



May 6, 2021
Board of Health Meeting
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, May 6, 2021 virtually through MS Teams commencing at 3:01 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. L. Baldwin-Sands	Board Member
Mr. T. Comiskey	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member
Mr. T. Marks	Board Member
Mr. L. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. J. Preston	Board Member (Vice Chair)
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
Dr. J. Lock	Medical Officer of Health
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer
Ms. A. Koning	Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. S. MacIsaac	Program Director
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink	Director, Finance
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director
Ms. C. Walker	Program Director
Ms. M. Cornwell	Manager, Communications
Mr. G. Colgan	Woodstock Sentinel-Review
Mr. R. Perry	Aylmer Express

1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

1.2 AGENDA

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-1.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for May 6, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

L. Baldwin-Sands requested an update regarding the Mom's Stop the Harm correspondence that was discussed at the April 1st meeting. P. Heywood noted that the Elgin Community Drug and Alcohol Steering Committee discussed the correspondence, and they will be circulating the correspondence for consideration.

1.3 Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when Item Arises.

1.4 Reminder that Meetings are Recorded for minute taking purposes.

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-2.1)

Moved by J. Preston
Seconded by G. Jones

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for April 1, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

S. Molnar asked for clarity on why consent agenda item from MPP Sattler, dated January 25, 2021 was shared at the May meeting. C. St. John noted that this was one of several items of the same subject and SWPH was carefully considering the correspondence that was circulating from other health units as well as the correspondence from MPP Sattler and that is why it was brought forward at this time.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-3.0)

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands
Seconded by T. Marks

That the Board of Health for the Southwestern Public Health receive and file consent agenda items 3.1 – 3.4.

Carried.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION

C. St. John summarized the correspondence from Simcoe Muskoka.

The board discussed the correspondence regarding provincial employment standards reform for provision of paid sick days at length. The members felt that there were several considerations as to whether they supported the letter as presented by Simcoe Muskoka or whether they didn't.

C. St. John clarified that SWPH is looking for direction from the Board as to whether SWPH staff should bring forward a letter for their consideration, based on SWPH's research of this subject matter. C. St. John noted that many organizations have supported the advocacy efforts noted in the correspondence, given the challenges that many individuals face due to the lack of paid sick days. The pandemic has certainly brought this concern to the forefront.

The board expressed concern with respect to the additional work this would create for staff to consider this matter, based on the current pandemic response and demands of SWPH. P. Heywood noted that staff do have capacity to research this matter further and estimates a time of approx. 5-7 hours to complete research and draft correspondence for consideration. It was noted that surveying a variety of businesses and operations such as small business owners, corporations, and farmers, must be considered when bringing forward recommendations.

The board directed staff to draft correspondence for consideration regarding provincial employment standards reform for provision of paid sick days, based on SWPH's research of the matter.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-4.0)

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for the Southwestern Public Health support correspondence 4.1 as noted.

Carried.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.ACCEPTANCE.DECISION

5.1 Chief Executive Officer's Report for May 2021

C. St. John reviewed her report.

C. St. John noted that many of the SWPH cases are in workplaces. Based on SWPH investigations, the cases are a result of failure to screen staff prior to attending work. She noted that it is important to remind workplaces that screening of workers prior to attending work and ensuring symptomatic workers do not attend the workplace, is vital to containing the spread of COVID-19.

C. St. John noted that Infection Prevention and Control is such an important piece of SWPH's work in containing the spread of COVID-19 and all other infections. The ultimate goal of the IPAC Hub is to setup a community of practice for all congregate settings within the regions.

C. St. John noted that 50,000 residents in the SWPH region have received at least one dose of vaccine. She noted that the hot spot vaccine clinic is operating today for the N5H postal code residents.

C. St. John noted that she has received wonderful feedback with respect to our vaccination efforts thus far, which is shared with our staff. She noted that this feedback is so important for our staff to hear and this is relayed to them regularly. She noted that feedback received for efficiency improvements is also considered as there is always opportunity for improvement.

C. St. John noted that the Planning group will be focusing on the pandemic recovery, specifically community and organizational recovery, as this is an important piece of our work going forward.

D. Mayberry asked if the number of vaccinations, as noted in the report, include those who have been vaccinated in pharmacies, primary care settings or other public health regions. It was confirmed the number stated in the report is the number of SWPH residents that have been vaccinated, no matter where they obtained their vaccine.

D. Mayberry asked what is the ratio of these residents that obtained vaccine from SWPH. C. St. John noted that she would share this information with the Board members at a later date, as she does not have immediate access to that information.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-5.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for May 6, 2021.

Carried.

5.4 Medical Officer of Health's Report for May 2021

Dr. Lock reviewed her report.

Dr. Lock noted that wave three has been very tough and it has taken quite a long time to move things in the right direction. She noted that wave three was so big, that at the provincial level, we are just below the peak of wave two, which means we still have a ways to go for the Province to consider opening.

Dr. Lock noted that the vaccine rollout is going well, she noted that 40% of the population in Ontario has received vaccine, which is ahead of schedule. She noted that adults aged 18 and over will be eligible to book a vaccine by the end of May.

Dr. Lock noted that Public Health Ontario issued a report regarding the efficacy of vaccine on the infection. It was noted in the report that only 0.06% of those who were vaccinated contracted the infection. This is good evidence that the vaccine is working.

Dr. Lock believes that we will not be coming out of the Stay-at-Home Orders on May 20th.

G. Jones asked about an instance regarding a specific case and direction on whether to isolate or not. Dr. Lock noted that contacts of cases are required to isolate. C. St. John noted that we recommend that the contact of the case should contact SWPH. This will allow the case investigator to provide direction based on the specific details of the case.

T. Comiskey asked if the ICU capacities in the SWPH region are able to meet our regional needs. Dr. Lock noted that SWPH receives reports from the regional hospitals. She noted that there are ICU beds taken by those from other regions, however we do have capacity for our own residents, and she does not have concerns.

S. Molnar asked if the Public Health Ontario report that Dr. Lock referenced would be able to be shared with the board. Dr. Lock noted that the link to the report would be shared after the meeting.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-5.2)

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by S. Molnar

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for May 6, 2021.

Carried.

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-C7)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health moves to closed session in order to consider one or more the following as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act:

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26.

Other Criteria:

- (a) a request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, if the council, board, commission or other body is the head of an institution for the purposes of that Act; or
- (b) an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, a local board or a municipally-controlled corporation by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, an Ombudsman referred to in subsection 223.13 (1) of this Act, or the investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2014, c. 13, Sched. 9, s. 22.

Carried.

8.0 RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-C8)

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-C3.1)

Moved by J. Preston

Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for May 6, 2021.

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-C3.2)

Moved by T. Marks

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the proposal within the Finance and Facilities report as recommended by the Committee.

Carried.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0506-10)

Moved by T. Marks

Seconded by L. Baldwin-Sands

That the meeting adjourns at 4:27 p.m. to meet again virtually on June 3, 2021.

Carried.

Confirmed: _____

