

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Date: March 4, 2026

Location: ZOOM

ATTENDANCE

Members in Attendance:

George Bridge (Chair), Campbell Cork, Guy Gardhouse, Duncan Bull, Steve Cavell, Robin Sedgwick, Anil Kaul, Erin Caton, Rodrigo Goller, Linda Busuttil, Ralph Manktelow, and Chris White.

Members with Regrets: David Anderson.

Ex-Officio Member: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health.

Staff in Attendance:

Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Paul Medeiros, Brian Herman, Karen Mulvey, Alexandria Fournier, Blair Hodgson, April Pollington, Rivalia Naidoo, Taylor Besley, Kassy Raymond, Dana Galehdari, Conor Barrett, Gabriel Agunsoye, Yordy Napoles, Jessica Tomasik, Chuck Ferguson, Katrina Olsen, Lisa Hebden, Kim Underwood, Danielle Pelligrini, Kiley Alderson, Emerson Rajaram, Andrea Kovacs, Shelby Leenders, Phil Wong, Tyler Black, Rachel Coghlin, Alana Byron, Robert Richardson, Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guests in Attendance (via Zoom):

Joanne Shuttleworth (Media), Adam Donaldson (Media), and Taylor Pace (Media).

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair George Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:00. Attendance was noted. Quorum requirements were met.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The WDGPH Land Acknowledgement was read in full by Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum.

3. DISCLOSURE(S) OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No disclosures were declared at this time.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2026.

MOTION: "To approve the Minutes of February 4, 2026 as presented."

Moved: L. Busuttil

Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

5. MOH/CEO VERBAL REPORT

Dr. Tenenbaum provided a verbal update including the following highlights:

- **HPV Awareness Day**
 - It was noted that the Board of Health meeting was taking place on HPV Awareness Day and reported that WDG Public Health currently leads Ontario in HPV vaccine coverage among 17-year-olds, reflecting ongoing work through school clinics and outreach.
 - It was noted that HPV vaccination protects against several cancers and remains an important cancer prevention measure.
 - Staff also reported the launch of a Youth Vaccine Champion Program, with 18 youth recruited through provincial funding to support vaccine awareness and confidence among peers.
- **International Women's Day**
 - Staff noted that International Women's Day on March 8 recognizes the achievements of women and the ongoing work required to advance gender equality.
 - WDG Public Health reaffirmed its commitment to health equity and reducing barriers through evidence-based programs, policy, and partnerships.
- **ISPA**
 - Staff reported continued work under the Immunization of School Pupils Act. More than 5,000 students had brought immunization records up to date since notices were issued.
 - It was noted that the number of overdue students had continued to decline compared with previous years.
- **Well Water Result Notification Pilot**
 - It was reported that a pilot would be launched to automatically notify residents of potentially unsafe private well water test results through robocall or text message.
 - The pilot was intended to improve timely communication of health information and build on recent investments in data systems and service modernization.
- Board member E. Caton inquired whether vaccine availability information could be communicated using a system similar to the well water result notification pilot. Dr. Tenenbaum responded that the WDG Public Health website remains the primary source for vaccine information. Key information is also available through the public health phone line and the Client and Community Services (CCS) team, where residents can obtain reliable information from a public health nurse.

6. PRESENTATION(S)

- A. Fournier presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.MAR0426.R04 - (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).
- B. Hodgson presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.MAR0426.R05 - (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

7. BUSINESS ARISING

- NONE

8. CONSENT AGENDA(S)

- [BH.01.NOV0525.C11](#) – Annual Privacy Program Update
- [BH.01.NOV0525.C12](#) – Covid, Flu, RSV Vaccinations

MOTION: "To receive the Consent Agenda item(s) which have been given due consideration, for information."

Moved: D. Bull

Seconded: E. Caton

CARRIED

9. BOH REPORT(S)

[BH.01.MAR0426.R04](#) – Strengthening Municipal Partnerships Through the Built Environment Program

- Dr. Tenenbaum introduced, and A. Fournier presented on screen and reviewed the report.
- Board member R. Manktelow asked how municipalities become involved in the program. A. Fournier explained that under the Ontario Planning Act, development applications are submitted to municipalities, where designated staff review them and provide recommendations through a formal legal process. Municipal partners use their internal structures to engage subject matter experts and ensure comprehensive review.
- Board member C. Cork commented on the importance of the initiative, highlighting the links between public transportation and health and noting the role of public health in land use planning. He indicated support for the transportation study.
- Board member A. Kaul asked about municipal accountability. A. Fournier advised that municipalities must follow specific legal requirements under the planning process and noted that research over the past two decades has strengthened understanding of healthy built environments.
- Board member E. Caton asked whether the work applies to provincial legislation or is limited to the municipal level. A. Fournier explained that public health works with municipal planners to incorporate best practices for healthy built environments and also participates in networks with other public health units and organizations to support provincial-level initiatives.

MOTION: "To receive Board of Health report BH.01.MAR0426.R04 – Strengthening Municipal Partnerships Through the Built Environment Program as presented, for information."

Moved: E. Caton

Seconded: C. Cork

CARRIED

BH.01.MAR0426.R05 – Demonstrating Quality, Impact and Performance: 2025 Quality & Impact Portfolio Accomplishments

- Dr Tenenbaum introduced and B. Hodgson presented on screen and reviewed the report.
- The Quality and Impact program supports WDGPH in assessing program performance, service quality, and community impact.
- In 2025, performance measurement expanded beyond tracking activities to include consistent measures of service quality and community impact across programs, with coordinated measurement being introduced for similar interventions.
- A more structured quality improvement approach was noted to be improving service efficiency, supporting innovation, and preparing programs for increased demand.
- Since its launch in 2022, the program has progressed from establishing performance measurement infrastructure to using data more actively to support accountability, quality improvement, and informed decision-making while reducing administrative burden and improving responsiveness to community needs.

MOTION: "To receive Board of Health report BH.01.MAR0426.R05 – Demonstrating Quality, Impact and Performance: 2025 Quality & Impact Portfolio Accomplishments as presented, for information."

Moved: R. Sedgwick

Seconded: E. Caton

CARRIED

BH.01.MAR0426.R06 – Client and Community Support – 2025 Year in Review

- Dr Tenenbaum introduced and R. Coghlin presented on screen and reviewed the report.
- It was reported that in 2025, Client and Community Services (CCS) prioritized program expansion through new technologies and initiatives to better support internal teams, community members, and partners while advancing WDG Public Health's strategic priorities and meeting Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) requirements.
- Planned initiatives for 2026 include partnering with Children's Health Services to launch a prenatal care access program for pregnant individuals in Guelph without a primary care provider, introducing a live chat hand-off from the chatbot to a nurse for complex inquiries, and optimizing virtual reception screens at the Orangeville and Fergus offices to provide support when attendants are unavailable.
- It was noted that CCS continues to demonstrate leadership in delivering timely and inclusive public health services through innovation and cross-sector collaboration.
- Board Member R. Manktelow noted that graphs included in Board reports should be designed to ensure they remain accessible to readers who have difficulty distinguishing colours. Staff confirmed that steps will be taken to ensure Board reports are accessible and more easily understood.

MOTION: "To receive Board of Health report BH.01.MAR0426.R06 – Client and Community Support – 2025 Year in Review as presented, for information."

Moved: A. Kaul

Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

[G. Bridge relinquished the Chair to C. White]

10. COMMITTEE REPORT(S)

➤ **BH.04.MAR0426.R01 – Fourth Quarter Financials**

- Secretary-Treasurer White introduced the report and placed the following motion before the Board.

MOTION: "That the Board of Health to receive Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0426.R01 – Fourth Quarter Financials, as presented, for information."

Moved: S. Cavell

Seconded: A. Kaul

CARRIED

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- NONE.

Media and Public attendees were asked to leave the meeting, at this time, as this Board of Health meeting contains a "Closed Session" section which falls under the exemptions pursuant to Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*. Please note that this session is **not** open to members of the public or the press.

12. CLOSED SESSION

- ▶ To approve the Closed Session minutes of February 4, 2026
- ▶ To receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0426.R02 – Risk Registry Report [the security of the property of the BOH].
- ▶ To receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0426.R03 – Reserves and Reserve Funds [the security of the property of the BOH].

MOTION: “To move into closed session to approve the closed session minutes of February 4, 2026 [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees, and the security of the property of the BOH]; and to receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee Reports BH.04.MAR0426.R02 – Risk Registry Report [the security of the property of the BOH], and BH.01.MAR0426.R03 – Reserves and Reserve Funds [the security of the property of the BOH].

Moved: E. Caton

Seconded: R. Manktelow

CARRIED

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Meeting Date: March 4, 2026

Location: ZOOM (Virtual)

CLOSED SESSION

ATTENDANCE

Members in Attendance:

George Bridge (Chair), Rodrigo Goller, Campbell Cork, Guy Gardhouse, Duncan Bull, Steve Cavell, Robin Sedgwick, Anil Kaul, Erin Caton, Linda Busuttil, Ralph Manktelow and Chris White.

Members with Regrets: David Anderson.

Ex-Officio Member: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Associate Medical Officer of Health

Staff in Attendance:

Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Paul Medeiros, Brian Herman and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guests in Attendance:

None.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER

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[Return to open session:]

Motions to be brought into open session:

MOTION: That the Board of Health receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0426.R02 – Risk Registry Report, as presented, for information.

MOTION: That the Board of Health receive Closed Session Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.MAR0426.R03 – Reserves and Reserve Funds, as presented, for information.

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: "To adjourn the meeting."

Moved: C. Cork

Seconded: E. Caton

CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at **2:55** pm.

APPROVED this 1st day of April, 2026.

Board of Health Chair

Medical Officer of Health, CEO