical Officer of Health, dated September 3, 2024
- b. Ontario Protecting Communities and Supporting Addiction Recovery with New Treatment Hubs
  - Letter from Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aLPHa) Chair to the Minister of Health, dated August 29, 2024
- c. Support for Bills S-233 and C-223, An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income
  - Letter from Middlesex-London Health Unit (MLHU) Board of Health Chair to Prime Minister of Canada, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Minister of Health, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons, House Leader of the Official Opposition, House Leader of the Bloc Québécois, House Leader of the New Democratic Party and Standing Senate Committee on National Finance, dated July 24, 2024, along with MLHU's Board report.

- d. New measures to help prevent harms to youth from nicotine replacement therapies
  - Health Canada News Release dated August 22, 2024; *Health Canada introduces new measures to help prevent harms to youth from nicotine replacement therapies*
  - Letter from the Chair, Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts to the Minister of Health of Canada, dated September 11, 2024
- vi) **Items of Information**

None.

A question regarding the September Board report was entertained relating to the non-compliance notice from the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility regarding certain areas of the website.

In regard to comments in the September Board report regarding recent developments concerning harm reduction, N. Tessier will share a CNN article regarding data for fatal overdoses/multi-faceted approach.

#### **45-24 APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOVED BY BARCLAY – SIGNORETTI: THAT the Board of Health approve the consent agenda as distributed.**

**CARRIED**

#### **6. NEW BUSINESS**

- i) **Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism Project**
  - Briefing Note from M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer to the Board of Health dated September 12, 2024

Dr. Hirji noted that the briefing note supplements today's presentation for the Board's consideration of the motion.

#### **46-24 UNLEARNING AND UNDOING WHITE SUPREMACY AND RACISM PROJECT**

**MOVED BY PARENT – NOLAND: THAT the Board of Health commit to participating in the Unlearning and Undoing White Supremacy and Racism Project. This commitment will include two hours of self-guided learning and 15-30-minute closed group discussion per month.**

**CARRIED**

- ii) **2024–2028 Accountability Monitoring Plan: Strategic Priority Performance Measures**
  - Briefing Note from M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer to the Board of Health dated September 12, 2024
  - 2024–2028 Accountability Monitoring Plan: Strategic Performance Measures

It was recapped that the Board of Health approved the four-year 2024–2028 Strategic Plan in November 2023 and directed the Medical Officer of Health to develop a monitoring process for the Plan. The 2024–2028 Accountability Monitoring Plan was subsequently developed and approved ([motion #27-24](#)) in April 2024 with the direction to finalize the Strategic Priority Performance Measures for the Board’s approval.

On behalf of the Joint Board of Health/Staff Working Group, R. Barclay reviewed the performance indicators developed to ensure ongoing monitoring of the integration of the strategic priorities within programs and services and to provide an opportunity to gauge how we are progressing with actioning our agency Strategic Plan. The measures were developed with feedback from key staff and senior management and validated by the Joint Board of Health/Staff Working Group.

Dr. Hirji noted that it is difficult to measure outcomes due to the nature of public health work and historically, process indicators were used; however, these indicators aim to move in the direction of measuring outcomes.

Comments and questions were entertained and the motion read.

**47-24 ACCOUNTABILITY MONITORING PLAN, 2024-2028: STRATEGIC PRIORITY PERFORMANCE MEASURES**

**MOVED BY BRABANT – TESSIER: WHEREAS the Board of Health [motion #27-24](#) endorsed the 2024–2028 Accountability Monitoring Plan for Public Health Sudbury & Districts and directed the Medical Officer of Health to operationalize the Plan, ensuring an annual report to the Board of Health; and**

**WHEREAS one step in the operationalization of the plan is the development of performance measures specific to the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan; and**

**WHEREAS the Joint Board of Health/Staff Accountability Working Group reviewed the proposed performance measures and recommends them to the Board of Health;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health approve the Strategic Priority Performance Measures as part of the 2024–2028 Accountability Monitoring Plan for Public Health Sudbury & Districts.**

**CARRIED**

- iii) **Support for Ontario to Continue to Protect the Safety of Private Drinking Water**
- Letter from the Municipality of Central Manitoulin to the Premier of Ontario, dated July 8, 2024
  - Letter from the Peterborough Public Health Board of Health Chair to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Health and the Minister of the Environment, Conservation and Parks, dated June 20, 2024

Dr. Hirji outlined the small drinking water system requirements for testing, monitoring and sampling and Public Health Sudbury & Districts role.

The 2023 Auditor General's Value for Money Audit report had referenced streamlining Public Health Ontario's lab services. This generated concerns and discussions have been held at the provincial level about discontinuing provincial funding for lab testing of private wells. The Town of Gore Bay and Municipality of Central Manitoulin have voiced their concerns through motions and in June 2024, the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts requested staff prepare an advocacy motion, which is tabled for the Board's consideration today.

Questions and comments were entertained and it was clarified that there would be no financial implication to the Board of Health and the advocacy relates to whether the province continues to fund private water testing.

**48-24 SUPPORT FOR ONTARIO TO CONTINUE TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF PRIVATE DRINKING WATER**

**MOVED BY NOLAND – FORTIN: WHEREAS** twenty-two percent of households within the Public Health Sudbury & Districts service area rely on private drinking water systems; and

**WHEREAS** it is recommended that drinking water be tested frequently to ensure that it is safe for human consumption; and

**WHEREAS** exposure to contaminated drinking water can lead to severe gastrointestinal illness and in rare cases may result in death; and

**WHEREAS** anyone can become ill from drinking contaminated water; however, children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects; and

**WHEREAS** Public Health Ontario's Well Water Testing program is a publicly-funded service that tests water samples from private drinking water sources for indicators of bacterial contamination; and

**WHEREAS** testing drinking water quality at private laboratories can be cost prohibitive; and

**WHEREAS** Public Health Ontario in conjunction with the Ministry of Health has proposed joint modernization plans in 2017 and again in January 2023 that proposed discontinuing well water testing as part of a plan to streamline operations; and

**WHEREAS the Auditor General of Ontario in its December 6, 2023 [Value-for-Money Audit: Public Health Ontario](#), called for Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health to move forward with streamlining laboratory operations in consideration of the proposed modernization plans; and**

**WHEREAS Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health have not yet announced a final plan for streamlining laboratory operations at this time;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts strongly recommends to the Minister of Health and to Public Health Ontario that Ontario’s Well Water Testing program be continued in the plan to implement streamlined laboratory operations, and**

**THAT THE BOARD OF HEALTH endorse the resolutions adopted by the Council of the Town of Gore Bay (May 14, 2024), the Council of the Corporation of Northeastern Manitoulin & the Islands (May 23, 2024), and the Council of Central Manitoulin (July 8, 2024) concerning provincial well water testing.**

**CARRIED**

**iv) Perspectives from Northern Ontario for the Public Health Funding Review**

- Briefing Note from M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer to the Board of Health dated September 12, 2024
- Advocacy Letter from Northern Medical Officers of Health to the Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Dr. Kieran Moore, dated August 16, 2024

At the 2023 AMO Conference, the provincial government announced a series of new, planned measures to strengthen public health in Ontario. Among them was the intention to provide resources, support, and incentives to facilitate voluntary mergers as well as a review of the Ontario Public Health Standards and a review of the provincial public health funding.

As it relates to the funding review, the provincial government undertook a very focused consultation in June 2024 for which R. Lapierre participated through AMO and alPha. The Northern Medical Officers of Health have concerns that there was no direct reach out to Medical Officers of Health or Boards of Health in northern Ontario given the unique factors and challenges northern health units face.

Eleven years ago, the Ministry had announced a funding review that proposed an approach that would have disadvantaged northern communities. The northern Medical Officers of Health believe any new provincial funding approach must provide equitable funding, rather than equal funding per capita across the province, accounting for unique circumstances in different areas of Ontario, including those unique elements in the north.



The northern MOHs collectively wrote a letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health to advocate for equitable funding for this funding review that would ensure sustainability and equity of public health programming in northern Ontario. The northern Boards of Health endorsement is now being sought. Boards from the Porcupine Health Unit as well as North Bay Parry Sound District Health Units have already endorsed the motion.

Comments and questions were entertained and the Northern MOHs were commended for the advocacy letter.

**49-24 ENDORSING PERSPECTIVES FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING REVIEW**

**MOVED BY FORTIN – BARCLAY: THAT the Board of Health endorse the August 16, 2024 letter by the northern Ontario Medical Officers of Health entitled “Perspectives from Northern Ontario for the Public Health Funding Review”.**

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- v) Public Health Sudbury & Districts’ 2023 Annual Financial Report**
  - 2023 Financial Report (English and French)

Dr. Hirji noted that per good governance and practice, an annual report has been prepared and shared with the public as outlined in F-II-20 of the Board of Health Manual. Post-pandemic reflections were discussed as to whether we resume with the same format of the annual report or use a different approach.

More common public messaging is now short and succinct via social channels; therefore, the comprehensive annual report format is being shifted to a combination of highlights, including the program highlights early in the year and a financial highlight at this time of year with materials to be shared through social media in snip its.

- vi) Board of Health Manual Review**
  - Briefing Note from M. Mustafa Hirji, Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer to the Board of Health dated September 12, 2024, and appendices

A thorough review of the Board of Health manual has taken place over the summer of all the policies, procedures, information sheets and by-laws that govern our organization.

Per A-III-10 the Board of Health Manual will be reviewed in its entirety in two-year intervals. Proposed revisions have been identified with tracked changes as well as areas identified to be repealed. The briefing note summarizes housekeeping revisions and highlights of more substantive revisions coming forward.

A lot of work has gone into the review and directors were thanked.

Questions and comments were entertained, and background was provided regarding the Board's request in 2019 for additional language to specify action and follow up in the event of an investigation, which, post-COVID-19, is proposed in the *new* Procedure C-I-15 Code of Conduct.

#### **50-24 BOARD OF HEALTH MANUAL**

**MOVED BY PARENT – ANDERSON: THAT the Board of Health, having reviewed the proposed revisions within the Board of Health Manual, approve the Manual as presented on this date.**

**CARRIED**

### **7. ADDENDUM**

#### **51-24 ADDENDUM**

**MOVED BY SIGNORETTI -BRABANT: THAT this Board of Health deals with the items on the Addendum.**

**CARRIED**

### **DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

#### **i) Board of Health Membership**

- Order in Council Re: provincial re-appointment of Ryan Anderson effective September 13, 2024 for a term of three years
- Welcome letter to Michel Brabant, dated September 13, 2024
- Thank you letter to Al Sizer dated September 16, 2024

Correspondence is shared for information.

#### **ii) Items of Information**

- Ontario Government News Release dated September 10, 2024; *Ontario Enhancing Tools to Help People Prepare for Respiratory Illness Season*

News release is shared for information.

### **8. IN CAMERA**

#### **52-24 IN CAMERA**

**MOVED BY FORTIN - NOLAND: THAT this Board of Health goes in camera to deal with labour relations or employee negotiations. Time: 3:01 pm**

**CARRIED**

## 9. RISE AND REPORT

### 53-24 RISE AND REPORT

**MOVED BY TESSIER – ANDERSON: THAT this Board of Health rises and reports.**

**Time: 3:18 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

It was reported that one labour relations and negotiations matter were discussed for which the following motions emanated:

### 54-24 APPROVAL OF BOARD OF HEALTH INCAMERA MEETING NOTES

**MOVED BY PARENT – NOLAND: THAT this Board of Health approve the meeting notes of the April 18, 2024, Board in-camera meeting and that these remain confidential and restricted from public disclosure in accordance with exemptions provided in the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.**

**CARRIED**

### 55-24 ONA MEMORANDUM OF SETTLEMENT RATIFICATION

**MOVED BY SIGNORETTI - PARENT: THAT the Board of Health ratify the Memorandum of Settlement between Public Health Sudbury & Districts (PHSD) and the Ontario Nurses Association (ONA), dated September 16, 2024.**

**CARRIED**

## 10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- i) The Board Chair shared that staff are looking into processes to record Board presentations and post the recording for the public to access through phsd.ca. MS Teams Townhall meeting is being proposed as the platform to record the Board presentations due to its recording features; however, Townhall meetings does not have a telephone dial-in option. Board members did not have any concerns with not having a dial-in number for a MS Teams Townhall invitations for future Board meetings.
- ii) Board members were asked to complete the Annual Board Self-Evaluation Survey by October 18, 2024, noting their feedback is valuable.
- iii) Board members are to review the annual mandatory Emergency Preparedness PowerPoint presentation and email R. Quesnel to confirm once you have completed the review.
- iv) Time was allocated for Board members to complete the September 19, 2024, Board of Health meeting evaluation before adjournment.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**56-24 ADJOURNMENT**

**MOVED BY SIGNORETTI - NOLAND: THAT we do now adjourn. Time: 3:23 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Chair)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Secretary)

Unapproved