

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 9:30 a.m., Zoom
MINUTES

PRESENT: John Bell (County), Chair
David Bailey (County)
Nancy Church
Kevin Davis (City)
Joy O'Donnell
John Sless (City)
Brian Van Tilborg (City)

Dr. Malcolm Lock (Interim (A) MOH)
Jo Ann Tober (CEO)
Brent Richardson (Director, HR)
Lisa DiDonato (Director, Finance)

Lorraine Johnson (Exec. Asst.) (recorder)

REGRETS: Mario Colombo

ALSO PRESENT: Filip Pajtondziev, Manager, Environmental Health & Infectious Diseases

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

Members asked Jo Ann Tober to include updates on the local Ontario Health Team and Drugs Strategy in her report.

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: John Sless

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

Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes of March 17 and April 21, 2021

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: Nancy Church

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes dated March 17, 2021, and April 21, 2021, be approved as amended.”

Carried.

In the minutes of April 21, Members requested that Susan Brown be added as a guest, and that the motion for Item 5.1 be amended to show that the Board *approved* the draft audited Financial Statement.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

5.1 Financial Position Report ended March 31, 2021

Lisa DiDonato presented the Financial Position Report ended March 31, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report included COVID-19 expenses to date, showing a supplies line deficit. Most COVID expenses stem from salaries and benefits, supplies, and clinic renovations. The under-variance for staff development highlights the current focus on COVID-19 service provision. Surpluses will be applied to COVID expenditures. Needle Exchange expenses will be greater in the second quarter.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

6.1 Report from the Chair

Chair Bell reported that the Province renewed the one-year provincial appointments for Susan Brown and Joy O'Donnell to the Board of Health. Mario Colombo's appointment was not renewed; the Board will send a letter of

thanks to Mario for his time on the Board. Chair Bell noted the positive feedback posted to Facebook about COVID-19 clinics in Brant and expressed appreciation to Health Unit staff.

6.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Lock presented the Medical Officer of Health Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. Dr. Lock provided a summary regarding the pandemic Letter of Instruction (LoI) on fitness centre restrictions, enforcement visits, and provisions under the Accessibility of Ontarians with Disabilities Act. One fitness centre filed an injunction resulting in a hearing during the week of May 10. On May 17, the court released its opinion dismissing the injunction; reasons for the judgment are expected later this week. Expenses for legal representation of the Health Unit are considered COVID-related. Chair Bell noted that County representatives received resident communications about this matter. Dr. Lock noted that the LoI is a transitory set of instructions motivated by non-compliance with the provincial order. Consideration to rescind or amend the LoI would be based, in part, on a reasonable and sustained reduction in local and provincial COVID-19 case numbers and the ability to operate a premises safely. See also Items 6.5.1 and 6.6.

6.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Jo Ann Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. Drugs Strategy reports will occur quarterly. The Coordinator met with the Committees, the Action Plan is complete, a survey for input is in development for distribution in May, and the needle incentive program is ongoing. The memorandum of understanding for the installation of needle disposal bins is with City legal staff. Used needle collections and sweeps continue, as well as education and the promotion of resources. There were 4 opioid-related deaths in April and 17 overdoses. The Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team continues to establish structural components: Human Resources committee (processes, job descriptions), Finance Committee, and the Incident Management System (IMS) Committee which met regarding human health resources when COVID-19 hospitalization and ICU bed numbers were high. The IMS Committee disbanded when the numbers abated. See also Items 6.5.2.

6.4 Food Safety Disclosure Report No report.

Filip Pajtondziew joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

6.5 COVID-19 Reports

6.5.1 COVID-19 Case Management Report

Dr. Lock presented the COVID-19 Case Management Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report provided current COVID-19 statistics on new and active cases, variant of concern (VOC) cases, etc. Brant has not seen any VOCs from the South African lineage. Significant research is underway in Europe and the United States on vaccine efficacy against VOCs. Outbreaks continue including one in an industrial plant. There are no additional deaths to report at this time.

6.5.2 COVID-19 Immunization Report

Jo Ann Tober presented the COVID-19 Immunization Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. Brant has administered 71,331 doses of vaccine, and 5,420 people have received their second dose. This week, in line with the Province, Brant opened bookings for ages 18+ on May 18. Clinics are fully booked to the extent of vaccine supply. Vaccine allocation will increase as diversion to hotspots ceases. The Province also announced that students aged 12-17 years will receive both doses before the September school year commences. Health units must submit individual plans for immunizing this age band, and are awaiting Ministry direction on the interval for dose 2. Brant County Health Unit is working with local school boards on the plan that will see special and/or family-friendly clinics, possibly during the weeks of June 14 and 21.

Jo Ann responded to questions regarding meeting coverage rate targets, gradual lessening of uptake, progress in science and data leading to adjustments in rollout and intervals, vaccine allocation, vaccine for school pupils, clinic location sites, vaccine administration by pharmacies and primary care providers, and staff capacity.

Moved by: John Sless
Seconded by: Susan Brown

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 5.1 and 6.1 through 6.5.2 as presented.” Carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Safe Water Program Report

Filip Pajtondziew presented the Safe Water Program Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report provided a summary of activities in 2020, including the Small Drinking Water Systems program, Recreational Water program, and the Private Well Water initiative. The closure of some premises during the pandemic and redeployment of some staff impacted the 2020 inspection completion rates.

7.2 Food Safety Program Report

Filip Pajtondziew presented the Food Safety Program Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report provided a summary of 2020 activities for inspections/re-inspections, enforcement, and training. The closure of some premises during the pandemic and redeployment of some staff impacted the 2020 inspection completion rates. When the current stay-at-home order lifts, Public Health Inspectors will be conducting inspections of existing and newly-opening food premises.

7.3 Healthy Environments Program Report

Filip Pajtondziew presented the Healthy Environments Program Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. In 2020, Public Health Inspectors responded to 128 Health Hazard complaints from the public as categorized in the report.

7.4 Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Program Report

Filip Pajtondziew presented the Infectious and Communicable Diseases Prevention and Control Program Report, dated May 19, 2021, as distributed with the agenda. The report provided a summary of activities in 2020, with breakouts on type of confirmed illness, type of outbreak, and infection prevention education, investigations, and inspections. The closure of some premises during the pandemic and redeployment of some staff impacted the 2020 inspection completion rates.

Filip Pajtondziew left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

7.5 alPHa Annual Conference and Resolution

Jo Ann Tober presented the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Conference Resolution Report, as distributed with the agenda. The single resolution is on ‘reducing the harms, the availability and youth appeal of electronic cigarettes and vaping products through regulation’. Members agreed to vote in support of the resolution. Chair Bell, Nancy, Joy and Susan requested to be registered for the event.

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: Nancy Church

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 7.1 through 7.5 as presented.” 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 City of North Bay, dated April 7, 2021, re COVID-19 vaccine allocations.

8.2 Correspondence received from Premier of Ontario, dated April 8, 2021, re paid sick leave days.

8.3 Correspondence received from County of Lambton, dated April 26, 2021, basic income for income security.

8.4 Ontario Order in Council reappointing Susan Brown to the Board of Health, effective April 9, 2021.

8.5 Ontario Order in Council reappointing Joy O’Donnell to the Board of Health, effective April 24, 2021.

8.6 Correspondence received from Premier of Ontario, dated April 19, 2021, re provincial re-appointments.

8.7 Correspondence received from alPHa, dated May 7, 2021, re public health measures—extension of current restrictions.

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: Nancy Church

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

9. IN-CAMERA MEETING

Moved by: Brian Van Tilborg
Seconded by: Nancy Church

“THAT the meeting move to In-Camera at 11:01 a.m. regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual; and educating or training the Members.” **Carried.**

The regular Board of Health meeting resumed at 11:19 a.m.

During the Incamera session, no motions were passed.

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

10.1 Board of Health Meeting Format

Members introduced discussion regarding whether the Board should continue meeting virtually post-COVID, and whether consideration should be given to live-streaming and/or posting archived meetings. Some reservation was voiced about live/recorded meetings. Further discussion will occur.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: Susan Brown

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:30 a.m.” **Carried.**

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date