

**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE
NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT**

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting
June 28, 2024
Virtual

PRESENT: Doug Lawrance, Janelle Zacharias, Lucille MacDonald, Bob Bernie,
Trudy Sachowski, Bekkie Vineberg, Jamie Kristoff, Wendy Brunetta

IN ATTENDANCE:
Marilyn Herbacz, CEO
Kit Young Hoon, MOH
Kristi Dietrich

GUESTS:
REGRETS:
ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Lawrance called the meeting to order at 8:31am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion / Resolution: # 41-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald W. Brunetta
THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated June 28, 2024 be approved.	

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

4. CHAIR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Chair did not have any to updates to share to activities on behalf of the Board since the last meeting.

Chair Doug Lawrance extended congratulations to Trudy Sachowski for becoming the first Chair of ALPHA's Governance Board of Directors.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion / Resolution: # 42-2024 CARRIED	J. Kristoff J. Zacharias
THAT the Minutes of the Northwestern Health Unit Regular Board of Health meeting held May 24, 2024 be approved as written.	

6. CLOSED SESSION

Motion / Resolution: # 43-2024 CARRIED	J. Kristoff J. Zacharias
<p>THAT pursuant to section 239 of the <i>Municipal Act</i>, the Board of Health move to an in-camera session at 8:58am to discuss:</p> <p>Education / Orientation session for the Board (1 item: Presentation on Alcohol Statistics)</p>	

Motion / Resolution: # 44-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald B. Bernie
<p>THAT the Board of Health return from its closed session and resume its regular meeting at 9:53 am.</p>	

While in its closed session, the Board of Health received a presentation on Alcohol Statistics from Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health.

7. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING UPDATES

The Executive Committee met on June 18, 2024. Committee Chair Wendy Brunetta shared the following verbal updates from the meeting:

- The Committee received a presentation from Alexie Schussler, Director of Corporate Services, on the progress of the 2023 Audit, and the expected results. Alexie also offered some details related to a change in process that came with a change in auditor, and an overview of any variances noted to date.
- Marilyn provided some information on the Ministry’s Public Health Funding Formula Review.
- The Committee engaged in a discussion around a process for resolution voting at the aPHa AGM. A Policy will be created and brought forward to the Board of Health in September 2024. An issue was raised related to Board members voting in line with the local board direction when attending conferences. Marilyn and Lindsay will work on this and share with the Board in the future.
- Marilyn and Lindsay provided updates on the BOH Remuneration process. There is still work being done to determine if there is a more automatic way this can move forward, and in the meantime, Lindsay continues to submit meeting per diems on behalf of BOH members, with any additional expenses being submitted by the member. More information on this will be brought forward to the September BOH meeting.
- Wendy is confirming with treasurer that our per diem rates are up to date. Marilyn and Lindsay will bring more info to Executive Committee in September.

8. aPHa UPDATES

Trudy Sachowski, aPHa Representative shared the following verbal updates:

Trudy will be speaking at AMO in August with topics including aPHa and what it does, challenges facing public health, the importance of local governance, and ultimately to

request funding provincially by speaking to municipal leadership. AMO Health Transformation Task Force met to discuss; ultimately the messaging is the same.

The alPHa AGM and Conference was held in Toronto, June 5-7, 2024. In attendance from NWHU were Dr. Young Hoon, Marilyn Herbacz, Doug Lawrance, Trudy Sachowski, and Bob Bernie. In addition to a [program](#) filled with relevant content and a resolutions session at which all of the proposed resolutions were passed, alPHa held its [Distinguished Service Award](#) celebration, where NWHU BOH Chair, Doug Lawrance was acknowledged for his dedication to public health in NWHU's catchment area, and in the province when receiving this award. Trudy requested recording Doug's speech using help of NWHU Communications team.

The alPHa Board elected Trudy Sachowski, once again, into the role of Chair for a one-year term, ending in June 2025.

In May, Trudy took on an additional role of Councillor for Northwest Métis Council and has received a request to be the Chair.

9. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

9.1 CEO & Finance Report *Marilyn Herbacz, CEO. Reference #2024.06.28-9.1 the report will be kept on file.*

Marilyn Herbacz spoke about finance reports as of April 30th. Although still early in the year, overall, most expenses are on track for current date. BOH budget is 87.95% remaining, with some expenses related to alPHa still to come.

Marilyn advised that the BDO auditors were not able to join the BOH Meeting, meaning there will be a delay in getting the settlement to the ministry and a delay in financial statement to municipalities. Alexie Schussler, Director of Corporate Services will be sending a letter of apology that that financial statements were not able to obtain approval as scheduled. BDO will attend the August BOH Meeting. The Annual Report will not be released until the fall.

Marilyn attended the alPHa conference, which was well received. Marilyn also attended the Business Administrators Conference in Deerhurst. Some valuable topics of discussion included the duty to accommodate, remote work, change management, workforce diversity. Ministry of Health Accountability and Liaison branch attended in person.

9.1 NWHU 2024 Insurance Renewal *Marilyn Herbacz, CEO Reference #2024.06.28-9.2; the Report will be kept on file.*

Marilyn Herbacz spoke about an increase in our 2024 insurance premiums of 9.6%, noting this is lower than the 14% increase for similar organizations. Ratings relate to low claims in the last three years, noting the one and only claim in 2023 involved a collision with a deer. Marilyn highlighted for Board members that they have insurance coverage under NWHU plan, including insurance for their families if travelling for business together. Overall, the plan has been well managed. Any questions related to insurance can be directed to Marilyn Herbacz or Alexie Schussler. Marilyn will send information to BOH members related to insurance on car rentals.

Marilyn provided a verbal update on the Provincial OPHS review and funding review process following participating in Funding Review Committee for Executive Business Administrators Association; all information provided being confidential at this time. Marilyn highlighted the benefit of having a hybrid funding model going forward to identify uniqueness across Health Units. Geography is very important as our region’s Indigenous portfolio includes 39 First Nation communities, 3 Indigenous health authorities and 2 Indigenous health access centres. The Ministry uses census data to do calculations and we calculate our municipal levies through MPAC, which suggests our calculations should follow for our levy. Suggested that if the Ministry reviews Unorganized Territory Grants, as we have not seen any recent increases.

Municipalities contributing to funding formula would mean the province would have control to manage public health potentially being a negative for us, as small municipalities may not see the same services. Decisions being made would need some feedback from municipalities and find way to build into approach to new funding model. Some felt there was potential to create efficiencies if 100% provincial. Conversations occurred about roles of OHTs. With respect to data and implementation principals, the Ministry suggested they are doing a scan of models and are committed to municipality engagement.

Motion / Resolution: #46-2024 CARRIED	B. Bernie L. MacDonald
<p>THAT the following Corporate Administration Reports be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2024.06.28-9.1 CEO & Finance Report - 2024.06.28-9.2 2024 Insurance Renewal 	

Marilyn left the meeting at 8:55am

10. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

10.1 Medical Officer of Health Update *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.06.28-10.1; the Report will be kept on file.*

Dr. Young Hoon provided some high-level updates related to her written report.

10.2 Ontario Public Health Standards Review Update *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.06.28-10.2; the Report will be kept on file.*

Dr. Young Hoon provided high-level updates related to her written report.

OPHS is reviewing new draft standards. Kit highlighted issue of language in document around the requirement to provide or ensure public health services for First Nation communities. Requesting to write a letter to ministry representatives around capacity and funding. Kit has not yet drafted the letter but called for a motion to send a letter to the Ministry. The Board suggested that this letter is not sent to politicians, only to inform those working in government, and show the municipality that we are supporting them without disenfranchising our partners in indigenous communities.

Doug suggested including ‘consultation’ or include a positive statement to shift responsibility back to consulting with NWHU and people impacted by services.

Wendy Brunetta requested more information or Board education on Section 50 Composition of Boards of Health. Trudy offered to send a brief overview to the Board following the meeting. [post-meeting note: this has been sent.]

Motion / Resolution: # 47-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald J. Kristoff
THAT the following Public Health Program Reports be received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024.06.28-10.1 Medical Officer of Health Update • 2024.06.28-10.2 Ontario Public Health Standards Review Updates 	

Motion / Resolution: #48-2024 CARRIED	W. Brunetta B. Vineberg
THAT the Board of Health authorize the Board of Health Chair, Medical Officer of Health, and Chief Executive officer to send a letter to the Ministry of Health regarding their concerns related to requirements in the draft Ontario Public Health Standards to “Provide, or ensure the provision of, public health services to all Indigenous communities within their catchment area with the consent of and/or as requested by a local Indigenous community or organization. This requirement applies regardless of whether a section 50 agreement exists with the band council per the <i>Health Protection and Promotion Act</i> , while recognizing existing federal roles and relationships.”	

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting: August 30, 2024 at 8:30am - Teams

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:50am.

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:

CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN

THIS30..... DAY OFAUGUST.....2024



MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH



RECORDER