

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR AGENDA
Wednesday, January 20, 2021, 9:00 a.m, Zoom (Classroom 420/421)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair John Bell

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA / APPROVAL OF AGENDA

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes of December 8, 2020 *

All

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Motion re Appointment of Auditors

Ms. L. DiDonato

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Report from the Chair

Chair John Bell

6.2 Report from the Medical Officer of Health *

Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke

6.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

No report

6.4 Food Safety Disclosure Report

No report

Motion to accept reports as presented.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 COVID-19 Report *

Dr. Jo Ann Tober/Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke

7.2 Annual Declarations: Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest, and Confidentiality

Dr. Jo Ann Tober

Motion to accept reports as presented.

8. CORRESPONDENCE *(Board members may request a copy of items that are not attached from Board of Health Secretary)*

8.1 Correspondence from Timiskaming Health Unit, dated December 10, 2020, re food literacy for students.

8.2 Correspondence from City of Toronto, dated December 20, 2020, re opioid crisis in Toronto.

8.3 Correspondence from Grey Bruce Public Health, dated December 4, 2020, re extra-legislative development of undefined regional initiatives.

8.4 Correspondence from City of Brantford, dated November 30, 2020, re City motion re unsafe needle disposal.

8.5 Correspondence to Chief Medical Officer of Health, dated December 14, 2020, re BCHU Needle Exchange Program.

8.6 Correspondence to City of Brantford, dated January 6, 2021, re BCHU Needle Exchange Program.

8.7 Correspondence to City of Brantford, dated January 5, 2021, re needle disposal bins.

9. INCAMERA

10. ELECTIONS

10.1 Chair

10.2 Vice-Chair

10.3 Motion re Signing Officers

11. QUESTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.1 Needle Exchange Program (*Q1 2021*)

11.2 Brant Brantford Drugs Strategy (*Q1 2021*)

13. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, February 17, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Chair

** Attachments
⊕ to be distributed at the meeting*

***Attachments for Board of Health members only*

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REPORT #: 6.2**

DATE: January 20, 2021

**FROM: Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke
Acting Medical Officer of Health**

RE: Medical Officer of Health's Report

On November 24, 2020, the City of Brantford passed a motion that requested the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) and its partner agencies to suspend the Needle Exchange Program or Harm Reduction Supply Program, as the case may be, if within 45 days the Brant County Health Unit has not provided the Corporation of the City of Brantford with a plan, satisfactory to the municipality, to eliminate the harm of the unsafe disposal of needles and syringes within the City of Brantford. The plan was sent to the City on January 7, 2021.

BCHU has used its expertise to review its current Needle Syringe Program and bring a plan to the City. To develop a plan of environmental scans, consultations with community partners including those with lived experience, discussions with the Ministry, and extensive evidence and literature reviews have been undertaken.

The plan is outlined below:

1. Establish a Drug Strategy Coordinator position. The BCHU Board of Health recently approved funding for a Drug Strategy Coordinator.
2. Install disposal bins in key locations where discarded needles have historically been reported and/or found. BCHU has 4 bins available for immediate installation. The Board of Health passed a motion recommending the installation at four locations as requested by the City.
3. Implement public awareness activities to shift attitudes and beliefs about substance use and harm reduction to decrease stigma experienced by people who use substances.
4. Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Needle Syringe Program including facilitators and barriers to improperly discarded needles. (The evaluation plan is awaiting ethics approval from Public Health Ontario.)
5. Continue to monitor and respond to calls for needle pick up and map hot spots.
6. Conduct regular needle sweeps.
7. Continue to provide education and resources (such as sharps containers—both large and pocket-sized) to people who use substances, businesses, residents/property owners, and the general public around safe disposal of used needles.
8. Investigate and pilot campaigns that incentivize the return of used needles/syringes.

In addition, the motion from the previous Board meeting supporting the increased installation of community needle bins along with an evidence brief in this regard was submitted to the City of Brantford.

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
REPORT #: 7.1

DATE: January 29, 2021

FROM: Dr. Jo Ann Tober, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke, Acting Medical Officer of Health

RE: COVID-19 Report

Up-to-date metrics will be reported at the meeting.

Vaccination Roll Out:

The first and primary objective remains to vaccinate the residents, staff and essential care givers in Long Term Care and high-risk Retirement Homes by February 15, 2021. Given the availability of the Moderna vaccine and the ability to now move the Pfizer vaccine, we are well positioned to accomplish this objective.

While the early hospital sites involved in the vaccination program did immunize hospital staff, the emphasis in these centres and across the Province will shift towards achieving the primary objective of stabilizing the Long-Term Care Homes in the Province. Clinics will largely move from on-site clinics to an emphasis being put on mobile clinics being led by Public Health in collaboration with its partners.

Health Care Workers remain in the Phase 1 priority group but stabilizing long term care and retirement homes with the goal of reducing mortality is the priority.

An up-to-date vaccination operations report will be delivered at the meeting.