

Date: March 21, 2024 | Time: 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. | Location: 108 Angeline St. South, Lindsay

5. Business Arising – Motion Re: Intention to pursue a merger with Peterborough Public Health

The Board of Health publicly ratified the following resolution outlining their intent to pursue a merger with Peterborough Public Health:

WHEREAS, the Board of Health understands that full and adequate funding for voluntary public health unit mergers will be supported by the Ministry of Health;

WHEREAS, the Board of Health believes that a merger of the HKPRDHU and Peterborough Public Health (PPH) Boards of Health will result in a more effective level of service to all area residents; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Health seeks to maintain or enhance the existing partnerships with First Nations in communities served by the Health Units;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Health for HKPRDHU:

- Intends to pursue a merger with the Board of Health for PPH; and
- Agrees to work together to develop a business case and funding proposal regarding the merger, subject to sufficient funding being provided by the Ministry of Health as specifically outlined in the business case; and
- Create a joint Board of Health Merger Steering Committee, with equal membership from both HKPRDHU and PPH, to support the development of a Business Case and guide collaborative work towards a merger.

6. Medical Officer of Health Update

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

Measles

In December 2023, The World Health Organization reported an alarming 30-fold rise in measles cases in Europe. Since January 1, 2024, 28 measles cases have been reported in Quebec, and 9 cases have been reported in Ontario (2 have no clear exposures (no travel history)). Public Health's response to measles includes prevention (promotion of vaccination), early detection (awareness

among health care providers and travellers), and disrupting ongoing transmission through identifying contacts exposed to confirmed cases.

Solar Eclipse

The role of Public Health with regard to the upcoming solar eclipse is to raise awareness regarding safety considerations (solar retinopathy, and the implications of mass gatherings. The Health Unit has been working with municipalities to make sure that mass gathering response plans are in place (food vendors etc.).

Drug Poisoning Crisis

The Health Unit continues to support the Haliburton Kawartha Lakes Northumberland Drug Strategy through data analysis of a survey among people who use drugs, and coordinating and hosting monthly meetings.

The Health Unit also maintains the [Opioid Dashboard Report](#), which provides up-to-date information regarding opioid overdoses and deaths in Haliburton County, the City of Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County.

Dr. Bocking also updated the Board of Health on a pilot project to support the distribution of test strips for fentanyl and xylazine and two community partner sessions focused on preparation for acute drug poisoning events.

The complete update can be found [here](#) in the recorded meeting session.

8.2 New Business

Support for Bill C-322 National Framework for a School Food Program Act

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

The Board of Health endorsed support for Bill C-322 *National Framework for a School Food Program Act*. A national policy would set a standard both for securing food for schools and ensuring it is delivered consistently, sustainably, and within a context of transformative action to improve students' health and achievement outcomes and build cultural and economic success.

The briefing note, which explains support for the advocacy, can be found [here](#).

8.3 New Business

Corporate Services Updates:

Presenter: Matthew Vrooman, Director, Corporate Services

Meeting Summary

Board of Health

Mr. Vrooman shared that the Health Unit is reporting 18 employees who earned over \$100,000 2023, six less than the figure reported in 2022 for the Public Sector Salary Disclosure.

The complete update, including the Unaudited Operating Statements, can be found [here](#) within the agenda links.

For the complete meeting details, please see the [agenda package](#) or view our video recording [online](#).

Date of Next Meeting

April 18, 2024, 9:30 am – 11:30 am, Port Hope Office, 200 Rose Glen Road, Port Hope.