

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

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting
October 25, 2024
Virtual

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

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

GUESTS: Julie Slack, Manager – Chronic Disease Prevention and School Health
Dawn Sauve, Manager – Dental Health
Lee Pitt, Manager – IT and Operations
Alexie Schussler, Director – Corporate Services

REGRETS:
ABSENT:

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Doug Lawrance called the meeting to order at 8:32am.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion / Resolution: # 70-2024 CARRIED	W. Brunetta J. Kristoff
THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated October 25, 2024 be approved.	

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None declared.

4. CHAIR'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Chair welcomed new member, Kristi McQuay from the town of Atikokan who was appointed to the Board on September 23, 2024. Kristi introduced herself to the Board of Health and shared her background in paramedicine and crisis response.

5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

Motion / Resolution: # 71-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald B. Bernie
THAT the Minutes of the Northwestern Health Unit Regular Board of Health meeting held September 27, 2024 be approved as written.	

6. PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

6.1 Dental Health Presentation

Program Manager Dawn Sauve shared some information and data about NWHU's Dental Health program including the value of partnerships and collaboration, the impacts of the federal dental program, and the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program on the dental and residual health of our communities.

Julie Slack joined the meeting at 9:02am

Dawn Sauve left the meeting at 9:04am

6.2 Chronic Disease Prevention and School Health Presentation

Program Manager Julie Slack shared a thorough presentation highlighting the work of her team who focus on community and school health through active programming, work in schools and many partnerships and collaborative efforts.

Alexie Schussler and Lee Pitt joined the meeting at 9:25am

Julie Slack left the meeting at 9:40am

6.3 IT and Operations Presentation

Program Manager, Lee Pitt provided an update on the work of the IT and Operations team who support the organization and staff through front desk reception, facilities management, IT solution development, and much more to ensure our programs are able to run smoothly.

Alexie Schussler and Lee Pitt left the meeting at 10:27am

7. aPHa UPDATES

Trudy Sachowski provided a brief overview of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aPHa) for the Board's new member. Additional information is available at www.alphaweb.org

Connecting to the IT and Operations presentation, Trudy shared that the upcoming aPHa conference will include sessions related to Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, etc. Trudy also shared that Dr. Kieran Moore, the CMOH will be striking a committee related to AI. Some information related to this and about how AI will fit with Ontario Health will also be shared at the conference. The concurrent EA/AA Conference will also include Public Health and Artificial Intelligence, Board of Health Governance, and Substance Use and Addiction.

Trudy will be participating in panels and discussions at ROMA and TOPHC.

Northwestern Health Unit continues to be highly engaged in the work of aPHa and other provincial committees and groups.

8. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

8.1 CEO & Finance Report *Marilyn Herbacz, CEO. Reference #2024.10.25-8.1 the report will be kept on file.*

It was highlighted that many programs are projecting a surplus for 2024, meaning that they have been unable to utilize their full budgets. Planning for these dollars for end of year projects including facilities projects and fleet upgrades will be considered.

8.2 IT and Operations Annual Report Marilyn Herbacz, CEO Reference #2024.10.25-8.2; the Report will be kept on file.

8.3 Sustainability Plan Marilyn Herbacz, CEO Reference #2024.10.25-8.3; the Report will be kept on file.

8.4 Occupational Health and Safety Marilyn Herbacz, CEO Reference #2024.10.25-8.4; the Report will be kept on file.

Motion / Resolution: #72-2024 CARRIED	L. MacDonald B. Vineberg
<p>THAT the following Corporate Administration Reports be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2024.10.25-8.1 CEO & Finance Report - 2024.10.25-8.2 IT and Operations Annual Report - 2024.10.25-8.3 Risk Management Update - 2024.10.25-8.4 Sustainability Plan - 2024.10.25-8.4 Occupational Health and Safety 	

9. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

9.1 Medical Officer of Health Update Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.10.25-9.1; the Report will be kept on file.

Dr. Young Hoon shared some highlights of her written report including the positive news that the RRDOHT has onboarded an Executive Lead, and NWHU offered input into their operational plan.

Vaccine clinics are up and running for both Influenza and COVID; everyone is encouraged to get vaccinated.

It was highlighted that NWHU is working with the City of Kenora’s Crime Prevention and Community Well-being committee on needle waste mitigation efforts.

9.2 Chronic Disease Prevention and School Health Annual Report Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.10.25-9.2; the Report will be kept on file.

9.3 Immunization of School Pupils (ISPA) Report Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.10.25-9.3; the Report will be kept on file.

9.4 Private Drinking Water Testing Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.10.25-9.4; the Report will be kept on file.

As outlined in the report, many homes in our region rely on private drinking water systems such as wells and lake water. These people count on testing to ensure their drinking water is safe. Currently, testing is free through Public Health Ontario (PHO) labs with a small fee for shipping.

PHO currently has a proposal into the Province regarding Well Water Testing, but no information is available to PHUs as to the details of the proposal, and health units and municipalities in the province are calling for this free service to continue to protect the health of Ontarians who consume water from private drinking water systems.

Kristi McQuay left the meeting at 11:10am

Motion / Resolution: # 73-2024 CARRIED	J. Kristoff B. Vineberg
<p>THAT the following Public Health Program Reports be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2024.10.25-9.1 Medical Officer of Health Update • 2024.10.25-9.2 CDPSH Annual Report • 2024.10.25-9.3 ISPA Report • 2024.10.25-9.4 Private Drinking Water Testing 	

Motion / Resolution: # 74-2024 CARRIED	T. Sachowski W. Brunetta
<p>WHEREAS many residents in Northwestern Health Unit’s service area rely on private drinking water systems such as wells; and</p> <p>WHEREAS it is recommended that drinking water be tested frequently to ensure it is safe for human consumption; and</p> <p>WHEREAS exposure to contaminated drinking water can lead to severe gastrointestinal illness, which in rare cases may resolute in death; and</p> <p>WHEREAS anyone can become ill from drinking contaminated water; however children, older adults, and people with weakened immune systems are at a higher risk of the harmful effects; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Public Health Ontario (PHO) Well Water Testing program is a publicly funded service that tests water samples from private drinking water sources for indicators of bacterial contamination; and</p> <p>WHEREAS testing drinking water quality at private laboratories can be cost prohibitive; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Auditor General in its December 6, 2023 Value for Money Audit: Public Health Ontario called for Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health to move forward with streamlining laboratory operations in consideration of the proposed modernization plans; and</p> <p>WHEREAS Public Health Ontario and the Ministry of Health have not yet announced a final plan for streamlining laboratory operations at this time;</p> <p>NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health for the Northwestern Health Unit strongly recommends to the Minister of Health and to Public Health Ontario that Ontario’s Well Water Testing program fully</p>	

continue as part of the plan to implement streamlined laboratory operations; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Health endorse the resolutions adopted by the Council of the Town of Gore Bay (May 14, 2024), the Council of Central Manitoulin (July 8, 2024), the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury and Districts (September 19, 2024); and the letter of the Council of Pickle Lake (September 24, 2024);

AND FURTHER, THAT a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- Hon. Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health and Deputy Premier
- Michael Sherar, President and CEO, Public Health Ontario
- Public Health Ontario Board of Directors
- Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Local Municipalities
- Ontario Boards of Health
- Hon. Greg Rickford, MPP Kenora – Rainy River
- Hon. Kevin Holland, MPP Thunder Bay – Atikokan
- Sol Mamakwa, MPP Kiiwetinoong
- Association of Local Public Health Agencies
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario

10. 2025 BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING DATES

The Board reviewed the proposed meeting dates and new conflicts were identified. A new proposed schedule will be brought forward to the November Board of Health meeting.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE

Regular Meeting: November 29, 2024 – 8:30am; Teams

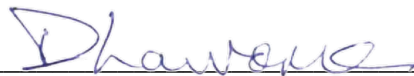
12. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at

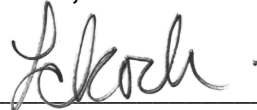
BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:

CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN

THIS29..... DAY OFNOVEMBER.....2024



MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH



RECORDER