

A regular meeting of the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit was held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, via teleconference. The meeting was open to the public and live streaming of the proceedings was provided for the media and public through a link on the Health Unit's website.

PRESENT:

Nipissing District:

Central Appointee
Central Appointee
Eastern Appointee
Central Appointee
Western Appointee

Sara Inch
Dave Wolfe
Rick Champagne (*Chairperson*)
Maurice Switzer
Jamie Restoule

Parry Sound District:

Northeastern Appointee
Southeastern Appointee

Blair Flowers
Marianne Stickland

Public Appointees:

Tim Sheppard
Catherine Still

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

Acting Medical Officer of Health/Executive Officer
Executive Director, Finance
Executive Director, Clinical Services
Executive Director, Community Services
Executive Director, Corporate Services
Executive Director, Human Resources
Executive Assistant, Director's Office

Dr. Carol Zimbalatti
Isabel Churcher
Shannon Mantha
Louise Gagné
Paul Massicotte
Josée Goulet
Christine Neily

REGRETS:

Central Appointee
Western Appointee
Central Appointee

Jamie Lowery
Jamie McGarvey (*Vice-Chairperson*)
Karen Cook

Recorder

Executive Assistant, Office of the MOH/EO

Nelly Bothelo

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The Board of Health members joined the meeting in person from the Nipissing Room at 345 Oak Street West, North Bay, Ontario, and virtually via Teams video conference.

Rick Champagne, Board of Health Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 5.48 p.m.

2.0 APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda for the November 29, 2023, Board of Health meeting was reviewed, and the following motion was read:

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/11/01 *Wolfe/Stickland

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health Agenda, dated November 29, 2023, be approved.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie McGarvey	R		
Karen Cook	R			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Catherine Still	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie Lowery	R			Tim Sheppard	X		

"Carried"

3.0 CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

4.0 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

5.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date: January 24, 2024

Time: To be determined

Place: To be determined

6.0 BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 Report back on ALPHA Fall Symposium 2023

Sara Inch & Dr. Zimbalatti attended the virtual session on Risk Communication and Human Rights Lens at the ALPHA Fall symposium.

Key points from the session:

Implementing a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in seven stages.

Public health faced accusations of human rights breaches during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- In emergencies, it's acceptable to bypass some HRBA steps, compensating for it later.
- Human rights tribunal ruled that mask mandates during the pandemic didn't violate human rights.
- Only the legislature can amend the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- Caste-based discrimination is a policy position, not a ruling; tribunals follow policy positions.
- Policy drafters use policy positions to inform legislation.
- In vaccine-related cases, there's a right not to be vaccinated, but it doesn't grant unrestricted access.

Implementing a Human Rights-Based Approach involves a thorough process, considering historical context, community needs, and cultural nuances. Flexibility, inclusivity, and community engagement are key elements. Emergency situations might warrant bypassing some steps temporarily. Specific case examples illustrate the intersection of human rights, health policies, and risk communication strategies. Communication is a process, not an event.

Dr. Zimbalatti attended other sessions as well at the alPHa Fall symposium. She shared a few highlights:

- Organizations can move the human rights agenda forward by following a Human Rights approach, informing partners and the public that they do so, and explain what that means.
- Dr. Moore spoke at the symposium and announced that the Chief Medical Officer of Health Annual Report will be released shortly with a focus on tobacco, alcohol, opioids, and cannabis. He also shared that there will be a population health assessment plan in Ontario in collaboration with Public Health Ontario with a report back to the Legislature.
- Health Units that underwent merger shared their experiences and lessons learned – the biggest effort they had to put in was around aligning leadership and culture between two health units.
- In the discussion which followed the presentation on merger experiences, the membership indicated that it would be useful if alPHa created and made available to members a repository of merger resources. alPHa leadership indicated this is something they felt they could do.

7.0 REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

No report of the Medical Officer of Health was prepared for this meeting.

8.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.1 Finance and Property Committee

A Finance and Property Committee meeting was held prior to the Board of Health meeting.

The following motion was read:

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/11/02 *Stickland/Sheppard

Be It Resolved, that on recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit approves the 2024 Board of Health Public Health Budget, as presented, with a total shareable base of \$17,360,680.

Furthermore Be It Resolved, that on the recommendation of the Finance and Property Committee the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit approves 2% of the 2024 municipal share be paid from the municipal reserve and the remainder levied to the municipalities.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie Restoule	X		
Karen Cook	R			Marianne Stickland	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie Lowery	R			Tim Sheppard	X		
Jamie McGarvey	R			Catherine Still	X		

“Carried”

9.0 CORRESPONDENCE

10.0 NEW BUSINESS

11.0 IN CAMERA

11.1 A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instructions to be applied to any negotiations carried on by or on behalf of the Board.

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/11/03 *Wolfe/Flowers

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health move in camera at 6:12 p.m. to discuss item #11.1. A position, plan, procedure, criteria or instructions to be applied to any negotiations carried on by or on behalf of the Board.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie McGarvey	R		
Karen Cook	R			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Catherine Still	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie Lowery	R			Tim Sheppard	X		

“Carried”

At the close of the in camera session, the following motion was read:

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/11/04 *Wolfe/Still

Be It Resolved, that the Board of Health rise and report at 6:36 p.m.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie McGarvey	R		
Karen Cook	R			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Catherine Still	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie Lowery	R			Tim Sheppard	X		

“Carried”

Upon rising and reporting, the following motion was read:

Board of Health Resolution #BOH/2023/11/05 *Wolfe/Stickland

Whereas mergers by public health units under the Ministry of Health’s Strengthening Public Health plan are currently referred to as voluntary, yet mergers are increasingly being understood to be necessary for local public health unit sustainability; and

Whereas feasibility assessments must be completed in time to inform the merger fund application within the Annual Service Plan, which is to be submitted in March 2024;

Be It Resolved, That the Board of Health for the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit directs staff to request provincial one-time funding for consultation to study the feasibility and potential risks and benefits of mergers with neighbouring public health units; and

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That additional Board of Health direction be sought should further consultation result in a recommendation to change the focus of the feasibility assessment of voluntary mergers with other regional local public health agencies.

Furthermore Be It Resolved, That the Board of Health approves consulting externally for the completion of the feasibility assessment without undertaking a fulsome Request for Proposal (RFP) process.

The recorded vote was as follows:

RECORDED VOTE FOR CIRCULATION: Yes / No (Please circle one)

Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:	Name:	For:	Against:	Abstain:
Rick Champagne	X			Jamie McGarvey	R		
Karen Cook	R			Jamie Restoule	X		
Blair Flowers	X			Marianne Stickland	X		
Catherine Still	X			Maurice Switzer	X		
Sara Inch	X			Dave Wolfe	X		
Jamie Lowery	R			Tim Sheppard	X		

“Carried”

12.0 ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business, the Board of Health Chairperson adjourned the Board of Health meeting at 7.00 p.m.

Original Signed by Rick Champagne

2024-01-24

Chairperson/Vice-Chairperson

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)

Original Signed by Nelly Bothelo

2024-01-24

Nelly Bothelo, Recorder

Date (yyyy/mm/dd)