

Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday June 7, 2023

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:00 p.m. at the GUELPH Office at 160 Chancellors Way, Guelph ON N1G 0E1.

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

Member(s) with regrets: Ralph Manktelow.

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, , Rob Cunningham, Meghan Wiles, Chuck Ferguson, Lisa Hebden, Karen Mulvey, Emerson Rajaram, Patryk Wardach, Camille Loucks, Anna Vanderlaan, Kyley Alderson, Mary Anne Kozdras, and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

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

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:06 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 3, 2023 as presented.”

Moved:

L. Busuttil

Seconded:

C. White

CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

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| MOH Update(s): |
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Dr. Mercer provided an update as follows:

- Dr. Mercer highlights the 2023 Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) Cannabis Survey that is available via the Agency’s [website](#). By completing the survey there is a chance to win \$100.

- An update is provided regarding ticks in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) and Ontario. Climate change is responsible for an increase in ticks, with milder winters in Canada, there is a significant decrease in the overwintering mortality of black-legged ticks.
- Important to note that Public Health is longer accepting tick submissions from the public.
- For more information on tick prevention and instructions for proper method of removal, please visit the WDGP [website page](#) related to the same.
- A video on our website illustrating the proper removal method for removing ticks was suggested by a Board member and Dr. Mercer agreed that this was a good idea and would be added.
- An air quality update was provided given the wildfires occurring across the country.
- Symptoms that may occur while the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) is higher were discussed. Seniors, young children, pregnant individuals as well as smokers and asthmatics should take extra care.
- For information regarding the provincial tracking of the AQHI please visit the Government of Canada [website](#).

5.0 Presentation(s)

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| Public Health Innovations in Analytics |
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J. Martalog presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.JUN0723.R17 – Public Health Innovations in Analytics (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

6.0 Business Arising

- None.

7.0 Consent Agenda

- BH.01.JUN0723.C11 – Emergency Preparedness (January 2020 – June 2023)

MOTION:

- (a) “That the Board of Health receive the Consent Agenda item(s), which have been given due consideration, for information.”

Moved: C. White

Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.JUN0723.R17 – Public Health Innovations in Analytics

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. Martalog and J. Angevaare reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R17 – as follows:

- This report highlights initiatives undertaken by WDGP over the past year.
- There are three tiers of data initiatives the agency is currently undertaking: Open Source, COVID-19 Vaccination Emails, and Dashboard Renewal.

- J. Martalog reviewed data governance for the board and informed them that as the initiative continues to grow the focus will be on data standards and quality improvement.
- AI and ChatGPT future initiatives are reviewed at a high level by J. Angevaare.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R17 – Public Health Innovations in Analytics as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: S. Cavell

CARRIED

BH.01.JUN0723.R18 – 2023 The Modern Enterprise

Dr. Mercer introduced and E. Rajaram reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R18 – as follows:

- Annual report that includes IT year-end review.
- An IT Security report will be submitted to the Board in the fall.
- This report highlights a variety of upgrades to the Tier 4 Data Centre and other Agency systems.
- There will soon be an AI powered Chatbot on the Agency website that is informed by WDGPH, not the internet, to eliminate any associated security concerns.
- There is the ability to intervene if the client calling needs to be seen by a nurse and it also allows clients 24-hour access to have their questions answered. This is a significant customer service enhancement.
- WDGPH has undertaken digital transformation initiatives to consistently improve its people, processes, and technologies. The Agency will continue to improve the quality of its services for internal and external clients.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R18 – 2023 – the Modern Enterprise as presented, for information.”

Moved: D. Bull
Seconded: S. Cavell

CARRIED

BH.01.JUN0723.R19 – Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program

Dr. Mercer introduced and M. Kozdras reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R19 – as follows:

- A high-level review of the report was provided to the Board.
- The Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program (HBHC) is a mandated program funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services (MCCSS).
- The program was restarted in 2022 and since then 2309 home visits have been conducted.
- New and innovative practices are being developed and deployed such as iPads for home visits and an SMS system to text clients.

- The outreach to hospitals and community partners has been restarted and conversations are ongoing.
- Ongoing program review and evaluation will help to provide further program innovation and efficiencies to provide the public with quality program delivery.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R19 – Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program, as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Goller

Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

BH.01.JUN0723.R20 – Injury Surveillance and Prevention Report

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. Martalog reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R20 – as follows:

- This report provides an overview of the injury related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and mortality information for the Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) region by geography, age group and sex.
- Unintentional injuries were the leading cause of death in Canadians aged 1-34 resulting in a significant burden of disability and long-term effects.
- WDGPH works closely with its community partners to reduce the burden of preventable injuries through data analysis, research evidence and evaluation support.
- The Agency strives to provide relevant data for its municipal partners to enable them to make meaningful, informed decisions.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R20 – Injury Surveillance and Prevention Report, as presented, for information.”

Moved: D. Bull

Seconded: D. Anderson

CARRIED

BH.01.JUN0723.R21 – 2022 Community Report

Dr. Mercer introduced and C. Ferguson reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R21 – as follows:

- The Community Report is one of two documents that the Board of Health is instructed by the Medical Officer of Health to post on the Agency’s website. The other is the Annual Report per the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS).
- It provides a key communication channel between the Board of Health and the WDG community and demonstrates accountability.
- This report adds to a decade of community reports on how public health has worked in the WDG region, gives a valuable historical perspective, and tells the story of public health.
- A video presentation was shown on screen.
- The 2022 Community Report will be sent to all WDG Council members.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.JUN0723.R21 – 2022 Community Report, as presented, for information.”

Moved: S. Cavell
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.

12.0 Approval of the Closed Session Board of Health Minutes of MAY 3/23

MOTION: “To approve the Closed Session Minutes of May 3, 2023 as presented.”

Moved: C. White
Seconded: R. Goller

CARRIED

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved: S. Cavell
Seconded: R. Goller

CARRIED