

A regular meeting of the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, via teleconference. An audio live-stream of the proceedings was provided for the public.

**PRESENT:**

**Nipissing District:**

Central Appointee

Dave Butti

Central Appointee

Nancy Jacko (*Chairperson*)

Central Appointee

Stuart Kidd

Central Appointee

Scott Robertson

Central Appointee

Tanya Vrebosch

Eastern Appointee

Dean Backer

South Eastern Appointee

Marianne Stickland

Western Appointee

Dan Roveda

**Parry Sound District:**

North Eastern Appointee

Blair Flowers

Western Appointee

Don Brisbane (*Vice-Chairperson*)

**Public Appointees:**

Mike Poeta

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:**

Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer

Dr. Chirico

Master of Public Health Student

Dr. Carol Zimbalatti

**REGRETS:**

**RECORDER:**

Management Administrative Assistant

Sheri Beaulieu

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Nancy Jacko, Board of Health Chairperson, called the Board of Health meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

**2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The agenda for the June 24, 2020, Board of Health meeting was reviewed and the following motion was read:

**Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2020/06/01 \*Kidd/Poeta**

***Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health Agenda, dated June 24, 2020, be approved.***

The recorded vote was as follows:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
Dean Backer	x		
Don Brisbane	x		
Dave Butti	x		
Blair Flowers	x		
Nancy Jacko	x		
Stuart Kidd	x		
Mike Poeta	x		
Scott Robertson	x		
Dan Roveda	x		
Marianne Stickland	x		
Tanya Vrebosch	x		

*“Carried”*

### **3.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

### **4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

#### **4.1 Board of Health Minutes – February 26, 2020**

The minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on April 22, 2020, were reviewed and the following motion was read:

#### **Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2020/06/02 \*Poeta/Kidd**

***Be It Resolved***, that the minutes from the Board of Health meeting held on April 22, 2020, be approved as presented.

The recorded vote was as follows:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>For:</b>	<b>Against:</b>	<b>Abstain:</b>
Dean Backer	x		
Don Brisbane	x		
Dave Butti	x		
Blair Flowers	x		
Nancy Jacko	x		
Stuart Kidd	x		
Mike Poeta	x		
Scott Robertson	x		
Dan Roveda	x		
Marianne Stickland	x		
Tanya Vrebosch	x		

*“Carried”*

## **5.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Date: September 23, 2020

Time: To be determined

Location: To be determined

## **6.0 BUSINESS ARISING**

There was nothing under Business Arising

## **7.0 REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

The [Report of the Medical Officer](#) of Health dated June 23, 2020, was presented to the Board of Health for information purposes.

Additionally, a verbal update from the Medical Officer of Health was provided, as follows:

- An overview of the work, particularly related to COVID-19, accomplished by Health Unit staff
- Maintaining Health Unit messaging related to the importance of physical distancing, use of face coverings, and proper hand hygiene as the province begins to relax restrictions and people start to travel to other districts
- The move by some health units in the province to issue an emergency order mandating the use face coverings
- The Information and Privacy Commission has concluded their privacy breach investigation, with not onsite inquired required; the case is now closed

[Appendix A](#), attached, includes questions from Board members that were addressed.

## **8.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **8.1 Personnel Policy, Employee and Labour Relations Committee**

A Personnel Policy, Employee and Labour Relations Committee meeting was held prior to the Board of Health meeting.

Direction was provided during an in camera session. There was no other actions to report.

## **9.0 CORRESPONDENCE**

Board of Health correspondence listed for the June 24, 2020, meeting is made available for review by Board members in the Board of Health online portal.

## **10.0 NEW BUSINESS**

### **10.1 First Quarter Income Statements – January 1 to March 31, 2020**

The first quarter income statements, January 1 to March 31, 2020, were provided to the Board of Health members for information purposes.

It was explained that the new look of the income statements was to align them with the Ministry of Health reporting template.

Questions related to the first quarter income statements were addressed.

### **10.2 First Quarter Medical Officer of Health Expenses – January 1 to March 31, 2020**

The first quarter Medical Officer of Health expenses, January 1 to March 31, 2020, were provided to Board of Health members for information purposes.

### **10.3 COVID-19 Briefing for Board of Health Chair and Vice-Chairs – Meeting Update**

The Board of Health Vice-Chairperson participated in the June 19 COVID-19 Briefing webinar for board of health chairs and vice-chairs, facilitated by the Association of Local Public Health Agencies and hosted by the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health at the Ministry of Health.

Speakers at the briefing also included Dr. Dave McKeown, Dr. Barbara Yaffe, Elizabeth Walker, and Brent Feeney.

The purpose of the meeting was to update boards of health on a number of items which included data issues the Ministry is working through, where things are at with public health modernization, and the COVID-19 pandemic pay for initiative for nurses. Board of health budgets were not included in the update.

## **11.0 IN CAMERA**

There was no in camera session.

**12.0 ADJOURNMENT**

Having no further business, the Board of Health Chairperson adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 6:31 p.m.

*Original Signed by Nancy Jacko*

*2020/09/23*

Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

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*Original Signed by Sheri Beaulieu*

*2020/09/23*

Sheri Beaulieu, Recorder

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

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## Board of Health Q & A Related to the Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board – June 24, 2020

### Appendix A

#### **Q: What is happening with reopening schools?**

A: School boards will be required to plan for three scenarios:

1. Normal school day routine, with enhanced public health measures
2. Modified school day routine, based on public health advice with an adapted delivery model that will allow for physical distancing and cohorts of students
3. At home learning, should the school closures be extended or if parents choose not to send their children back to in-class learning

Public health units will work with their local school boards on the re-opening initiative.

Also noted:

- Public health will not be required to inspect schools prior to reopening.
- COVID-19 spread will be monitored closely from multiple sources, both externally and internally (internal health units programs such as Communicable Disease Control and epidemiology reports, externally from Ontario Health North, health care providers, syndromic surveillance, hospitals [acute care enhanced surveillance], Public Health Ontario, and Ministry data systems such as iPHIS and OLIS)

#### **Q: How does the COVID-19 case reporting work?**

A: the issue has been resident vs. non-resident.

The public health laboratory system is set up to notify the public health unit associated with the permanent address of the person tested who will then compile the case data regardless of where the person was tested.

E.g: If a resident of the Nipissing or Parry Sound district is tested in Toronto, the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit will be notified, it will be added to the NBPSDHU case count, and NBPSDHU will follow up with the case and decide whether the contact tracing is best completed by NBPSDHU or Toronto Public Health.

#### **Q: Are we seeing an increase in drug overdoses since COVID-19?**

A: Yes. Public health has been monitoring this. Some weeks are higher than others, however, the spike has not been huge overall.

Purple heroine was an issue for a few weeks, but we are no longer seeing overdoses related to that.

#### **Q: Does the Health Unit have the capacity to handle the reopening of the businesses in the area and what is being done?**

A: Yes, the Health Unit staff are managing at present.

To summarize:

- The call centre continues to receive a large volume of calls
- We have redirected staff to handle the most urgent areas of our work

## Board of Health Q & A Related to the Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board – June 24, 2020

- We have been working with organizations and business to get ready for the slow reopening of the province
- Timely access to test results continues to be an area of concern; public health has never been responsible for testing, we address the contact tracing and case management of positive cases
- We have assisted and facilitated the testing for long-term care homes that was carried out by primary care. This was completed ahead of schedule. We also worked to support the process by taking on assisting and facilitating testing of retirement homes by primary care without being requested by the province
- We continue to get through some of our regular public health work where we can
- We continue to offer urgent and emergency work in the clinical services area
- We were able to support Toronto Public Health with case management because our case numbers have remained low, however, we will no longer be able to redeploy staff for those efforts as things start to open up
- We have a debrief of the internal processes to address the first wave of the virus scheduled where we will be critical of what we have accomplished, what needs to be improved, and what we need to do to prepare for a potential second wave

### **Q: Can you summarize the process for getting tested?**

A: The province has now opened it up to allow anyone to be tested, whether they are symptomatic or not.

This has added significant pressure to assessment centres and the acute care system. The assessment centres fall under Ontario Health (OH).

There has been some prioritization at some assessment centres to certain cohorts, namely symptomatic clients.

The North Bay Assessment Centre is by appointment only. Results from tests are accessed online. Those test results can be printed for anyone requiring proof of testing.

The Health Unit does what we can to assist individuals that may not have access to a computer to obtain their test results.

### **Q: Is there a diminished amount of flu and colds because of isolation?**

A: The flu season has typically subsided by this time, however, we can't comment on the cold season. We are seeing an increase in allergy symptoms with the pollen this year.

### **Q: With the warmer weather, COVID-19 peaked early; does the temperature have anything to do with it?**

A: We are definitely over the peak, we don't know if weather has anything to do with it. With the province starting to open up, there could be an increase in cases, which is what happened in other places around the world.

## Board of Health Q & A Related to the Medical Officer of Health Report to the Board – June 24, 2020

Restrictions need to be lifted slowly and monitor it closely.

**Q: What about the logistics of providing the influenza vaccine in the fall? How important is it to have it this year?**

A: While the current focus is on finding a vaccine for COVID-19, it is still very important to focus on the influenza season; approximately 3,500 people die from influenza each year in Canada. We need to protect our most vulnerable population.

This is part of the assessment for the future. We have to ensure there is a contingency plan if a second wave of COVID comes during influenza season.

We need to maintain our regular immunization schedule and look at various scenarios and resources should that happen.

**Q: What is the COVID-19 App?**

A: The province is rolling out an App that functions on Bluetooth, will not interrupt your phone activity, and will not invade your privacy. Essentially the App will notify you if you are within two metres of someone that has COVID-19 for longer than 15 minutes.

It is hoped that the App will be functional this summer. It will also require a large portion of the population to have the App for it to function well.

The App does not replace the need to maintain physical distancing and take all the recommended precautions.