

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, March 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. Gerry Moniz, Manager, Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention
Mr. Brent Richardson, Director, Human Resources
Mr. Tin Vo, Coordinator, Drugs Strategy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

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, February 17 and March 5, 2021

Moved by: Ms. O'Donnell
Seconded by: Councillor Van Tilborg

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes dated February 17, and March 5, 2021, be approved as distributed.” Carried.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

No report.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Report from the Chair No report.

6.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Urbantke presented the Medical Officer of Health Report, dated March 5, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. See Items 6.5.1 and 6.6.

6.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report, dated March 5, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. See Items 6.5.2 and 6.6.

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 March 5, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report provided up-to-date statistics: 90 new cases last week, 89 active cases with 30 variants of concern (VOC). Most VOC cases in Brant can be linked to travel or a VOC case outside the area. Dr. Urbantke responded to questions on the transmissibility and morbidity of VOCs; efficacy of vaccines against VOCs; anticipation that Brant will return to the Red-Control zone next week; most school cases are related to social gatherings rather than classroom exposure; and VOC lineage takes weeks for laboratory confirmation.

6.5.2 COVID-19 Immunization Report

Dr. Tober presented the COVID-19 Immunization Report, dated March 5, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report outlined the most recent information on clinic status in Brant, provincial sequencing, vaccine supply, and extended dose 2 intervals with exclusions. Health Canada has approved AstraZeneca for all ages over 65; there is no AstraZeneca in Brant as this time. As of March 16, a total of 16,582 doses have been given. As directed, Dr. Tober will continue to provide weekly written status reports to Members. Members discussed increasing uptake in 80+ ages, hesitancy, increased messaging, waitlist, year of eligibility, and access for Indigenous, Metis and Inuit populations. Mayor Davis inquired what actions have been taken to comply with the motion of March 5, 2021, regarding clinic locations. Mr. Richardson reported on a meeting with City staff for potential sites based on criteria and will be touring additional sites including the Tourism Centre, Gretzky Center lobby, and 100 Wellington Square. With limited vaccine, the Paris and Market St. clinics are not yet running at full capacity.

Members debated the Gretzky Gym regarding parking, air-conditioning, overall space, summer programming, accessibility, transit, north-end proximity, etc. The Board commented on alternate sites: Woodman Centre, Tourism Centre, and City Hall, and encouraged staff to consider the Gym which could be a secondary clinic site. The Civic Centre is not available and the arena is not climate-controlled. A joint Board/staff tour of the Gym was suggested. Chair Bell stated that the intent of the March 5 motion is clear and that staff need the opportunity to follow through. Members noted that they do not want to be directing Health Unit staff.

Moved: Mr. Mario Colombo
Seconded: Ms. O'Donnell

THAT the Brant County Board of Health direct staff to consider exploration of transitioning the 355 Henry St. COVID immunization location to the Wayne Gretzky Centre Gymnasium on or before May 1, 2021.” **Defeated.**

Members continued discussion: Gretzky Gym has wifi and refrigeration and would make a good pop-up clinic to replace Henry St. No additional staff concerns were voiced other than those previously indicated. Dose 2 appointments are booked into Henry St. into June. Board Members advised they be rebooked to a new location. Mayor Davis offered an amendment to his original motion to change the date to June 1; this was acceptable to the seconder.

Motion: Mayor Davis
Seconded: Councillor Sless

THAT the Board of health provide direction to assist staff to provide the best possible mass immunization clinics,
AND THAT the Henry St. clinic location be transitioned on or before June 1, 2021, to the Gymnasium at the Wayne Gretzky Centre.” **Carried as amended.**

In summary, COVID clinics will cease at 355 Henry St. by June 1, and bookings will transition to the Gretzky Gym pop-up clinic. Mr. Richardson advised that the Health Unit will need to sign a rental contract for the Gym which will include payment for 7 days/week including evenings and weekends even if the space is not used all the time. Mayor Davis disagreed indicating that the Province will pay for costs to the Health Unit, and that the City will charge rent if the Province will pay that rental cost. Otherwise, the City won't charge rent if there is no provincial reimbursement. Ms. DiDonato confirmed that a memorandum of understanding for a mutually-beneficial agreement, at a reasonable cost, is required by the Ministry of Health for potential recovery of funds.

6.6 Harm Reduction Program Report

Mr. Moniz presented the Harm Reduction Program Report, dated March 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report highlighted activities on the Brantford-Brant Drugs Strategy, harm reduction, and opioid surveillance. Mr. Moniz introduced Mr. Tin Vo, Drugs Strategy Coordinator. In response to questions, Mr. Vo explained the process and specific questions within the evaluation matrix. Community partners implementing the Needle Return Initiative provided input into the process and type of incentive cards clients would prefer.

Moved by: Mayor Bailey

Seconded by: Mr. Colombo

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

Mr. Moniz and Mr. Vo left the meeting and Ms. Millsap joined the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Human Resources Report

Mr. Richardson presented the Human Resources Report, dated March 17, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report provided 2020 statistics on employee demographics, succession management, recruitment, turnover, disability management, and labour relations. Pre-pandemic workplace training for all staff and management set the tone for the full year. Human Resources worked closely with management and both union groups, listening to suggestions and feedback to navigate changes in COVID program delivery.

7.2 Healthy Growth and Development Program Report

Ms. Millsap presented the Healthy Growth and Development Program Report, dated March 5, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report highlighted 2020 activities in Healthy Babies, Healthy Children; Healthy Pregnancies; Healthy Growth and Development Promotion; and Positive Parenting. Staff prioritized support to new mothers including breastfeeding, maintained links with community partners, and moved some client interactions to virtual.

Moved by: Mayor Davis

Seconded by: Mr. Colombo

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 7.1 and 7.2 as presented.” Carried.

Ms. Millsap left the meeting at 11:18 a.m.

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

8.1 Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated February 12, 2021, re Food Literacy for Students Act.

8.2 Correspondence received from Chatham-Kent Public Health, dated February 16, 2021, re paid sick leave during COVID.

8.3 Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated February 16, 2021, re paid sick leave.

8.4 Correspondence received from Association of Local Public Health Agencies, dated February 19, 2021, re keeping Ontario safe and open.

8.5 Correspondence received from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, dated February 22, 2021, re mandatory paid sick leave for Ontario workers.

8.6 Correspondence received from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, dated March 1, 2021, re provincial employment standards reform for provision of paid sick days.

8.7 Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated March 3, 2021, re lack of provincial representation on the board of health. Chair Bell reported that two of four of the Board’s provincial appointees’ terms are expiring soon. The Chair has been in contact with MPP Bouma to follow up on renewal requests.

8.8 Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated March 5, 2021, re student nutrition programs.

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Ms. Church

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

9. IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by: Councillor Sless
Seconded by: Ms. Church

“THAT the meeting move to In-Camera at 11:20 a.m. regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual; and risk management issues that pose potential liability for the organization.” Carried.

The regular Board of Health meeting resumed at 12:30 p.m.

During the Incamera session, no motions were passed.

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS None.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Mr. Colombo

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 12:30 p.m.” Carried.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date