



September 9, 2021
Board of Health Meeting
Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, September 9, 2021 virtually through MS Teams commencing at 3:04 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. L. Baldwin-Sands	Board Member
Mr. T. Comiskey	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. M. Cornwell	Manager, Communications
Ms. S. Fox	Program Manager
Ms. B. Boersen	Health Promoter
Mr. I. McCallum	myFM radio
Mr. R. Perry	Aylmer Express
Ms. W. Lee	Administrative Assistant

ABSENT:

Mr. G. Jones	Board Member
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1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

1.2 AGENDA

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-1.2)

Moved by T. Comiskey
Seconded by J. Preston

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for September 9, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

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-0909-2.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by D. Warden

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for June 3, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-2.2)

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands
Seconded by S. Molnar

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for July 6, 2021 be approved.

Carried.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-3.0)

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by T. Marks

That the Board of Health for the Southwestern Public Health receive and file consent agenda items 3.1 – 3.5.

Carried.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION

C. St. John noted that the letter of correspondence presented was revised based on the Board's previous discussions and direction.

S. Molnar noted that he has concerns regarding paid sick leave beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. There was no further discussion regarding the letter presented.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-4.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the Advocacy Letter for Paid Sick Leave as presented.

Carried.

5.0 AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.ACCEPTANCE.DECISION

5.1 Governance Standing Committee Report for September 9, 2021

L. Martin noted that the Board of Health Self Evaluation will be distributed and asked that the Board members complete the survey.

L. Baldwin-Sands asked when they can expect the solicitation for expressions of interest for membership to the Board of Health would commence. C. St. John noted that within the next two weeks, the posting should be published.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-5.1)

Moved by S. Molnar
Seconded by L. Baldwin-Sands

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Governance Standing Committee's report for September 9, 2021.

Carried.

5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report for September 9, 2021

C. St. John reviewed her report.

C. St. John noted that Case and Contact Management continues and cases are being managed. However, readiness plans are in place if there is a surge in COVID-19 cases with the anticipation of the fourth wave.

C. St. John noted that Dr. Lock and Dr. Summers, Associate Medical Officer of Health for Middlesex London Health Unit, have worked very closely with school boards to ensure aligned services and support with the reopening of schools, given our shared school boards.

C. St. John noted that SWPH has exceeded the Ministry targets for vaccination rates and commended staff of their efforts to reach this target.

C. St. John noted that SWPH continues to see great success with our mobile and pop-up clinics. She noted that given our vast region, these methods of vaccine delivery have been great avenues to deliver vaccine and they have been appreciated by community members.

C. St. John noted that staff are developing program plans currently which directly align with budget development for 2022. She noted that there are some challenges with unknowns such as our COVID-19 response and vaccination efforts. She noted that there are many programs that have been impacted by COVID-19 and SWPH will be encompassing this impact within the program plans.

C. St. John noted that the audited financial statements for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children and Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner Program were received after the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee met and therefore both are coming directly to the Board of Health for approval.

L. Rowden expressed concern regarding the proof of vaccination required for specific businesses. He noted that after September 22nd, an individual can enter a hospital without being vaccinated, however cannot enter a restaurant. C. St. John noted that hospitals are required to have this for their staff, however, hospitals are indeed not required to obtain proof of vaccination of people seeking care at those hospitals. Dr. Lock noted that SWPH is working internally to develop a 3As approach, which is Ask, Advise and Act. Dr. Lock noted that the intent is to advocate for other organizations and medical professionals that have direct contact with clients to adopt the approach. She noted that this approach is intended to increase local COVID-19 vaccination rates and offer additional protection to our communities.

D. Mayberry asked for clarity regarding cancelled appointments as noted in C. St. John's report. C. St. John noted that SWPH cancelled these appointments due to duplication of appointments and re-bookings.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-5.2A)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the audited financial statements for the Healthy Babies Healthy Children and the Pre and Post Natal Nurse Practitioner programs for the period ending March 31, 2021.

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-5.2)

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by T. Comiskey

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for September 9, 2021.

Carried.

5.3 Medical Officer of Health's Report for September 9, 2021

Dr. Lock reviewed her report.

Dr. Lock noted that the fourth wave will depend on two factors, vaccination rates and person-to-person interactions. She noted that it is important that physical distancing and masking continue through the fall and winter.

Dr. Lock noted that 65% of our entire population is vaccinated; this includes children under 12. She noted that SWPH anticipates the vaccine will be approved for administration to those 5 years of age to 11 years of age by late fall, early winter. She noted that the vaccination rates for those under the age of 40 is lower than we desire, and we are looking at ways to reach those who are vaccine hesitant in those age groups.

Dr. Lock noted that given the rates of vaccination within our region, we believe that provincial policies will encourage those to get vaccinated.

Dr. Lock noted that SWPH is working on guidance and templates for vaccination policies for workplaces and this should be released in the coming weeks.

Dr. Lock noted that SWPH's goal is to keep children in schools for in-person learning and businesses open. She noted that our school team is working with school boards as well as private schools to ensure they are well supported.

Dr. Lock noted that she reviews all Adverse Event reports and noted that this is important to ensure safety of the vaccine.

Dr. Lock noted that she and Dr. Summers provided additional guidance to the schools. She noted that this guidance was an effort to protect children and prevent the closures of schools in the fall or winter.

D. Warden thanked Dr. Lock, C. St. John and A. Koning for their support thus far. He asked Dr. Lock if the responsibility is on a workplace to obtain proof of vaccination for their staff, through a vaccine policy. Dr. Lock noted that she recommends that workplaces have a vaccine policy. She noted SWPH is developing a policy template, guidance documents and support materials and they will be issued in the coming weeks to all workplaces within the region. She noted that the recommendation will be to have all staff vaccinated or an action if they are not vaccinated. The action may be a variety of alternatives such as reassignment of work, education sessions or a medical exemption may apply.

Dr. Lock noted that a medical exemption must be obtained by a health care provider, noting there are only a few medical exemptions that apply to the COVID-19 vaccine. The College of Physicians and Surgeons have indicated only a few well-defined medical exemptions; a bonified allergy with confirmation by an allergist, a previous episode of myocarditis or anaphylaxis.

S. Molnar asked if there is a status on a staff vaccination policy. C. St. John and Dr. Lock noted that SWPH will be implementing its own staff vaccination policy. S. Molnar noted that he fully supports a policy of this nature. C. St. John noted that this policy is administrative in nature and will not come to the Board for approval.

Dr. Lock noted that all policy levers for vaccine will be contested, where the courts end up making the decision is unknown and up to the courts. She noted that influenza policies in health care settings was not supported through the superior courts in Canada, however the COVID-19 vaccine is substantially more effective than the influenza vaccine. She noted that the COVID-19 vaccine has been proven to be effective, even against the Delta variant.

L. Baldwin-Sands asked if SWPH Board members would fall under a different forthcoming policy or the same policy as staff. C. St. John noted that SWPH Board members would fall under a different policy however noted that the policy would be very similar to that of the staff policy.

D. Mayberry noted that he has great frustration regarding the myths that are circulating through the community. He commended Dr. Lock on her leadership through this time. He asked Dr. Lock on her recommendation regarding the administration of third doses. Dr. Lock noted that she believes those in the older age brackets need to complete a third dose to complete their series, given their less robust immune systems. She noted that we are unaware if it will be effective for those younger; research continues based on other countries and their vaccine campaign results.

L. Martin noted that Oxford County Council discussed the proposal of a staff vaccination policy for one hour at their most recent council meeting and approved the creation of one.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-5.3)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by L. Baldwin-Sands

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for September 9, 2021.

Carried.

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-C7)

Moved by T. Comiskey

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-0909-C8)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-C3.1)

Moved by S. Molnar

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer and Medical Officer of Health's verbal reports for September 9, 2021.

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-C3.2A)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by J. Preston

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health amend resolution 2021-BOH-0909-C3.2, to clarify the membership of the adhoc Special Committee of the Board to include the Chair of the Board, Vice Chair of the Board, three Governance Standing Committee members and the CEO (ex-officio).

Carried.

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-C3.2)

Moved by L. Baldwin-Sands

Seconded by T. Marks

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health establish an adhoc Special Committee of the Board pursuant to Article 74 of SWPH's bylaws and that this Committee be established for the purpose of completing the recruitment of a Medical Officer of Health as outlined in the Chief Executive Officer's report of September 9, 2021.

Carried.

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

Resolution # (2021-BOH-0909-10)

Moved by T. Marks

Seconded by D. Warden

That the meeting adjourns at 4:41 p.m. to meet again virtually on October 7, 2021.

Carried.

Confirmed: _____

