

Date: October 17th, 2024 | Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Location: 191 Highland Street, Haliburton

6. Medical Officer of Health Update

Presenter: Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

An update was given related to respiratory season, with activity levels staying within seasonal averages at this time.

Dr. Bocking shared information related to Community Health Data Dashboards that were added to the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit (HKPRDHU) [website](#) in October. These dashboards included; the [Respiratory Infections Dashboard](#), which tracks activity of COVID-19, influenza, RSV, and other respiratory viruses. The [Mental Health Dashboard](#), which uses mental health indicators from the latest Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) alongside local data on emergency department visits and hospitalizations related to mental health. As well as the [Substance Overdose Profile Dashboard](#), which utilizes data on substance overdose-related harms in the HKPR District including emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths.

The 105th Annual International Plowing Match (IPM) was held in the City of Kawartha Lakes in October. The IPM and Rural Expo is a five-day celebration of agriculture and rural living. The HKPRDHU Environmental Health team engaged in 58 food inspections or reinspection's, 72 chlorine checks on water distribution lines, collected 24 bacteriological water samples, and provided no smoking/no vaping signage checks, education and issued some warnings.

The complete update can be watched [here](#), and the presentation can be viewed [here](#)

7. Report

Situational Assessment of a Four Pillar Approach to Addressing the Drug Poisoning Crisis

Presenters: Vidya Sunil, Epidemiologist, and Kate Hall, Health Promoter

A presentation was given on the Situational Assessment of a Four Pillar Approach to Addressing the Drug Poisoning Crisis. The purpose of the report is to provide a situational assessment of local trends in drug use and poisonings, and the four-pillar approach used to address the crisis in the County of Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County. The presentation included data related to trends in emergency department visits, opioid-related hospitalizations, and deaths, citing percentages for each of the HKPRDHU's regions. A survey of people with lived experience was conducted and data shared related to drug use/method of consumption, drug of choice and harm reduction supports locally and on a larger scale. Key takeaways from this presentation include an explanation of the Four Pillar approach: prevention and education, harm

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reduction, treatment and community safety. As well as recommendations for local action; engaging people with lived experience, addressing the urgency, investing in upstream prevention and early interventions and more.

Along with the presentation, the full [Situational Assessment](#) and accompanying infographics were made available to the Board of Health.

The presentation can be viewed [here](#), and accompanying documents can be viewed [here](#). The full presentation can be watched [here](#).

8. New Business

Support for Wastewater Surveillance

Presenter: Dr. Natalie Bocking, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the value of wastewater surveillance as a useful and cost-effective monitoring tool, and since then, it has proven effective in surveillance of other infectious diseases circulating within the community, including Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), Mpox and polio virus. As of August 1st, 2024, the provincial Wastewater Surveillance Initiative (WSI) is no longer collecting or testing wastewater samples provided by public health units or their municipal partners. Given the established applications of wastewater-based surveillance, its potential uses, and its critical role in pandemic preparedness, the Foundational Standards Division recommended that the Board of Health send a letter of support to the Province of Ontario, endorsing Peterborough Public Health Unit's and Renfrew County District Health Unit's Correspondence, advocating for the continued support of infectious disease wastewater surveillance.

The Board of Health received the drafted letter of support and accompanying briefing note and approved the endorsement and circulation of the letter.

The approved draft letter of support can be read [here](#), and accompanying briefing note can be read [here](#).

Corporate Services Updates

Corporate Services provided an update to the Board of Health regarding insurance renewal. The Board of Health also received the unaudited operating statements for the nine-month period ending September 30th, 2024, in the amount of \$ 16, 648, 366.

The full summary can be read [here](#), and viewed [here](#)

Ratification of Updated Code of Conduct

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As discussed at the September 19th Board of Health meeting, an email was circulated to Board Members for their approval of Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit's updated Code of Conduct. As such, The Board of Health's approval via email of the revised Code of Conduct policy was ratified at the October 17th meeting.

10. Correspondence

The following correspondence were shared with the Board of Health for information:

- [alPHa Fall Symposium Registration Reminder](#)
- [Ontario Protecting Communities and Supporting Addiction Recovery with](#)

[New Treatment Hubs](#)

- [Health Canada introduces new measures to help prevent harms to youth from nicotine replacement therapies - Canada.ca](#)

Date of Next Meeting

November 21st, 2024, from 9:30 – 11:30am, at the Lindsay office (108 Angeline Street S, Lindsay)