

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday February 1, 2023**

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:00 p.m. via the Zoom platform.

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), David Anderson, Linda Busuttil, Guy Gardhouse, Erin Caton, Steve Cavell, Ralph Manktelow, and Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets: Rodrigo Goller

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

Staff members in attendance were: Chris Beveridge, Rita Isley, David Kingma, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Kyle Wilson, Meghan Wiles, Karen Mulvey, Lisa Hebden, Lisa Needham, Paul Medeiros, Phil Wong, Janet Kwansah, Emerson Rajaram, Liliana Marinko, Ms. Camille Loucks, Danny Williamson, Melissa Quartarone, Julian Martalog, Anna Vanderlaan, Kiley Alderson, Amanda Scales, Mary Anne Kozdras, Sonja Vukovic, Shelley Nuhn and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: Joanne Shuttleworth (MEDIA), Austin Cardinell (MEDIA), Adam Donaldson (MEDIA),

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m., and Dr. Mercer read the WDGPH Land Acknowledgement in full.

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 Jan 4, 2023 as presented.”

Moved: D. Anderson

Seconded: L. Busuttil

CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided an update as follows:

- Dr. Mercer reviewed the recent update of Canada’s Low-Risk Alcohol Drinking Guidelines from Canada’s Guidance on Alcohol and Health from the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction.
- The update outlines the recommended weekly alcohol consumption for adults to lower their health risks.
- Adults consuming two drinks or less per week are found to be at low risk. While those who consume three to six drinks per week are at moderate risk, the risk is increasingly high for those who consume seven or more drinks per week.
- Alcohol consumption is never encouraged if someone is pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Alcohol contributes to 4500 deaths per year in Canada, and there is no scientific evidence to support the statement of alcohol being good for your health.
- A report will be coming from Public Health Ontario regarding this update.

5.0 Presentation(s)

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| Immunization Requirements for Students Attending Schools in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph |
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K. Mulvey presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.FEB0123.R04 – Immunization Requirements for Students Attending Schools in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

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| School-Focused Nurses Initiative |
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M. Wiles presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.FEB0123.R05 – School-Focused Nurses Initiative (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

6.0 Business Arising

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| Review of Changes Made to By-Laws No. 5 and No. 6 |
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Dr. Mercer reviews By-Laws No. 5 and No. 6 with the Board and outlines the updates made, namely:

- By-Law No. 5, being a by-law relating to the appointment of an acting Medical Officer of Health has been updated to include the Associate Medical Officer of Health for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum), to correct the name of the Huron Perth Health Unit and to revise the names of current MOH/AMOH’s who could serve as acting Medical Officer of Health.
- By-Law No. 6, being a by-law relating to the appointment of an acting Medical Officer of Health and obtain from or give assistance to other public health units for emergencies or urgent projects, has been updated to include the role of the Associate Medical Officer of Health for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum), and corrected the title of one of the Directors to ‘Director of Administrative Services and Chief Administrative Officer’.

MOTION (1): “Recommendation that the 2023 By-Law No. 5 of the Board of Health for the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit,

consisting of the following: By-Law No. 5 – being a By-Law relating to the appointment of an acting Medical Officer of Health, be introduced for consideration and read a first and second time.”

Moved: C. White
Seconded: L. Busuttil CARRIED

MOTION (2): Recommendation that the 2023 By-Law No. 5 of the Board of Health for the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit consisting of the following: By-Law No. 5 – being a By-Law relating to the appointment of an Acting Medical Officer of Health, be read a third time, and finally passed.

Moved: L. Busuttil
Seconded: R. Manktelow CARRIED

MOTION (3): “Recommendation that the 2023 By-Law No. 6 of the Board of Health for the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit, consisting of the following: By-Law No. 6 – being a By-Law relating to the appointment of an acting Medical Officer of Health and obtain from or give assistance to other public health units for emergencies or urgent projects, be introduced for consideration and read a first and second time.”

Moved: D. Anderson
Seconded: G. Gardhouse CARRIED

MOTION (4): “Recommendation that the 2023 By-Law No. 6 of the Board of Health for the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Health Unit, consisting of the following: By-Law No. 6 – being a By-Law relating to the appointment of an acting Medical Officer of Health and obtain from or give assistance to other public health units for emergencies or urgent projects, be introduced for consideration and read a first and second time.”

Moved: E. Caton
Seconded: L. Busuttil CARRIED

7.0 Consent Agenda

- BH.01.FEB0123.C02 – Trends in Diseases of Public Health Significance
- BH.01.FEB0123.C03 – Clinical Services Annual Review
- BH.01.FEB0123.C04 – Health Protection 2022 Year End Performance Indicator Summary

MOTION:

- (a) “That the Board of Health receive the Consent Agenda item(s),

which have been given due consideration, for information.”

Moved: G. Gardhouse
Seconded: R. Manktelow **CARRIED**

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.FEB0123.R03 – Strategic Framework

Dr. Mercer introduced and D. Kingma reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.FEB0123.R03 – as follows:

- D. Kingma reviewed the 2023 Strategic Framework and highlighted that Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) has opted for a one-year guidance document given the uncertainty around Ministry amalgamation plans and the organizational-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- This framework is in preparation for a more fulsome plan being developed in 2023 to begin in 2024.
- The framework is a more forward-looking document than the previous three-year strategic plan and has shifted the focus from change readiness to change leadership.
- WDGPH is looking at a future vaccination system with combined flu and covid vaccine clinics (‘Fluvid’ clinics) in the fall.
- The pandemic has not been declared as over by the WHO and will be debated again over the course of 2023.
- A board member requested clarification regarding the possibility of healthcare privatization and the modernization of public health with regards to out of hospital surgical procedures.
- Public Health has a vested interest in Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) measures in out of hospital surgical facilities and as these facilities become operational ensuring that health equity is maintained.
- There will be a request in the Spring of 2023 for Board members who are interested in being a part of the planning process for the Strategic Plan.
- The Board discussed that BH.01.FEB0123.R03 be approved as well as received and a motion to the same will be added.

MOTION (1): “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.FEB01.23.R03 – Strategic Framework as presented, for information.”

Moved: L. Busuttil
Seconded: C. White **CARRIED**

MOTION (2): “That the Board of Health approve BOH Report BH.01.FEB01.23.R03 – Strategic Framework as presented.”

Moved: G. Gardhouse
Seconded: R. Manktelow **CARRIED**

BH.01.FEB0123.R04 – Immunization Requirements for Students Attending Schools in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health

Dr. Mercer introduced and K. Mulvey reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.FEB0123.R04 – as follows:

- Vaccines continue to save millions of lives across the globe.
- A data comparison of major diseases was shown of peak years before immunizations were released and the years of 2015-2019 with a highlight of public health authority and responsibility.
- A review of the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA) is provided as well as the requirements of public health to collect and assess immunization records.
- The impacts of lower vaccination rates are widespread, such as greater risk of disease in the community, with broader societal impacts.
- These diseases are highly preventable.
- A board member requests clarification on parochial schools and public health’s immunization success within them.
- Parochial schools are monitored, along with private schools, however the efforts are not as successful. Not all private and parochial schools will allow public health to provide vaccinations onsite.
- WDGPH works closely with parochial schools, community partners and healthcare providers to provide education to parochial staff, parents and students. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, WDGPH was able to vaccinate 73 parochial grade 8 students and the Agency is committed to increasing rates as much as possible.
- A board member requests clarification about religious and medical vaccine exemptions.
- For parents looking to obtain a conscientious exemption, there is a process to adhere to, including viewing an educational video to understanding the risks of not vaccinate their children, and having a form notarized and submitted to public health.
- A medical exemption would involve visiting a primary care provider, who will then submit a medical exemption form to public health for review and potential approval.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.FEB0123.R05 – Immunization Requirements for Students Attending Schools in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health as presented, for information.”

Moved: S. Cavell

Seconded: L. Busuttil

CARRIED

BH.01.JAN0423.R05 – School-Focused Nurses Initiative

Dr. Mercer introduced and M. Wiles reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.FEB0123.R05 – as follows:

- The School-Focused Nurses (SFN) Initiative was launched in the 2020-21 school year to provide support related to COVID-19 response in schools, childcare centres, and camps in Ontario.
- Review of the objectives was provided and the SFN Initiative priorities reviewed.

- The 2021-21 school year objectives were focused on Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) consultations, school case and contact management and outbreak management.
- The 2021-22 school year was focused on vaccinations. In-school vaccinations for all grade 7 and 8 students returned in October of 2021.
- Well-Being and Health Youth (WHY) survey results were reviewed, and based on key findings, the School Health team is promoting the Healthy Schools certification program through the Ontario Physical and Health Education Association (OPHEA).
- Flexibility provided through the SFN Initiative has allowed WDGPH and the School Health team to resume regular activities in the 2022-23 school year.
- This work is critical to achieving the optimal health of school-aged children in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.FEB0123.R05 – School-Focused Nurses Initiative as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Manktelow
Seconded: L. Busuttil

CARRIED

10.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

Human Resources Committee Report:

- NONE.

Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

11.0 Correspondence

- NONE.

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.

(3:31) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone disconnected from the meeting.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the January 4, 2023 Closed Session BOH Minutes.
- MOH Update(s) [the security of the property of the BOH].

(3:31)

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of January 4, 2023; and to receive MOH Update(s) [the security of the property of the BOH].”

Moved: D. Anderson
Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday February 1, 2023

CLOSED SESSION

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), Guy Gardhouse, Linda Busuttill, Erin Caton, Ralph Manktelow, David Anderson, Steve Cavell and Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets were: Rodrigo Goller

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

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

Guest(s) in attendance were: NONE.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

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(4:11) Returned to Open Session.

MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the February 1, 2023 Board of Health meeting.”

Moved: L. Busuttil
Seconded: C. White **CARRIED**

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved: G. Gardhouse
Seconded: E. Caton **CARRIED**