

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 9:30 a.m., Zoom Connection
MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor John Bell, Vice-Chair (via Zoom) Dr. Elizabeth Urbantke (via Zoom)
Mayor David Bailey (via Zoom) Dr. Jo Ann Tober (via Zoom)
Ms. Susan Bell (via Zoom) Ms. Lorraine Johnson (recorder)
Mr. Mario Colombo (via Zoom)
Mayor Kevin Davis (via Zoom)
Ms. Joy O'Donnell (via Zoom)
Councillor John Sless (via Zoom)
Councillor Brian Van Tilborg (via Zoom)

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Janet Kwansah, Director, Program Standards (via Zoom)
Mr. Gerry Moniz, Manager, Chronic Diseases Prevention & Injury Prevention (via Zoom)
Mr. Brent Richardson, Director, Human Resources (via Zoom)
Mr. Glenn Roach, Interim Director, Finances (via phone)

The meeting was held by Zoom due to COVID-19 physical distancing.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Bell called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., and introduced two new Board Members: Mayor David Bailey, County of Brant, and Mr. Mario Colombo, Provincial Appointee.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Vice-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

There were no additions to the agenda.

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Councillor Sless

“THAT the Agenda be approved as distributed.” Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes, May 20, 2020

Moved by: Councillor Sless
Seconded by: Ms. Brown

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes, dated May 20, 2020, be approved as presented.” Carried.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 COVID-19 Expenditure Update

Mr. Roach presented the COVID-19 Expenditure Update, dated June 17, 2020, as distributed with the agenda. COVID expenses were in line with the projection. Personal protective equipment (PPE) costs will be higher in June as Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) programs resume. Mr. Roach expressed confidence that the COVID expenses can be funded within the base budget for the entirety of 2020. The Health Unit is comfortable that the existing level of funding from both the City and the County will be sufficient to fund programs services and COVID costs for 2020. Responses to Members' questions: Reserve funds will not be needed. Capital work may take place closer to year-end if funds are available. A second wave of COVID was included in projection calculations, based on the April/May peak. Based on the forecast, BCHU would not be eligible for Ministry COVID operational funds. There are

questions about eligibility for the separate \$4/hour provincial pandemic pay subsidy. Projections for 2020 can be provided to the financial offices of the County and City. BCHU ensured an adequate stockpile of PPE early in the pandemic, and are comfortable with the amount on hand and inventory management. Rolling orders for swabs and PPE continue.

5.2 Ministry of Health Audit Finding 2.6 Insurance Report

Mr. Roach presented the Ministry of Health Audit Finding 2.6 Insurance Report, dated June 17, 2020, as distributed with the agenda. The auditors deemed that Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC) does not satisfy the Accountability Agreement as they do not have an A. M. Best rating and don't offer 30-day cancellation. However, HIROC has provided more than comparable coverage at approximately half the cost of a private carrier. HIROC insures many health agencies across Canada, including other Ontario public health units and the Brant Community Healthcare System. HIROC confirmed they have no plans to implement exclusions for COVID-19 claims. An RFP for insurance services may not garner bids and would reflect a considerably higher cost. There have been no issues with HIROC's service and no significant premium increases since starting with them in 2013.

Responses to Members' questions: The Ministry is aware of the Health Unit's position, recognizes other health units are using HIROC, but holds that it is not compliant with the Accountability Agreement. More information can be provided regarding ratings, cost differential, coverage processes, etc.

Moved by: Councillor Sless

Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT staff provide a report with further information about HIROC and comparable ratings, costs, coverage, etc., for presentation to the Board and to form the basis of a response to the Ministry of Health.” Carried.

Mr. Roach left the meeting at 9:55 am.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Report from the Chair

Vice-Chair Bell welcomed Mayor Bailey and Mr. Colombo to the Board. Thank you letters will be sent to outgoing Members, Ms. Mulligan and Councillor Chambers, in appreciation of their many years of service to the Board. Vice-Chair Bell also applauded the Health Unit for continued efforts and response to COVID-19.

6.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Urbantke presented the Medical Officer of Health Report, dated June 17, 2020, as distributed with the agenda. Dr. Urbantke advised that two heat alerts have been issued so far in in 2020 and reported on Pride month activities. An update on opioid use and overdoses was provided. The Health Unit continues to monitor opioid overdoses and deaths locally; 2020 year-to-date numbers appear lower than 2019. Frequently, non-opioid drugs are involved, as was the case recently. An alert was sent to community partners and People With Lived Experience to ensure awareness. Dr. Urbantke responded to Members' questions: Opioid overdoses are trending down over the long period, supported by data from BCHU, police, EMS, etc. The local opioid surveillance group logs data from community partners on overdoses and issues alerts as appropriate; better weekend data would improve the process. Criteria for issuing heat alerts varies by provincial region. Cooling centres do not fall within the health units' mandate; however, BCHU works with local partners to aid the community.

6.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Dr. Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report, dated June 17, 2020, as provided with the agenda. Dr. Tober's report outlined programs and activities that were continued throughout COVID-19. As well, most programs are now resuming some or many of their usual public health activities, including Clinic Services, School Health, Substance Use and Harm Reduction, Injury Prevention, Mental Health, Seniors, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Equity, Healthy Growth and Development, Lyme Disease and West Nile virus, and Evaluations/Surveillance.

6.4 Food Safety Disclosure Report

No report.

Moved by: Councillor Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 6.1 through 6.4 as presented.”

Carried.

Ms. Kwansah and Mr. Moniz joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 COVID-19 Report

Dr. Urbantke and Dr. Tober presented the joint COVID-19 Report, dated June 17, 2020, as provided with the agenda. In addition to the written report, Dr. Urbantke advised that, as of June 16, Brant had 120 positive cases with 90% resolved. There are currently no hospitalizations. There is an outbreak at Telfer Place with two staff; all staff and residents are being re-tested this week. There have been 10,450+ tests completed in Brant; this is 78 tests/1000 people and is just above the provincial average. Case managers have been able to determine the transmission chain of most cases. There is a lot of activity with re-opening announcements, social circles, gathering numbers, long-term care and retirement home visiting, and congregate settings. All temporary farm workers from Norfolk isolating in Brantford have been repatriated to Norfolk County.

Dr. Urbantke responded to Members' questions: Tollgate Technological School is not an assessment centre. The public can call complaint lines/emails at the BCHU, City and County; complaints are forwarded to the appropriate agency for response. Access to needles under the Needle Exchange Program continued throughout COVID. Members had a lengthy discussion on the temporary farm workers isolating at two Brantford hotels for 14 days including timelines, communication channels, notification of the local Emergency Operations Centre, responsibility of the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit, and support from BCHU. Health Unit staff inspect bunkhouses in Brant; in addition, the Ministry of Labour and federal government inspectors also visit farms which hire temporary farm workers. Outbreak plans for farms depend upon the size of the operation among other factors.

7.2 Healthy Schools Program Report

Mr. Moniz presented the Healthy Schools Program Report, dated June 17, 2020, as provided with the agenda. The report provided highlights of 2019 activities. Health Unit staff worked with school boards, principals and teachers to determine public health involvement in the school community. In addition to resources, the extent of involvement in the schools in the fall of 2020 is uncertain at this point due to COVID. Going forward, vaping is expected to be a priority topic. Mr. Moniz responded to questions: Not all schools developed an action plan with public health; some simply accessed resources. BCHU is working with the Catholic and public school boards regarding re-opening in September. Both boards submitted plans to the Health Unit for comment. It is too early for provincial guidance documents, which would likely come from the Ministry of Education in consultation with the Ministry of Health.

7.3 Oral Health Program Report

Ms. Kwansah presented the Oral Health Program Report, dated June 17, 2020, as provided with the agenda. Ms. Kwansah advised that oral health screening in schools was completed before the schools closed in March, but re-screening and follow-up with parents was impacted. Staff are exploring options to implement the oral health program in schools in the fall, including the provision of lesson plans to schools. Uptake for the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program was good with 50 clients booked before the COVID-related closure. The clinic for seniors will start seeing clients by the end of June. The difference in oral health results was noted between public and Catholic schools, and that Brant falls below the provincial average. The data is compiled by neighbourhood.

7.4 Vision Screening Program Report

Ms. Kwansah presented the Vision Screening Program Report, dated June 17, 2020, as provided with the agenda. Vision screening is only conducted in schools, so the program was postponed for the 2019-2020 school year. The referral rate of 49% is consistent with Ontario statistics. The benefits of the program are seen when parents follow through with appointments to optometrists.

Ms. Kwansah and Mr. Moniz left the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

7.5 Brant County Health Unit 2019 Annual Report

Dr. Tober presented the 2019 Brant County Health Unit Annual Report, as provided with the agenda. Some indicators are set by the Health Unit; others are prescribed by the Province with universal or local targets. More detailed program reports are provided to the Board throughout the year. Members requested a breakdown of the operating expenses for salaries by program area, as well as a statement about the 2019 balanced budget.

7.6 History of Ministry of Health Ontario Public Health Standards Compliance Audit

Vice-Chair Bell prefaced that a two-part Ministry of Health Audit started in 2017 and should be approaching the point of conclusion. Dr. Tober presented a Report on the History of Ministry of Health Ontario Public Health Standards Compliance Audit, dated June 17, 2020, as provided with the agenda. The audit involved measurement against provincial program and organization standards which changed in January 2018. Some recommendations were based on the old standards. The final report had zero requirements and 41 recommendations. To date, 40 of the 41 recommendations have been completed. The outstanding item relates to insurance coverage. A report to the Board in April 2020 outlined all recommendations, responses and status. Vice-Chair Bell expressed confidence that Phase 1 of the audit has been addressed, notwithstanding the insurance item, and this has been communicated to the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Moved by: Councillor Sless
Seconded by: Ms. Brown

“THAT the Board of Health accept reports 7.1 and 7.6 as information.” **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 Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, dated May 20, 2020, re basic income for income security during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- 8.2** Correspondence received from County of Brant, dated June 4, 2019, re appointment of Mayor Bailey to the Board.
- 8.3** Order in Council received from Province of Ontario, dated June 4, 2020, re appointment of Mr. Mario Colombo to the Board.
- 8.4** Correspondence received from Grey Bruce Health Unit, dated June 8, 2020, re Ontario Health reporting inaccuracy COVID-19 enhanced surveillance of long-term care.
- 8.5** Correspondence received from MP, MPP, City Mayor and County Mayor, dated June 4, 2020, re isolation of temporary farm workers.
- 8.6** Correspondence received from Timiskaming Health Unit, dated June 9, 2020, re basic income for income security during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

Moved by: Councillor Sless
Seconded by: Ms. Brown

“THAT the Board of Health receive the correspondence as listed.” **Carried.**

9. ELECTIONS

9.1 Chair

Vice-Chair Bell declared that nominations were open for the position of Chair of the Brant County Board of Health for the present through December 2020.

Moved by: Councillor Sless
Seconded by: Mayor Bailey

“THAT Councillor Bell be nominated for the position of Chair of the Brant County Board of Health for the present through December 2020.” **Carried.**

Councillor Bell accepted the position of Chair.

9.2 Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Bell declared that nominations were open for the position of Vice-Chair of the Brant County Board of Health for the present through December 2020.

Moved by: Mayor Davis

Seconded by: Councillor Van Tilborg

“THAT Ms. Brown be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Brant County Board of Health for the present through December 2020.” **Carried.**

Ms. Brown accepted the position of Vice-Chair. This concluded the elections.

10. IN-CAMERA MEETING

Board Members entered a phone conference at 11:45 a.m.

11. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mayor Davis inquired about the Board of Health meetings being live-streamed or recorded. Staff will look into options for this.

12. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

13. NEXT MEETING DATES

Thursday, July 2, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. for a special meeting.

Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 9:30 a.m. (at the call of the Chair)

14. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Ms. O’Donnell

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned.” **Carried.**

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date