

BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Hybrid Virtual/Classroom 420/421
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)
Brent Richardson (Acting Senior Administrator)
Janet Kwansah (Director, Program Standards)
Dr. Alexey Babayan (Director, Foundational Standards)
Lisa DiDonato (Director, Finance)
Lorraine Johnson (recorder)

ALSO PRESENT: Gerry Moniz, Manager, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Injury Prevention
Michelle Regan, Manager, Clinic Services

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

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes of May 18, 2022

Moved by: David Bailey

Seconded by: John Sless

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health Minutes dated May 18, 2022, be approved as circulated.”

Carried.

5. INCAMERA SESSION

Moved by: John Bell

Seconded by: Joy O'Donnell

“THAT the meeting move to In-Camera at 9:33 a.m. regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual and risk management/issues that pose potential liability to the organization.”

Carried.

The regular Board of Health meeting resumed at 10:03 a.m.

During the Incamera session, no motions were passed.

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

6.1 Financial Report ended May 31, 2022

Lisa DiDonato presented the Financial Report ended April 30, 2022, as distributed with the Agenda. The net surplus to date was explained; it is expected that the use of program funds will increase in the coming quarters. Lisa advised that revenue streams flow regularly at different frequencies depending upon the sources.

Moved by: Nancy Church

Seconded by: John Sless

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept the Financial Report ended April 30, 2022, as presented.”

Carried.

7. STANDING REPORTS and BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

7.1 Report from the Chair

Chair Susan Brown expressed thanks for the work done over the past few weeks and in the last few days, congratulated Brent Richardson on his new role as Acting Senior Administrator and assured him of the Board's support. With changes come opportunities to adjust Board timetables, engagement, staff development, wins, innovation, trends, and recommend policy changes. Chair Brown expressed expectations for professional and collegial interactions among Board of Health Members, the Senior Leadership Team, and Management Team. Topics for the July Board meeting were outlined.

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 recent activities. Community risk for Monkeypox is generally low. There are no confirmed or suspect cases in Brant to date. Public messaging continues about avian influenza in wild fowl. An interview with the Brantford-Brant Drugs Strategy Coordinator appeared in the June 15 Brantford Expositor. Members invited Dr. Comley to speak to her long-term strategic plan, administration of all Ministry programs, proactive engagement in topics such as tobacco and alcohol use, and potentially making regular presentations to City and County Councils.

7.3 Report from the Chief Executive Officer

The Chief Executive Officer Report was distributed with the Agenda. The reported provided an update on the Brantford Brant Norfolk Ontario Health Team (BBNOHT), public health program recovery. Brent Richardson provided an update from the last 4 days to support the team through the transition and to plan meetings over the next weeks with individual program teams. Cynthia St. John, CEO at Southwestern Public Health has agreed to support Brent as a mentor. Members invited Brent to speak to his long-term strategies for the agency and administrative priorities as the co-leader of the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU). Members asked for information on non-smoking enforcement in a residential apartment building and weekend phone/message receipt and response.

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. Rebecca Comley presented the COVID-19 Case Management Report as distributed with the Agenda. The downward trend in new cases continues. Currently, there are no hospitalizations and 2 outbreaks. There have been no outbreaks in the international agricultural worker community this year and Health Unit staff are in regular communication with the Grand River Community Health Centre and the local Assessment Centre in case there is a need for response. On June 11, the Province dropped most regulations. The hospital will continue with making. Until BCHU makes a decision, the current masking policy remains in place. Updated provincial guidance on eligibility, vaccines, etc., is not expected until August. Dr. Comley responded to questions about intervals, personal risk considerations, and adverse reactions. Members requested that the weekly COVID Incidence and Testing Trends Report and the weekly Vaccination Report be reduced to monthly updates to the Board.

7.5.2 COVID-19 Immunization Report

The COVID-19 Immunization Report was provided with the Agenda.

7.6 Strategic Planning

No report

Gerry Moniz joined the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

7.7 alPHa Conference and AGM –June 14, 2022

Chair Susan Brown, Vice-Chair Nancy Church, Michael Bodnar, and Dr. Comley attended the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHa) Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Conference online on June 14, 2022. Vice-Chair Church reported that leaders of the provincial agencies Ontario Health and Public Health Ontario spoke in strong support of local public health units. Chair Brown reported on post-election analysis, inter-governmental relationships, support of public health by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, an opioids session, and passage of all resolutions at the AGM. Michael Bodnar reported on alPHa elections, pandemic lessons learned, surge capacity, policy vs science and messaging channels.

7.8 Brantford Brant Norfolk Ontario Health Team Joint Board Update

John Bell reported that the local Brantford Brant Norfolk Ontario Health Team (BBNOHT) is made up of 30 separate agencies coming together as one governance body. Vice-Chair Church represents the Board of Health. It is unlikely that meetings will be held during the summer. Vice Chair Church indicated that Dr Comley and Brent Richardson have been encouraged to attend BBNOHT executive leadership meetings to increase BCHU involvement.

Michelle Regan joined the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Moved by: John Bell
Seconded by: Nancy Church

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Healthy Schools Program Report

Gerry Moniz presented the Healthy Schools Program Report as distributed with the Agenda. The report provided highlights from 2021 and activities into 2022. Most of the work with schools throughout 2021 was COVID response. For 2022, in-school immunization clinics were held in March. Staff have re-connected with school principals, delivered mental health sessions to Grade 6 students, and participated in Kindergarten enrolment. A transition to online public health resources for schools will expand accessibility for teachers going forward.

Gerry Moniz left the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

8.2 Oral Health and Vision Health Programs Report

Michelle Regan presented the Oral Health and Vision Health Programs Report as distributed with the Agenda. Michelle provided highlights of 2021 activities and statistics. Construction for the expanded dental operatories began in January 2021 and was completed in June 2021. The Dental program was able to work within the limitations of COVID restrictions to provide service under the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) and the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program for children. No vision screening was conducted in schools. Towards the end of 2021 and again in spring 2022, school-based oral health screenings were re-initiated in 50 schools. For 2022, program recovery will focus on resuming vision screening in schools, resuming daycare fluoride varnish programs, and program expansion to serve more clients with OSDCP and HSC dental care.

Michelle Regan left the meeting at 11:17 a.m.

8.3 Brant County Health Unit 2021 Annual Report

Brent Richardson presented the Brant County Health Unit 2021 Annual Report as included with the Agenda. The Annual Report will be posted to the website following this Board meeting.

Moved by: David Bailey
Seconded by: Nancy Church

“THAT the Brant County Board of Health accept Reports 8.1 through 8.2 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 seven Brantford-brant Provincial Election Candidates, dated May 19, 2022, regarding public health matters.

Moved by:

John Bell

Seconded by:

Brian Van Tilborg

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

Carried.

10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Joy O’Donnell inquired by BCHU is not a partner in the newly-announced community hub with other partner agencies. Members advised that the hub was driven by one agency’s space needs which was joined by several other agencies seeking common physical facilities. The private group is in the early stages of conversation to explore a potential shared location. It was noted that most members of the hub group are also members of the BBNOHT and updates can flow to the Board through Dr. Comley and Brent Richardson.

11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

11.1 Presentation/Training – Indigenous Culture

12. NEXT MEETING DATES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Wednesday, August 17, 2022 – at the Call of the Chair

Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by:

John Sless

Seconded by:

David Bailey

“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:31 a.m.”

Carried.

Chair

Date

Secretary

Date