

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday June 5, 2024

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:05 p.m. at the GUELPH office.

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), Rodrigo Goller, Erin Caton, Ralph Manktelow, Guy Gardhouse, Steve Cavell, David Anderson, Duncan Bull, Linda Busuttil, Sandra Starr, and 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: Chris Beveridge, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Lisa Hebden, Emerson Rajaram, Camille Loucks, Brian Herman, Anna Vanderlaan, Phil Wong, Glenna Rogers, Sonja Vukovic, Liliana Marinko, Mary Anne Kozdras, Danny Williamson and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: Joanne Shuttleworth (MEDIA), Adam Donaldson (MEDIA), Taylor Pace (MEDIA).

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Chair G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:05 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 May 1, 2024 as presented.”

Moved:	R. Manktelow	
Seconded:	G Gardhouse	CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided several updates as follows:

- Information was provided on the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) plan that allows eligible Canadians to access and afford quality dental care. The program provides a dental care subsidy for Canadian residents who do not have dental benefits and have an adjusted household income of less than \$90,000 per year.
- The federal government has committed to rolling out this important program gradually as follows:

Group	Applications Open
Seniors aged 87 and above	Starting December 2023
Seniors aged 77 to 86	Starting January 2024
Seniors aged 72 to 76	Starting February 2024
Seniors aged 70 to 71	Starting March 2024
Seniors aged 65 to 69	Starting May 2024
Persons with a valid Disability Tax Credit certificate	Starting June 2024
Children under age 18	Starting June 2024
All remaining eligible Canadian residents	Starting 2025

- Starting in August of this year, the Ontario government will expand the province’s alcohol beverage marketplace by 8,500 stores by the end of October 2024. There will be an increase in convenience of access however increased availability will also result in increased use/misuse which has implications for individuals, their families and the social services provided by municipalities.
- WDG Public Health now has an online Cannabis Quiz. To test your knowledge, take the Interactive Cannabis Quiz, launched on June 3, 2024, available on the WDGPH website.
- Dr. Mercer provided an update on the planned discontinuation of wastewater surveillance in Ontario. The Province has an excellent wastewater surveillance system, and its discontinuation will have significant implications for WDGPH surveillance and the related public dashboard. The plan is to discontinue the 59 sampling sites in Ontario (Guelph and Orangeville are included) which cover over 60% of the population and at some point in the future the Federal Government may expand further into Ontario. Currently the Federal Government has 4 sites in Ontario, all in Toronto. It is extremely unlikely that a future surveillance program would be as robust or cover the breadth of the Ontario population as the existing program.
- The Board discussed the Ministry of Environment Conservation and Parks recent decision to end the wastewater surveillance program and authorized BOH Chair George Bridge to write a letter advocating for the continuation of wastewater surveillance in Ontario.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health authorize BOH Chair George Bridge to write a letter to the Ministry of Environment to request that

they reconsider the decision to end wastewater surveillance and to maintain the current system of testing within Ontario.”

Moved: E. Caton
Seconded: R. Manktelow **CARRIED**

5.0 Presentation(s)

Substance Use and Stigma

G. Rogers and S. Vukovic presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.JUN0524.R21 – Substance Use and Stigma (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

6.0 Business Arising

- None.

7.0 Consent Agenda

- **BH.01.JUN0524.C09** – Healthy Babies Healthy Children
- **BH.01.JUN0524.C10** – Emergency Preparedness
- **BH.01.JUN0524.C11** – 2023 Calgary Childcare Outbreak

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

Moved: L. Busuttil
Seconded: D. Anderson **CARRIED**

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.JUN0524.R21 – Substance Use and Stigma

Dr. Mercer introduced and G. Rogers and S. Vukovic presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R21– as follows:

- This presentation was previously shown to the Senior Leadership Team in May.
- WDPGH has developed an internal education program on substance use and stigma with the goal of helping staff to:
 - Be aware of their own stigma and address it in their day-to-day work.
 - Develop a collective understanding of where to direct the public seeking support.
 - Create a benchmark for all staff to be able to address public concerns and requests for service in a stigma-free way.
- A video was shown on screen about harms and stigma from the Hamilton Drug Strategy.
- The Board discussed the value of providing this training to the BOH and it was decided that this will be provided later in 2024.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R21 – Substance Use and Stigma as presented for information.”

Moved: L. Busuttill
Seconded: S. Starr **CARRIED**

BH.01.JUN0524.R22 – 2023 Annual Community Report

Dr. Mercer introduced and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R22 – as follows:

- The annual report highlights the unique challenges that WDG faces and how WDGPH addresses those challenges, as well as the evolving annual priorities that are addressed via thoughtful and timely initiatives.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R22 – 2023 Annual Community Report as presented, for information.”

Moved: D. Anderson
Seconded: R. Manktelow **CARRIED**

BH.01.JUN0524.R23 – Client and Community Support Summary

Dr. Mercer introduced and L. Hebden presented on screen and reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R23 – as follows:

- The report is a snapshot of the accomplishments of the Client and Community Service Team from November 2023 to March 2024. These include Healthy Growth and Development initiatives, the successful implementation of the Agency’s Chatbot, and the Sight for Success program which included partnerships with 21 optometrists across WDG to provide eligible families with a financial subsidy of \$160 to use towards glasses.
- The CCS team will continue to work with all Agency programs to ensure seamless integration and positive experiences for the community.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R23 – Client and Community Support Report as presented, for information.”

Moved: D. Bull
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

BH.01.JUN0524.R24 – Program Report: IPAC Hub

Dr. Mercer introduced and C. Beveridge reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R24 – as follows:

- The Infection Protection and Control (IPAC) Hub program was established in 2020, following the Province’s announcement of funding under the ‘Preparing for Future Waves COVID-19’ plan, aimed at enhancing IPAC support for congregate living settings.
- The demand for IPAC support in Ontario remains high, and the Hubs continue to offer valuable services to these settings.
- WDGPH will persist in protecting residents and staff in congregate settings, retirement homes, and long-term care homes.
- Annualized funding will ensure the Agency’s stability in continuing to provide IPAC services to these settings, thereby building capacity to effectively manage infection prevention and control programs.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0524.R24 – Program Report: IPAC Hub as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: C. white

CARRIED

9.0 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 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.

(3:30) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone left the meeting room.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the Closed Session minutes of May 1, 2024 [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].
- To receive Closed Session Report BH.01.JUN0524.R25 – 2024 – The Modern Enterprise [the security of the property of the BOH].
- To receive MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve the Closed Session Minutes of May 1, 2024 [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees]; to receive Closed Session Report BH.01.JUN0524.R25 – 2024 – The Modern Enterprise [the security of the property of the BOH]; and to receive MOH Update(s) [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees].

Moved: L. Busuttil
Seconded: R. Goller

CARRIED

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CLOSED SESSION

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), Guy Gardhouse, Ralph Manktelow, David Anderson, Rodrigo Goller, Erin Caton, Sandra Starr, Linda Busuttill, Duncan Bull, Steve Cavell and 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: Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Chris Beveridge, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Emerson Rajaram, and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guest(s) in attendance were: NONE.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

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(4:17) Returned to Open Session.

Motions to be brought into Open Session:

MOTION: “That the Board of Health approve the Closed Session Minutes of May 1, 2024, as presented.”

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive Closed Session Report BH.01.JUN0524.R25 – 2024 – The Modern Enterprise, as presented, for information.”

MOTION: “To ratify the Closed Session decisions of the June 5, 2024 Board of Health meeting.”

Moved:	R. Manktelow	
Seconded:	C. White	CARRIED

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved:	L. Busuttil	
Seconded:	S. Starr	CARRIED