

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Zoom (Classroom 420/421)**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Councillor John Bell, Chair  
Ms. Susan Brown, Vice-Chair  
Mayor David Bailey  
Ms. Nancy Church  
Mr. Mario Colombo  
Mayor Kevin Davis  
Ms. Joy O'Donnell  
Councillor John Sless  
Councillor Brian Van Tilborg

Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke  
Dr. Jo Ann Tober  
Ms. Lorraine Johnson (recorder)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Alexey Babayan, Director, Foundational Standards  
Ms. Lisa DiDonato, Director, Finance  
Ms. Janet Kwansah, Director, Program Standards  
Mr. Brent Richardson, Director, Human Resources

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Items 6.3 and 6.5.1 were heard at the beginning of the meeting.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Chair Bell reminded Members to declare a conflict of interest, if one so arises, at the time the item is discussed.

**3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

Moved by: Mayor Bailey  
Seconded by: Councillor Sless

“THAT the Board of Health approve the Agenda as presented.” Carried.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes, January 20, 2021**

Moved by: Mayor Bailey  
Seconded by: Councillor Sless

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes dated January 20, 2021, be approved as distributed.” Carried.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

**5.1 Draft Financial Result for the Year Ended December 31, 2020**

Ms. DiDonato presented the Draft Financial Result for the Year Ended December 31, 2020, dated February 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The estimated surplus for 2020 is \$131,019, stemming from reductions in program activities due to redeployment of staff to COVID-19 response, as well as the Health Unit's cost saving efforts and limiting of discretionary spending. It is anticipated that the surplus will be clawed back during the year-end reconciliation process.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**6.1 Report from the Chair**

Chair Bell mentioned several topics which were covered under other items on the agenda.

### **6.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health**

Dr. Urbantke presented the Medical Officer of Health Report, dated February 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report focused on Harm Reduction and the Needle Exchange Program (NEP). A plan to improve NEP activities is awaiting City ratification on February 23, and installation of 3 needle disposal bins will move forward with a fourth location pending approval.

The report also provided 2020 statistics on needles distributed and collected: 84.6% of needles were collected from all sources. Members noted 15,000-20,000 used needles remain unaccounted for. Correspondence from the Chief Medical Officer of Health referred the Health Unit to submitting for one-time funding to cover incentivizing expenses.

Dr. Urbantke provided opioid statistics for January 2020: 2 deaths, 11 episodes, and 22 Emergency Department visits. In February, there have been 3 opioid-related deaths. On average, there have been 2-4 deaths per month. Members discussed the need for further attention to this issue including prevention, education and awareness, Naloxone, treatment, housing, Social Services, community effort, and mental health. The Health Unit will continue to work with the City and community partners to keep moving forward. Dr. Tober confirmed that the Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team (BBOHT) has established a working group on this matter. Recruitment for the position of Drugs Strategy Coordinator is underway.

*Mr. Babayan left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.*

### **6.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer**

Dr. Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report, dated February 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. Dr. Tober reported that the Public Appointments Secretariat launched an e-learning program for all public appointees. The annual conference for the Association of Local Public Health Agencies will be held virtually on June 8, and the Ontario Public Health Convention has been cancelled for 2021. The BBOHT continues to meet bi-weekly to work on the required infrastructure. A financial committee has been formed. Working groups have been created to address local priorities including mental health and addictions, homelessness, dementia, home and community care, digital health, and COVID vaccine sequencing. There is significant engagement between the BBOHT and other agencies in the community. BBOHT partners plan to provide quarterly reports to their partners and the public.

### **6.4 Food Safety Disclosure Report**

No report.

### **6.5 COVID-19 Reports**

#### **6.5.1 COVID-19 Case Management Report**

Dr. Urbantke presented the COVID-19 Case Management Report, dated February 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. There were 13 new cases last week, overall positivity was 2.1%, and the incidence rate was 9.6 per 100,000. Most positive cases are close contacts. There are no hospitalizations. Brant entered the COVID-Orange-Restrict zone on February 16. A provincial bi-weekly zone re-assessment is anticipated. As of February 3, all swabs will be tested for variant of concern (VOC). Health Unit staff are conducting enhanced case and contact management. The Ministry of Education now requires that school boards test 5% of their schools each week with rapid antigen testing through a third-party vendor. A rapid positive test result will send the person to the Assessment Centre for a regular test; these people are considered probable cases in the interim. Health Unit staff respond to confirmed positive results. More people may move in and out of school exclusions due to false rapid positive tests. Asymptomatic school staff may also get tested at specific pharmacies.

#### **6.5.2 COVID-19 Immunization Report**

Dr. Tober presented the COVID-19 Immunization Report, dated February 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. All long-term care and retirement home residents received their second doses as of today. Clinics will begin for doses 1 and 2 for staff working in those homes. The Ministry of Health updated the sequencing guidelines on February 13 and adjusted categories; some health care workers were moved into the highest-priority, and adults aged 80+ were moved forward. Vaccine must be offered to each level in order before opening clinics to the next level. Vaccine supply continues to be irregular. Pfizer is expected in Ontario weekly,

there is no word about Moderna, and vaccine must be reserved for second doses. The Health Unit can continue using its own booking system if the Ministry system is delayed. With evolving guidelines and irregular vaccine supply to the end of March, it is difficult to plan for specific or mass immunization clinics.

Staff responded to Members' questions: The community hunger for information about clinics is recognized. With unconfirmed vaccine, clinics cannot be announced. The Health Unit's website is a central point for updated information based on provincial guidelines and provincial direction on what can be posted. Additional channels for information include The Expositor and Facebook. Weekly media briefs are attended by Brant One, Rogers Cable and The Expositor. Information will flow through many media, for example, the BBOHT, physicians, seniors' groups, etc., when timelines and clinics are available. Posting and retracting clinic dates as vaccine fluctuates and directives change does not serve the community well. The Health Unit has a protocol in place for end-of-day vaccinations to avoid wasting any doses.

*Dr. Urbantke left the meeting at 10:35 a.m.*

**6.6 Needle Exchange Program Delegation to City Follow-up** See Item 6.2.

**Moved by:** Mr. Colombo  
**Seconded by:** Mayor Bailey

**“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 6.1 through 6.6 as presented.”** Carried.

**7. NEW BUSINESS**

**7.1 Paid Sick Days**

Chair Bell presented a draft letter of endorsement supporting Bill 239, the *Stay Home If You Are Sick Act*. Members noted that the provincial legislation voted the Bill down on February 16; however, Members expressed agreement to write in support of the concept, in principle, rather than in direct support of the Bill. It was noted that a collaborative federal and provincial funding approach could best serve the endeavour.

**Moved by:** Mayor Bailey  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Sless

**“THAT the Brant County Board of Health endorses, in principle, paid sick days to help limit the spread of infectious diseases.”** Carried.

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

**8.1** Correspondence received from Association of Local Public Health Agencies, dated February 9, 2021, re paid sick days.

**8.2** Correspondence received from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health, dated February 1, 2021, re mandatory paid sick leave for Ontario workers.

**8.3** Correspondence received from Grey Bruce Health Unit, dated January 25, 2021, re overlap of South West Ontario Health/LHIN on public health pandemic response activities.

**8.4** Correspondence received from Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health, dated February 2, 2021, re land and water border restrictions.

**8.5** Correspondence received from the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH), dated January 29, 2021, re safe return to school is an essential priority.

**8.6** Correspondence from the Council of Ontario Directors of Education and COMOH, dated January 28, 2021, re school food programs.

**Moved by:** Mr. Colombo  
**Seconded by:** Councillor Van Tilborg

**“THAT the Brant County Board of Health receive the correspondence for information.”** Carried.

**9. IN-CAMERA MEETING**

**Moved by: Ms. O'Donnell**  
**Seconded by: Ms. Brown**

**“THAT the meeting move to In-Camera at 10:50 a.m. regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual; labour relations or employee negotiations; and risk management issues that pose potential liability for the organization.”** **Carried.**

*The regular Board of Health meeting resumed.*

During the Incamera session, motions were passed for Incamera Items 3.1 and 3.2.

**10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS** None.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 12.1** Needle Exchange Program (*Q1 2021*)
- 12.2** Brant Brantford Community Drugs Strategy (*Q1 2021*)

**12. NEXT MEETING DATES**

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

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by: Mr. Colombo**

**“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:27 a.m.”** **Carried.**

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date