

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health met virtually via Zoom platform at 4:00 p.m.

Members in attendance were: Mr. George Bridge (Chair), Mr. Allan Alls, Ms. Christine Billings, Mr. Guy Gardhouse, Mr. Rodrigo Goller (via teleconference), Ms. June Hofland, Mr. Ralph Manktelow and Mr. Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets: None

Ex-officio member(s) in attendance: Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Staff members in attendance were: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson, Ms. Kyley Alderson, R. Cunningham, Ms. Lisa Hebden, Ms. Marlene Jantzi, Ms. Mary Anne Kozdras, Ms. Camille Loucks, Mr. Julian Martalog, Ms. Karen Mulvey, Ms. Shelley Nuhn (Recording Secretary), Ms. April Pollington, Mr. Emerson Rajaram, Ms. Monica Scott, Ms. Maria Simpson, Ms. Anna Vanderlaan, Mr. Patryk Wardach and Mr. Danny Williamson.

Guests in attendance were: (MEDIA) Anam Khan (Guelph Today), Graeme McNaughton (Guelph Mercury Tribune), Michael Raletic (Bell Media), Ms. Joanne Shuttleworth (The Wellington Advertiser) and member(s) of the public.

1.0 Call to Order

G. Bridge, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest

There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of June 9, 2021, as presented.”

Moved: A. Alls

Seconded: C. Billings

CARRIED

4.0 MOH Update(s)

Dr. Mercer provided the following update:

- With potential for a fourth wave, vaccination rates will make a significant difference for the health care sector and health care providers. While cases continue to increase locally, WDG remains in Yellow level as vaccination rates are increasing.
- Schools are well prepared by WDGPH staff to have children return to school this fall.

5.0 Presentation(s)

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

R. Isley and K. Wilson presented and provided a detailed update, as follows:

- Mass vaccination clinic sites have demobilized and moved to anchor (hub) sites, pop-up, specialized, and mobile clinic sites for homebound, long-term care and retirement home residents, and other congregate settings.
- Throughout the month of June 136,974 doses were administered across WDG, with a record number of doses (37,644) administered during the week of June 20-26. Factors contributing to the challenges experienced in June include accelerating second doses as WDG was identified as a 'Delta hotspot', shortened interval between first and second doses, the shortage of Pfizer and surplus of Moderna started the promotion of mixed doses, and the start of school-age clinics in preparation for September.
- In July, clinics continued to provide first and second doses to anyone 12+ years old. Clinic models shifted as the demand for appointments decreased, and barriers to clinic access and vaccine hesitancy became more apparent. Drop-in and smaller pop-up clinics were added in specific neighbourhoods, at local events, and in the Downtown Guelph 'Dining District'.
- In August, the majority of people who wanted to be vaccinated were. The decision was made to demobilize the mass vaccination clinics at Linamar, University of Guelph, Fergus Sportsplex, West End Recreation Centre and Alder St Arena, and to transition to smaller hub clinics, pop-up sites and mobile clinics in rural areas. In addition, the provincial GO-VAXX bus was stationed for one day in Harriston and Orangeville communities.
- Children turning 12 in 2021 became eligible for vaccine, third doses were offered to specific highest-risk populations, and the province issued Directive 6 mandating vaccination policies at specific acute care facilities.
- Progressive trends in dose distribution throughout the year were reviewed.
- Moving forward in September, attention will be focussed on the school population and organizing pop-up clinics at high schools with low vaccination rates. Vaccination will continue to be offered at hub, mobile, and outreach pop-up clinic sites, as well as local primary care givers and pharmacies.
- WDGPH is preparing for changes to the provincial vaccine program including increased eligibility for third doses and vaccination of younger age cohorts.
- A BOH member asked if initiatives were planned to increase vaccinate rates of some rural communities. Community leaders were engaged to discuss innovative ways for WDGPH to have a regular presence within the communities in order to build confidence and trust, and to offer opportunities to those with barriers to access.

6.0 Business Arising

- None

7.0 Consent Agenda

- BH.01.SEP0821.C03 – Health Protection 2021 Second Quarter Performance Indicator Summary (Jan-Jun)
- BH.01.SEP0821.C04 – Clinical Services (Jan-Jun)

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive the Consent Agenda items which have been given due consideration, for information.”

Moved: C. Billings
Seconded: R. Goller **CARRIED**

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.SEP0821.R06 – Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program

Dr. Mercer introduced, and R. Isley reviewed BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R06, as follows:

- The Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (OSDCP) was paused at the onset of the pandemic and resumed at the Chancellors Way office in May 2021.
- Staff reached out to local dentist specialists to provide care to the most severe patients in need of treatment. Dental clinics were enhanced and IPAC measures were met in order to run clinics safely at the Chancellors Way and Orangeville offices.
- In May, the first patients were seen for limited treatment at the Chancellors Way clinic. The clinics are now offering extensive dental work and assessments. To date, the dentist has completed 73 appointments.
- Recruitment has begun for a part-time OSDCP dentist to provide client care one day per week out of the Orangeville office and to expand services at Chancellors Way to two days per week.
- A BOH member inquired about how seniors learn about access to oral health care. The OSDCP is 100% provincially funded and seniors can self-refer. Program information is available to seniors through various sources including notification through social assistance, WDGPH and government websites, emergency rooms and Telehealth.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R06 – Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program, as presented, for information.”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

BH.01.SEP0821.R07 – Congregate Settings Team

R. Isley introduced, and K. Mulvey reviewed BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R07, as follows:

- Early in the pandemic, unrelated individuals living in close proximity to others in homes or facilities were significantly impacted by COVID. Recognizing the high-risk of these vulnerable settings, a Congregate Settings team was created to help reduce transmission of the virus.
- A team of public health nurses, health promotion specialists, public health inspectors and administrative staff was formed in April 2020 to support 136 sites in WDG.

- Site visits and IPAC assessments were completed at long-term care and retirement homes and other congregate settings. Each site received an initial visit and a second follow-up visit in the fall to help put resources in place to maintain IPAC practices. Additional follow-up visits were completed where required.
- The Congregate Settings team provides facilities with daily outbreak management support, review and support with ministry guidelines, and ongoing IPAC education. Tabletop exercises were offered as a proactive measure for outbreak preparedness.
- Congregate care huddles with community partners were developed early in the pandemic to support facilities related to outbreaks, health human resources, personal protective equipment supply, and IPAC assessments.
- In September 2020, the ministry announced funding for IPAC hubs across the province to implement stronger IPAC supports for congregate living settings. WDGPH was selected as the local satellite IPAC hub for Guelph-Wellington.
- A BOH member expressed support for the ongoing training and IPAC capacity building in long-term care homes and inquired about opportunities to influence policy setting and future planning. Funding has been provided by MLTC and MCCSS to have IPAC experts in organizations. WDGPH is working with them to have IPAC champions trained to mentor. The most significant challenge in homes is human resources and high staff turnover. The provincial government is reviewing the complexity of this issue.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R07 – Congregate Settings Team, as presented, for information.”

Moved: G. Guardhouse
Seconded: J. Hofland

CARRIED

BH.01.SEP0821.R08 – Vaccine Clinics
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R. Isley introduced, and C. Loucks reviewed BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R08, as follows:

- C. Loucks, was recruited as a clinic consultant to support the setup of clinics to vaccinate 75-90% of the WDG population as quickly as possible.
- Vaccine rollout began in December 2020 with limited vaccine and strict eligibility criteria. Different clinic models were created with the ability to scale up or down in response to vaccine availability.
- With a high demand for vaccination and a large supply of vaccine expected in late February and March, mass vaccination clinic sites were established. Credit was given to the University of Guelph, Linamar and the Guelph Family Health Team for their support in creating successful mass clinics.
- While mass clinic sites demobilized in August, hub sites continue in a smaller capacity.
- Approximately 80,000 WDG residents are still unvaccinated. All individuals are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect the community and the children who are not yet eligible.
- BOH members acknowledged the efforts being made to accommodate the hesitant, vulnerable and hard to reach unique populations, and asked about managing residents vaccinated outside of WDG. The Health Analytics team can provide data on where people are vaccinated in other areas, and neighbourhoods that are/are not vaccinated. This data allows staff to target and distribute vaccine to everyone who is eligible.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R08 – Vaccine Clinics, as presented, for information.”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: C. Billings

CARRIED

BH.01.SEP0821.R09 – Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy

Dr. Tenenbaum spoke to BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R09, as follows:

- This report looks at the underlying variables for people not being vaccinated and what factors are driving the hesitancy. Many people don't trust the vaccine.
- Initially, information was given about the safety of vaccines and the benefits of protection of the community to get back to normal. Providing this information served us well and vaccination increased dramatically over the summer.
- August saw a decline in interest and progressively smaller numbers, requiring more effort per dose than early in the pandemic.
- In order to combat the Delta variant and to reach a vaccination rate of 90+%, everyone who wants to, needs to be vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Last week a call to action was sent for workplaces to have their own vaccination policy, building on provincial Directive 6 and WDGPH's own policy.
- Everyone has a role to play by initiating conversations to implement all policy levers to encourage and normalize vaccination.
- A BOH member acknowledged the ability for councillors to promote vaccination in their regular contact with the public and stakeholders using their own tools and ideas in this report to implement in their work.

(a) MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.SEP0821.R09 – Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy, as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: A. Alls

CARRIED

(b) MOTION: “That the Board of Health provide support for the actions outlined in this report on interventions that can be utilized to increase COVID-19 vaccination uptake across WDG.”

Moved: R. Manktelow
Seconded: G. Guardhouse

CARRIED

9.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Executive Committee Report:

- None

Human Resources Committee Report:

- None

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

C. White, Chair, provided an update advising that the Finance + Audit Committee met, virtually on September 8, 2021 to review/discuss the following matters:

BH.04.SEP0821.R06 – 2021 Second Quarter Financials

- The report provides a second quarter breakdown of regular allocation and continued costs for COVID expenses.
- A vast majority of budget dollars continue to flow to COVID costs, exceeding early budget projections. The ministry has indicated they will continue to cover these costs.
- Finance staff are in constant consultation with the ministry regarding detailed reporting requirements and expense reimbursement.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee and receives Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.SEP0821.R06 – 2021 Second Quarter Financials, as presented, for information.”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

BH.04.SEP0821.R07 – Financial Update

- The Financial Update report focuses on significant factors that have impacted the budget and Finance team specifically related to the pandemic. It outlines basic operational financial items including cashflow and long-term issues.
- It is expected that the province will audit spending and efficiencies of the pandemic. Staff are preparing documentation for detailed audits.
- The Finance team is working with municipalities to confirm requirements and timelines to finalize a budget for 2022/23, for presentation to the Board of Health for approval in November. The budget will be similar to this year with many unknowns for the upcoming year.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee and receives Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.SEP0821.R07 – Financial Update, as presented, for information.”

Moved: C. Billings
Seconded: J. Hofland **CARRIED**

BH.04.SEP0821.R08 – Increase to TD Bank Line of Credit

- Maintaining adequate cash flow has been a challenge for all public health units.
- In order to ensure the Agency is able to maintain cashflow and payroll, a request was made to increase the TD Bank Line of Credit to \$3M.
- This was a proactive measure authorized by the MOH and the BOH Chair.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health accepts the recommendation of the Finance + Audit Committee and receives Finance + Audit Committee Report BH.04.SEP0821.R08 – Increase to TD Bank Line of Credit, as presented, for information.”

Moved: G. Bridge
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

10.0 Correspondence

- The Honourable Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Letter to Board of Health Chair and the Medical Officer of Health re Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement, and One-Time Funding

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive the above-noted Correspondence, as presented, for information.”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

Media and Public attendees were asked to disconnect from 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.

(5:35) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone disconnected from the meeting.

11.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the Closed Session Board of Health Minutes of June 9, 2021
- Verbal Report – IT Security Update [property matters including security of property and/or a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Board].
- MOH Updates – [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of June 9, 2021; to receive Verbal Report – IT Security Update [property matters including security of property and/or a proposed or pending acquisition of land by the Board]; and to obtain MOH Updates [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].”

Moved: J. Hofland
Seconded: G. Guardhouse **CARRIED**

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday, September 8, 2021

CLOSED SESSION

Members in attendance were: Mr. George Bridge (Chair), Mr. Allan Alls, Ms. Christine Billings, Mr. Guy Gardhouse, Mr. Rodrigo Goller, Ms. June Hofland, Mr. Ralph Manktelow and Mr. Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets were: None

Ex-officio member(s) in attendance were: Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

Staff member(s) in attendance were: Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Mr. Chris Beveridge, Ms. Rita Isley, Mr. David Kingma, Mr. Kyle Wilson and Ms. Shelley Nuhn (Recording Secretary).

Guest(s) in attendance were: NONE.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

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(6:16) Returned to Open Session.

MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the September 8, 2021 Board of Health meeting.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Guardhouse **CARRIED**

Motion(s) passed and brought forward from the September 8, 2021 Closed Session Meeting:

MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session Minutes of April 7, 2021, as presented.”

Moved: C. Billings
Seconded: A. Alls **CARRIED**

MOTION: “To receive Closed Session Verbal Report IT Security Update, as presented, for information.”

Moved: A. Alls
Seconded: C. White **CARRIED**

12.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved: C. Billings
Seconded: J. Hofland **CARRIED**