

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, April 20, 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)
John Sless (City)
Brian Van Tilborg (City)

Dr. Rebecca Comley (Acting MOH)
Jo Ann Tober (CEO)
Brent Richardson (Director, Human Resources)
Lisa DiDonato (Director, Finance)
Alexey Babayan (Director, Foundational Standards)

ALSO PRESENT: Jennifer Chowhan, Engagement Partner, Millards Accountants
Diane Paxton, Associate, Millards Accountants
Gerry Moniz, Manager, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Injury Prevention
Alyssa Stryker, Drugs Strategy Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Susan Brown called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. Permission was requested to record the meeting for the sole purpose of recording the minutes of this meeting; no concerns were raised.

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

Moved by: **David Bailey**
Seconded by: **Nancy Church**

“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 16, 2022

Members asked that the Chief Executive Officer's performance appraisal be added to Item 7.1.

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

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

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 with the agenda which provided a summary of the discussion and activities of the April 11 meeting. Committee Members met privately with the auditors prior to the F&A meeting where Millards advised they have a good working relationship with the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) Management Team. On April 11, Millards reviewed the draft financial statements and management letter. No material misstatements were identified.

6.2 Draft 2021 Audited Financial Statements

Jennifer Chowhan and Diane Paxton of Millards presented the Draft 2021 Audited Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2021, and accompanying draft findings and representation letters, as distributed with the agenda. Jennifer reviewed the highlights of the management letter. Millards confirmed that there were no areas of concern and no finding of material misstatements. In their opinion, the Statements presented fairly in all material aspects. Diane reviewed the draft statements including changes in format and content from the previous year, and highlighted several of the Notes, capital spending and amortization, and COVID-19-specific funding and expenditures. Jennifer, Diane and Lisa DiDonato responded to Members' inquiries specific to the letters, the draft Statements, and adherence to BCHU's financial controls.

Moved by: Joy O'Donnell
Seconded by: Nancy Church

“THAT the Board of Health accept and approve the draft audited Financial Statements for the calendar year ending December 31, 2021, including the general Program-Based Grant programs and specifically-funded programs listed herein:

Schedule 1	Brant County Health Unit Cost-Shared Programs
Schedule 2	Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program
Schedule 3	Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program
Schedule 4	Ontario Senior Dental Program
Schedule 5	School Focused Nurses Initiative Program.”

Carried.

Jennifer Chowhan and Diane Paxton left the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

7. STANDING REPORTS and BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Report from the Chair

Chair Susan Brown noted the following items: importance of the public health role with Indigenous communities, updated succession plan for presentation in June, impact of ending provincial COVID-19 orders on BCHU, timing of financial reports to the Board, resumption of in-person Board meetings, and the alpha election primer.

David Bailey left the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

7.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Rebecca Comley presented the Medical Officer of Health Report as distributed with the agenda. Dr. Comley provided a summary of her activities during the past month. Key areas, in the short term, for service resumption include Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, Dental, Drugs Strategy, Sexual Health, general School Program, and Healthy Babies Healthy Children visits. Jo Ann Tober added that most permanent BCHU staff are back to regular public health programming with contract/temporary staff working in the COVID clinics. Dr. Comley confirmed that there is a significant role for primary care providers in health promotion.

7.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

Jo Ann Tober presented the Chief Executive Officer Report as distributed with the agenda. Jo Ann provided an update on the Brantford Brant Ontario Health Team, the Ontario Public Health Association, and BCHU public health program recovery. Jo Ann responded to questions on the role of the Drugs Strategy Coordinator.

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 presented the COVID-19 Case Management Report as distributed with the agenda. Dr. Comley noted the Ministry of Health's guidance on the evolving role of public health units toward surveillance, outbreak management, and communications. An overview of Brant numbers and provincial trends was given. Locally, wastewater data is inconsistent attributable, in part, to the small sample size; there is variable alliance with

hospitalizations locally and in other jurisdictions. Wave 6 illness has had a major impact on health human resources in hospitals and other agencies. While not responsible for therapeutics, health units provide messaging about access; decentralization by the Ministry is permitting primary care providers to prescribe access to therapeutics. BCHU will keep the existing Section 22 Order in place regarding COVID isolation standards for international agricultural workers. Dr. Comley confirmed that BCHU staff are still required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment on-site and in the community, for example, staff wear masks at school immunization clinics and provide masks for the students to wear for mutual protection.

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; approximately 3700 Dose 4 vaccinations have been administered recently. The first Novavax clinic will be held on April 21. Moderna has submitted a newly-formulated vaccine for approval for children <5 years of age. The provincial Order will expire on April 27; the impact for BCHU is expected to be minimal. Jo Ann confirmed that locations for mobile pop-clinics are informed by neighbourhood coverage rates.

7.6 Strategic Planning

Susan Brown reported that the Strategic Planning Working Group will be meeting on May 6 to consider what the Members want to include in future discussions about strategic planning.

7.7 alpha Conference and AGM – June 14, 2022

Jo Ann Tober advised that the Association of Local Public Health Agencies' Annual General Meeting and Conference will be held online on June 14, 2022. Materials were emailed to Members on March 29.

7.8 Brant County Health Unit and Indigenous Partnerships

Jo Ann Tober provided background information on BCHU's working relationship with Six Nations of the Grand River and other local Indigenous agencies. Six Nations has many parallel health and other services. BCHU works more closely with Six Nations whereas the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, who also have their own health services, generally connect with the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit. While First Nations funding flows mainly from the federal government, Indigenous residents have access to Ontario's health services. In various capacities, BCHU has partnered with and/or supported the De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre in Brantford, the Brantford Region Indigenous Support Centre (BRISC), and more recently the Six Nations Polytechnic post-secondary school.

Dr. Comley stated that throughout the pandemic, BCHU has actively participated in the Six Nations EOC calls, ensured that Six Nations has access to provincial guidance documents and alerts, assisted with some immunization clinics, connected regarding COVID assessments and access to therapeutics, and has provided support as requested. BCHU staff have received cultural safety training; Indigenous trainers were from the Woodland Cultural Centre and Six Nations of the Grand River. Dr. Comley outlined the difference between cultural competence and culture safety and assured Members that BCHU is committed to gaining more understanding and strengthening practices as an agency. The Province has placed a high priority on public health relations with the Indigenous community regardless of geographic location. Examples of BCHU seeking Indigenous perspective for program planning include working with the Aboriginal Healthy Babies program for Child Health programming, and with the Gane Yohs Community Health Centre in Ohsweken regarding Infectious Diseases.

Moved by:

John Sless

Seconded by:

Nancy Church

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept reports 7.1 through 7.8 as presented.”

Carried.

Gerry Moniz and Alyssa Stryker joined the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Substance Use, Harm Reduction and Smoke-Free Ontario Act Program Report

Gerry Moniz presented the Substance Use, Harm Reduction and Smoke-Free Ontario Act Program Report as distributed with the agenda. Gerry provided a synopsis of the report noting recent activities and introduced Alyssa Stryker, Drugs Strategy Coordinator. Alyssa highlighted her activities to date including work on the Action Plan and findings as well as meetings with community partners. The Coordinator’s role is to bring people and partners together for cohesive service delivery. Alexey Babayan confirmed that the Action Plan is being reviewed and updated. Jo Ann Tober addressed questions related to the Coordinator’s role in relation to the Ontario Health Team and broader community partners.

Moved by: Nancy Church
Seconded by: John Sless

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept Report 8.1 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 sent to Fox Ridge Family Council, dated Mar. 10, 2022, re inspection request for Sienna Foxridge Long Term Care Home.
- 9.2 Correspondence sent to Dr. Ninh Tran, dated Mar. 21, 2022, re appointment as MOH at Southwestern Public Health.
- 9.3 Correspondence received from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, dated Mar. 16, 2022, re response to opioid crisis in Simcoe Muskoka and Ontario-wide.
- 9.4 Correspondence received from alPHa, dated March 24, 2022, re alPHa Elections Primer for 2022.
- 9.5 Correspondence received from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, dated March 30, 2022, re health and racial equity.
- 9.6 Correspondence received from Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, dated March 30, 2022, re work deployment measures for boards of health.
- 9.7 Correspondence received from Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit, dated March 21, 2022, re racial equity.
- 9.8 Correspondence received from Peterborough Public Health, dated April 8, 2022, re health and racial equity.

Moved by: Nancy Church
Seconded by: Brian Van Tilborg

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

Kevin Davis left the meeting at 11:53 a.m.

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- 11.1 Presentation/Training – Indigenous Culture

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, May 18, 2022.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Susan Brown adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date