

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, March 16, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Virtual
MINUTES

PRESENT: Susan Brown (Province), Chair
Nancy Church (Province) Vice-Chair
David Bailey (County)
John Bell (County)
Michael Bodnar (Province)
Kevin Davis (City)
Joy O'Donnell (Province)
Brian Van Tilborg (City)

Jo Ann Tober (CEO)
Brent Richardson (Director, Human Resources)
Lisa DiDonato (Director, Finance)
Lorraine Johnson (Exec. Asst.) (recorder)

REGRETS: John Sless (City)

ALSO PRESENT: Ben Deignan, Director/Executive Lead, Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team
Joan Millsap, Manager, Healthy Growth & Development
Filip Pajtondziew, Manager, Environmental Health & Infectious Diseases

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

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

3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Item 8.4 will be heard prior to the other reports.

A written report for Item 6.1 was distributed to Members subsequent to the posting of the Agenda.

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: John Bell

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

Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes of February 16, 2022

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: Joy O'Donnell

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes dated February 16, 2022, be approved as presented.”

Carried.

5. INCAMERA SESSION No In-Camera session was held.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 Finance and Audit Committee Report

Joy O'Donnell, Chair of the Finance and Audit (F&A) Committee, presented the F&A Committee Report, distributed prior to the meeting. The Committee met with Millards Partner, Jennifer Chowhan, and Associate, Diane Paxton, who provided the scope and plan for the 2021 financial audit. The draft audited statements will be presented to the Board in April. Nancy Church is working on revisions to the Committee's Terms of Reference.

Moved by: John Bell
Seconded by: Joy O'Donnell

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept report 6.1 as presented.”

Carried.

7. STANDING REPORTS and BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Report from the Chair

Chair Susan Brown and John Bell conducted the performance appraisals for the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in February. A summary will be provided to Members and the original forwarded to Human Resources for retention. A letter of congratulations will be sent from the Board to Dr. Ninh Tran, Acting MOH at Southwestern Public Health. As Emergency Operations Centre meetings are reduced and regular media sessions cease, it will be important to maintain the momentum of awareness of public health gained over the last two years.

7.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

The Medical Officer of Health's Report was provided with the agenda. Jo Ann Tober advised that Dr. Comley responded in writing to the Fox Ridge Family Council letter, with a copy to the Chair. Additional follow-up and training will be held with the organization.

7.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Jo Ann Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report as distributed with the agenda. While required by the Province to maintain agility to provide COVID services as needed, planning and implementation is underway to resume program activities in dental screening; school and general immunizations; Healthy Babies, Healthy Children in-person home visiting; in-person prenatal classes; school health; sexual health; and others. Short-term support will be provided to schools until June and longer-term activities will be planned for the next school year. The Mind-Up mental health program for schools will run from now until June. Annual program reports to the Board incorporate information on program elements not offered during the pandemic. Chief MOH, Dr. Kieran Moore, has stated that it will take public health approximately 18 months to catch up, taking recovery well into 2023. Members encouraged staff to keep the Health Unit's presence in the media to maintain awareness of public health.

7.4 Food Safety Disclosure Report

This standing item is in place to report on convictions and closures of food premises ticketed for non-compliance with regulations.

7.5 COVID-19 Reports

7.5.1 COVID-19 Case Management Report

Dr. Comley's COVID-19 Case Management Report was provided with the agenda.

7.5.2 COVID-19 Immunization Report

Jo Ann Tober presented the COVID-19 Immunization Report, as provided with the agenda. Current information is provided in the weekly email updates to Members.

Joan Millsap joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

7.5.3 Post-COVID-19 Workplace Planning Report

Brent Richardson reported on the tremendous achievements and stresses that came with COVID. As the focus shifts to recovery planning, the Ministry directed health units to not bleed off COVID resources so vaccination accommodations can continue throughout the year. Full-time, part-time and casual status is under review for temporary COVID employees. Internal and community committee representation is being assessed at different levels. Spacial factors are being considered as staff transition from immunization clinics to in-office, work-from-home, community-launch, or hybrid formats of work. Some internal renovations may be required. Maintaining team cohesion and internal communications will be paramount.

7.6 Strategic Planning

Susan Brown reported that the Strategic Planning Working Group will be setting a meeting in April.

Filip Pajtondziev joined the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

7.7 Report on the alpha Winter Symposium, February 25, 2022

Nancy Church and Mike Bodnar attended the Association of Local Public Health Agencies Winter Symposium on Public Health Resilience. Nancy noted high-level speakers, and ensured the Proceedings were emailed to Members. Board of Health Section panelists of various disciplines shared the impacts the pandemic had on them and their work and offered thoughts on the road ahead. Mike Bodnar shared information: 78% of public health resources went into the pandemic response, unintended consequences of the pandemic included loss of income, increase in opioid deaths, decrease in diagnostic tests, decrease in sexually transmitted infections, increase in non-hospital births, and decrease in the birth rate. Mike inquired how Brant was impacted and will prioritize the return to mandatory program delivery. *(Subsequent to the meeting, Mike Bodnar provided a written summary report of his comments.)*
Jo Ann Tober advised that the alpha Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held online on June 14, 2022.

Moved by:

Brian Van Tilborg

Seconded by:

Nancy Church

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 7.1 through 7.7 as presented.”

Carried.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Healthy Growth and Development Program Report

Joan Millsap presented the Healthy Growth and Development Program Report as distributed with the agenda. Throughout COVID, program efforts were focused on postpartum women including breastfeeding support. Last month, staff resumed long-term in-person home visiting with clients. The other priority was the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program for young mothers which was held online during the pandemic and will be returning to in-person sessions in April.

8.2 Food Safety Program Report

Filip Pajtondziew presented the Food Safety Program Report as distributed with the agenda. The report highlighted inspection rates for 2021. Although many food premises were closed or had reduced service for periods of time during the year, Public Health Inspectors continued inspections, promotion of infection control, and response to complaints.

8.3 Healthy Environments Program Report

Filip Pajtondziew presented the Healthy Environments Program Report as distributed with the agenda. In 2021, 404 health hazard complaints were investigated. Filip confirmed that the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) website has inspection disclosures posted for food premises, personal service settings, and recreational water locations.

8.4 Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team Presentation

Ben Deignan, Director/Executive Lead of the Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team (BBOHT) presented slides summarizing the legislated goal of Ontario Health Teams (OHT) to provide cohesive service to clients from all associated agencies. BBOHT established its Executive Team and collaborative governance board from 14 organizations providing a broad scope of services. Ben spoke to vision, goals, priorities, accomplishments, and funding. Year 1 priorities for populations are mental health and addictions, dementia, and homelessness; and for systems they are COVID response, home/community care, and digital/virtual health. Going forward, the Province would like to see the Norfolk OHT integrated into the BBOHT. There is alignment between OHTs and public health mandates; BBOHT needs public health expertise in data and analytics, and disease prevention and health promotion. Challenges include human health resources, increasing health needs of the community, and changing technology environment. The coordinated voice of a collective OHT will have greater impact for integrated health services. Members questioned Ben about mental health beds, services, transitions, agency leads, and a coordinated strategy. Members noted that Nancy Church and John Bell sit on the BBOHT governance board, representing the Board of Health and the Paris Family Health Team, respectively.

Ben Deignan left the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Moved by: **John Bell**
Seconded by: **Nancy Church**

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept Reports 8.1 through 8.4 as presented.” **Carried.**

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

9.1 Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated February 11, 2022, re enhancing uptake of third COVID-19 vaccine doses and the proof of vaccination record.

9.2 Correspondence received from Sudbury & Districts Public Health, dated February 23, 2022, re health and racial equity: denouncing acts and symbols of hate.

9.3 Correspondence received from Fox Ridge Family Council, dated February 22, 2022, re request for inspection of Sienna Foxridge Long Term Care Home. Dr. Comley has responded in writing

Moved by: **David Bailey**
Seconded by: **Brian Van Tilborg**

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

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members discussed when in-person Board meetings could resume. Under the Province’s directive, BCHU falls within the health care facility group to maintain masking. Dr. Comley has confirmed this position until at least the end of April when provincial restrictions are further removed. Jo Ann Tober will follow up with Dr. Comley.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, April 20, 2022.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by: **Kevin Davis**

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:18 a.m.” **Carried.**

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date