



Board of Health

Minutes - February 11, 2009

GODERICH, ONTARIO

creating healthy communities
together

Goderich, Ontario
February 11, 2009

The County of Huron BOARD OF HEALTH met in the Court House Council Chambers, in Goderich at 9:00 a.m. with all members present.

1. Minutes

Moved by B. Dykstra

Seconded by R. Rognvaldson

That the minutes of Board of Health meeting of January 14 and January 20, 2009 be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

Board Member's Issues

The Chair, Board Member B. MacLellan, gave a brief verbal report on his experience at the ALPHA Conference on February 6, 2009. Nine areas of activity were given priority as follows: 1) Board development in oversight function, governance, and policy development 2) Communications 3) Information sharing between BOH's 4) Pressing Funding Issues 5) Drinking Water Fluoridation 6) Financial issues 7) MOH vacancies 8) Heighten profile of public health's role and function among the public and 9) advertising to children.

Administrative Issues

Sherri Bezaire announced the Huron County Health Unit in partnership with the Perth District Health Unit are providing a workshop for local organization and municipalities who serve alcohol at events, but is not the main focus of business, to address the liability issues of serving alcohol. This workshop will provide insight into Alcohol liability and what organizations can do to protect themselves.

The workshop is being held on March 24, 2009 at the Mitchell Golf and Country Club, Bezaire encouraged all municipalities to send representation and to pass this information along to organizations in their communities who may benefit from the workshop.

Board Member B. MacLellan made an inquiry regarding the salary of the MOH and where funds for recruiting would come from. The Warden noted that it is mandated to provide an MOH and the County is responsible for the costs. The CAO informed the Board that he is still waiting to receive information from Lambton County on MOH vacation coverage.

Moved by B. Dykstra

Seconded by R. Rognvaldson

That the County allocate the Health Unit surplus funds of \$150,000 towards advertising and recruiting, including upgrading education if needed, a Medical Officer of Health (MOH).

CARRIED

2. Report of the Director and Acting Medical Officer of Health

2.1. Update on New Health Unit Staff

Omid Pour-ahmadi, Director of the Health Unit, introduced and gave a verbal introduction to welcome Christina Taylor the new Public Health Manager at the Health Unit.

Christina Taylor brings 13 years of nursing and management experience to the Public Health Manager position at the Huron County Health Unit. Since graduating from the University of Western Ontario with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 1995, Christina has worked in various settings, including long term care, hospital, and public health.

As Director of Care of the Queensway Nursing Home in Hensall from 1998 to 2004, Christina was an integral part of the management team promoting team work and quality service. As part of her role as Director she was responsible for infection control and outbreak management, thus beginning her partnership with the Huron County Health Unit.

In 2004, Christina accepted the position of Public Health Nurse with the Health Unit in the Communicable Disease team. She has shown excellent leadership abilities, and had been in the Senior Public Health Nurse position as of July 2008.

FOR INFORMATION

2.2 Outbreaks

Christina Taylor, Public Health Manager, provided a verbal up-to-date report on enteric and respiratory disease outbreaks at Health Care Institutions. There was a Board consensus to have a verbal update report on outbreaks monthly.

By the first week in February, a total of 10 outbreaks in institutions had been declared (7 enteric, 3 respiratory); of the 7 enteric outbreaks, laboratory testing identified Norovirus as the cause of 3. No agent was identified in the respiratory outbreaks.

Data from 2005-2009 show the average number of outbreaks in January to be 5 per month and the average number of outbreaks in February to be 3 per month.

Over the years we had worked closely with our Health Care Institutions to develop infection control policies and provide direction during outbreaks.

The role of the Huron Unit in an outbreak situation is to:

- a. Verify an Outbreak is occurring
- b. Partner with facility in creation of an Outbreak Management Team. Health Unit consults on the implementation of prevention and control measures such as isolation, cleaning and restrictions
- c. Develop a case definition and provide epidemiological analysis of the outbreak data
- d. Recommend the need for medications when warranted (i.e. Influenza Outbreak, antiviral medication would be recommended)
- e. Monitor surveillance data, recommend control measure changes if required
- f. Communicate to community partners and issue Health alerts regarding the outbreak and other illness activity in the County
- g. Coordinate the collection and submission of specimens
- h. Evaluation of the outbreak and policy review.

The Huron County Health Unit continues to receive illness surveillance data from a number of sources such as schools, day cares, local physicians and Hospitals.

FOR INFORMATION

2.3 Medical Officer of Health Recruitment

Omid Pour-ahmadi, Director of the Health Unit, informed the Board that there has been good communication between the new Acting MOH, Dr. Sean Ryan, the Health Unit Managers and staff.

FOR INFORMATION

2.4 Associate Medical Officer of Health

The Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Francoise Bourchard's is proposing visits to Public Health Units. Attached is the memorandum from the Ministry of Health Promotion and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care dated January 27, 2009.

**Moved by Warden K. Oke
Seconded by N. Vincent
That the correspondence be received.**

CARRIED

2.5 Meeting with Dr. Robert Lawrence

Omid Pour-ahmadi, Director of the Health Unit, distributed a report dated February 11, 2009 to update the Board on the meeting held with Dr. Robert Lawrence.

Board Member N. Vincent inquired if the Health Unit has been contacted by representatives of Gateway yet. The Director reported he has not yet been contacted, currently the research partnership the Health Unit is exploring would not be the same research that Gateway would be providing, but the Director welcomes any collaboration efforts. The Board directed O. Pour-ahmadi to liason with the Gateway's Board.

**Moved by R. Rognvaldson
Seconded by J. Dietrich
That the report be received.**

CARRIED

3. Smoking in Cars with Children

Sherri Bezaire, Public Health Manager presented the attached report (Appendix A) for the information of the Board and Council.

**Moved by R. Rognvaldson
Seconded by J. Dietrich
That the report be received.**

CARRIED

4. Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention

Sherri Bezaire, Public Health Manager presented the attached report (Appendix B) for the information of the Board and Council.

A discussion ensued. The Board agreed that the Health Unit should not be responsible to fund the Coalition for Huron Injury Prevention (CHIP) project and that the County should consider covering the costs of this program.

Moved by J. Fergusson

Seconded by R. Rognvaldson

That the report be received and further that the Board of Health recommend the County fund the CHIP project in the amount of \$4,000.

CARRIED

5. Safe Water Program

Pamela Scharfe, Public Health Manager submitted the attached report (Appendix C) for the information of the Board and Council.

A pamphlet was also distributed regarding a workshop on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Mitchell Golf & Country Club on "The Rise of Alcohol-Related Liability: Implications for Golf Clubs and Recreational Facilities". Registration Fee is \$20 per person.

Moved by N. Vincent

Seconded by N. Rintoul

That the report be received.

CARRIED

6. Correspondence (Available Upon Request)

Ontario Building Code Plumbing and On-Site Septic System January 2009 Newsletter.

FOR INFORMATION

7. Accounts

Accounts for January 2009 were reviewed.

General Health Programs	\$72,390.57
Healthy Hearts	1,419.48
Huron Addiction Services	1,132.32

Moved by J. Dietrich

Seconded by J. Dykstra

That the accounts be received.

CARRIED

The committee had a recess at 9:55 a.m. and resumed at 10:00 a.m.

"IN CAMERA"

**Moved by R. Rognvaldson
Seconded by N. Vincent**

That the committee do now go into a closed session at 10:01 a.m. under Section 229 of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended to discuss an item which relates to labour relations, potential litigation and identifiable individual to discuss Huron Addiction Services and that Larry C. Adams, D. Carey, N. Rennick, O. Pour-ahmadi, Sherri Bezaire, and Christina Taylor remain in attendance as well as Councillors behind the rail D. Kelly, T. Collyer, M. Demaray, G. Robertson, J. Bezaire, B. Siemon, and J. Grace .

CARRIED

**Moved by B. Dykstra
Seconded by N. Vincent**

That the committee rise from "In Camera" at 10:50 a.m.

CARRIED

8. Next Meeting

The next meeting of Board of Health will be on Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Court House Council Chambers, in Goderich.

9. Adjournment

**Moved by D. Johnston
Seconded by J. Dietrich**

That the Board of Health meeting adjourn at 10:52 a.m.

CARRIED

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Chair