

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

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting
September 27, 2024
Kenora, CityView Boardroom

PRESENT: Doug Lawrance, Lucille MacDonald, Trudy Sachowski, Bekkie Vineberg,
Wendy Brunetta, Bob Bernie

IN ATTENDANCE:
Marilyn Herbacz, CEO
Kit Young Hoon, MOH
Lindsay Koch

GUESTS: Miranda Sigurdson, Manager – Family Health

REGRETS: Jamie Kristoff, Kristi McQuay

ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Lawrance called the meeting to order at 8:36am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion / Resolution: # 60-2024 CARRIED	W. Brunetta B. Bernie
THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated September 27, 2024 be approved.	

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

4. CHAIR’S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Chair shared that Kristi McQuay, a Councillor in Atikokan has been appointed by Atikokan Council to replace Janelle Zacharias.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Corrections were made to clean up spelling errors. No material content changes were made.

Motion / Resolution: # 61-2024 CARRIED	T. Sachowski L. MacDonald
THAT the Minutes of the Northwestern Health Unit Regular Board of Health meeting held August 30, 2024 be approved as amended and special meeting held September 20, 2024 be approved as written.	

6. CLOSED SESSION

Motion / Resolution: # 62-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald W. Brunetta
<p>THAT pursuant to section 239 of the <i>Municipal Act</i>, the Board of Health move to an in-camera session at 8:41 am to discuss:</p> <p>Personal Information about identifiable individual (1 item: MOH and CEO Performance Appraisal)</p> <p>Labour Relations or Employee Negotiations (1 item: Float Days)</p>	

Motion / Resolution: # 63-2024 CARRIED	B. Vineberg L. MacDonald
<p>THAT the Board of Health return from its closed session and resume its regular meeting at 9:15 am.</p>	

While in its closed session, the Board of Health received a report from the Chair and Vice Chair following the completion of the bi-annual Performance Appraisals for the CEO and MOH.

The Board also discussed the addition of one float day per year for NWHU's Non-Union, Non-Management and Non-Union, Management groups. This additional day is also provided for in each of the ONA and COPE Collective Agreements for unionized employees.

Motion / Resolution: # 64-2024 CARRIED	T. Sachowski L. MacDonald
<p>That the Board of Health approve the addition of one (1) float holiday for a total of two per year for the Non-Union, Management, and Non-Union, Non-Management group effective January 1, 2024.</p>	

Miranda Sigurdson joined the meeting at 9:20am

7. PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Family Health Annual Presentation

Miranda Sigurdson, Manager of Family Health joined the meeting to share a presentation on the Family Health program for the year 2023 and some 2024 priorities and planning for the final quarter. Highlights included:

- Family Health at NWHU includes the Healthy Growth and Development (HGD) program and the Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) program.
- Other NWHU programs also support the Healthy Growth and Development of youth such as our Dental Health, and Sexual Health programs.
- In 2023-24, 589 HBHC postpartum screens were completed, 67% presented with some risk.
- Partner with Smart Start Hubs to ensure they are aware of Early ID Screening program and are sending referrals
- Beginning to see an increase in the number of high-risk families who are accessing services under these programs following the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Positively Pregnant program is a newer program, beginning in 2022 for families in Dryden and Red Lake to drop in and learn from speakers and NWHU staff about program availability and supports.

Miranda Sigurdson left the meeting at 10:07am

8. Executive Committee Report

Wendy Brunetta, Chair of the Executive Committee provided a verbal update of the report of the committee meeting held September 11, 2024.

Topics of discussion included:

- Merger Assessment
- aPHa Voting Guidelines
- IPC Investigation
- In Person BOH Meeting
- New Member Orientation
- Communication of Alcohol Harms

9. aPHa UPDATES

On behalf of the Board of Health, Trudy Sachowski shared a token of appreciation and acknowledgement Chair Doug Lawrance’s receipt of the 2024 aPHa Distinguished Service Award.

Trudy Sachowski, aPHa Representative shared the following verbal updates:

- Trudy will be speaking at an upcoming Ontario Public Health Conference and continues to attend meetings in her capacity as Chair of aPHa at a number of other conferences and events. NWHU supports Trudy in the efforts by covering expenses related to this participation.
- The aPHa Fall Symposium is coming up, at which NWHU’s work on Alcohol Harms and data will be highlighted.

9.1 Trudy encouraged Board of Health members to attend the upcoming [Virtual Conference](#) being held November 6-8, 2024. The Conference features the standard BOH and COMOH section meetings in addition to pre-conference workshops.

<p>Motion / Resolution: # 65-2024 CARRIED</p>	<p>B. Bernie W. Brunetta</p>
<p>THAT the following Board of Health members be authorized to attend the 2024 aPHa Fall Symposium, being held virtually November 6-8, 2024, with all fees to be paid by Northwestern Health Unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trudy Sachowski - Lucille MacDonald - Bekkie Vineberg - Doug Lawrance - Wendy Brunetta 	

10. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

10.1 CEO & Finance Report Marilyn Herbacz, CEO. Reference #2024.09.27-10.1 the report will be kept on file.

10.2 2023 Annual Report Marilyn Herbacz, CEO Reference #2024.09.27-10.2; the Report will be kept on file.

10.3 Balanced Scorecard Report Marilyn Herbacz, CEO Reference #2024.09.27-10.3; the Report will be kept on file.

Bob Bernie left the meeting at 10:50am

Motion / Resolution: #66-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald B. Vineberg
THAT the following Corporate Administration Reports be received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2024.09.27-10.1 CEO & Finance Report - 2024.09.27-10.2 2023 Annual Report Staff Report - 2024.09.27-10.3 Balanced Scorecard Report 	

Motion / Resolution: #67-2024 CARRIED	T. Sachowski B. Vineberg
THAT the 2023 Annual Report be approved as presented.	

11. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

11.1 Medical Officer of Health Update Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.09.27-11.1; the Report will be kept on file.

Dr. Young Hoon provided some high-level updates related to her written report, and added that she met with City of Kenora Mayor Andrew Poirier related to needle waste in the community.

Dr. Young Hoon highlighted that due to a rabies death in southern Ontario, some increased communication about rabies and the vaccine has been pushed out.

11.2 Family Health Annual Report Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.09.27-11.2; the Report will be kept on file.

11.3 Respiratory Season Planning Report Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.09.27-11.3; the Report will be kept on file.

The Board engaged in discussion about vaccination efforts, how they are funded, the disproportionate number that NWHU administers compared with other health units in the province.

Motion / Resolution: # 68-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald W. Brunetta
<p>THAT the following Public Health Program Reports be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024.09.27-11.1 Medical Officer of Health Update • 2024.09.27-11.2 Family Health Annual Report • 2024.09.27-11.3 Respiratory Season Planning Report 	

12. PERSPECTIVES FROM NORTHERN ONTARIO FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING REVIEW

The seven Northern Medical Officers of Health have penned a letter to the Ministry of Health related to northern considerations for public health funding. The letter has been endorsed by the six other northern health units. An accompanying letter will be sent along with a copy of this resolution to those indicated within the resolution. Municipalities and partners are able to share the information to support their work as needed.

Motion / Resolution: #69-2024 CARRIED	T. Sachowski B. Vineberg
<p>WHEREAS the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Health is undertaking a review of the funding approach for local public health agencies; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the <i>Perspectives from Northern Ontario on the Public Health Funding Review</i> letter, authored by the Northern Ontario Medical Officers of Health, outlines many of the significant considerations related to the funding approach for local public health agencies in northern Ontario;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit endorses the Northern MOH letter on funding as presented; and</p> <p>FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution and the letter be sent to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health - Hon. Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora -Rainy River - Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay-Atikokan - Sol Mamakwa, MPP Kiiwetinoong - Elizabeth Walker, Executive Lead, Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health - Brent Feeney, Director, Accountability and Liaison Branch - Colleen Kiel, Director, Public Health Strategic Policy, Planning and Communications Branch - Dr. Fiona Kouyoumdjian, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health - Dr. Wajid Ahmed, Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health - Ontario Boards of Health - NWHU Obligated Municipalities - Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) 	

13. BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-EVALUATION

Per the Board of Health Constitution, ByLaw #1, the Board engages in an annual self-evaluation to inform operational planning, orientation, and reporting to the Board. The evaluation survey will open following the September 27, 2024 meeting and close October 11, 2024. Results will be reported on at the November Board of Health Meeting.

The Board discussed meeting dates, time commitment for BOH members, the opportunity for exit interviews, and how the organization can support members with flexibility, orientation, etc.

Motion / Resolution: #70-2024 CARRIED	B. Vineberg T. Sachowski
That the Board of Health receive the Board of Health Self-Evaluation Report.	

14. NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting: October 25, 2024 – 8:30am; Teams

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:44am

BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:

CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN

THIS25..... DAY OFOCTOBER.....2024

MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH

RECORDER