

**BRANT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Hybrid Virtual/Classroom 420/421**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Susan Brown (Province), Chair  
Nancy Church (Province), Vice-Chair  
David Bailey (County)  
John Bell (County)  
Michael Bodnar (Province)  
John Sless (City)

Dr. Rebecca Comley (Acting MOH)  
Brent Richardson (Acting Senior Administrator)  
Dr. Alexey Babayan (Director, Foundational Standards)  
Katie Greene (Manager, People, Culture & Support)  
Lorraine Johnson (recorder)  
Carly Greene (recorder)

**REGRETS:** Kevin Davis (City)  
Joy O'Donnell (Province)  
Brian Van Tilborg (City)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gerry Moniz, Manager, Chronic Diseases Prevention and Injury Prevention  
Alyssa Stryker, Coordinator, Brantford Brant Community Drugs Strategy Coordinator

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Susan Brown called the meeting to order at 9:26 a.m. The Incamera session was conducted first. Following that, quorum was lost. A decision was made to carry on for information purposes only.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Chair Brown reminded Members to declare a conflict of interest, if one so arises, at the time the item is discussed.

**3. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Items 7.5, 7.7, and 8.2 will immediately follow Item 7.2. Item 6.3 was deferred due to lack of quorum. Visioning will be included in Item 7.3.

Agenda proceeded with amendments and without motion to approve due to lack of quorum.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 Brant County Board of Health Minutes of July 20, 2022**

Minutes were received and will be brought forward for approval at a future meeting, due to lack of quorum.

*Brent Richardson and Lorraine Johnson were excused from the meeting at 9:27 a.m.*

**5. INCAMERA SESSION**

**Moved by: John Bell**  
**Seconded by: John Sless**

**“THAT the meeting move to In-Camera at 9:27 a.m. regarding personal matters about an identifiable individual and risk management/issues that pose potential liability to the organization.”** **Carried.**

*The regular Board of Health meeting resumed at 10:40 a.m.*

*Brent Richardson and Lorraine Johnson rejoined the meeting, and Alexey Babayan and Katie Greene joined the meeting at 10:40 a.m.*

*John Sless left the meeting during the Incamera session.*

During the Incamera session, three motions were passed.

## **6. FINANCIAL REPORT**

### **6.1 Finance and Audit Committee Report**

On behalf of Joy O'Donnell as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Board Vice-Chair Nancy Church presented the Finance and Audit Committee Report as distributed with the Agenda. A subsequent meeting will be scheduled in late October to begin preliminary budget discussions for 2023.

### **6.2 Financial Report ended July 31, 2022**

Brent Richardson presented the Financial Report ended July 31, 2022, as distributed with the Agenda. The Health Unit was in a good financial position as of July 31, with an estimated year-end expenditure surplus of \$478,342. Capital funding will be deferred to 2023 for the elevator and website redesign which are expected to be completed in Q1 2023. The elevator quote is expected to be under budget as per the RFP criteria. In addition to Ministry funding information at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario conference, more specifics are expected at the annual conference of the Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators next week. In response to Member's questions, there were 6 Public Health Nurses assigned to schools with 12-15 schools per nurse under both school boards. Also, 178 clients were seen in 2021 in the Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program (see Board of Health Report 8.2, Oral Health and Vision Health Program Report, of June 15, 2022).

Reports 8.1 through 8.3 were received for information, due to lack of quorum.

### **6.3 Procurement Policy Report**

Item deferred to the next meeting due to lack of quorum.

## **7. STANDING REPORTS and BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### **7.1 Report from the Chair**

Chair Susan Brown thanked City and County representatives for their service in general and on this Board. Chair Brown acknowledged that COVID-19 is not over, encouraged the Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) Team in their efforts against it, and asked for the Board's support and advocacy.

### **7.2 Report from the Acting Medical Officer of Health**

Dr. Rebecca Comley presented the Medical Officer of Health Report as distributed with the Agenda. Impact of Monkeypox locally has been minimal. Currently there are no active cases. Six pre-exposure prophylaxis clinics have been conducted.

### **7.3 Report from the Acting Senior Administrator**

Brent Richardson presented the Acting Senior Administrator Report as distributed with the Agenda. The report highlighted communication improvements and operational planning activities. The consultant is working with the Program Managers on Infectious Diseases and Vaccine Preventable Diseases program reviews to look at integrating COVID into regular programming. The visioning presentation, requested of Brent by the Board, will be delayed to a future meeting when more Members are in attendance.

### **7.4 Food Disclosure Bylaw Report**

Brent Richardson presented the Food Disclosure Bylaw Report as distributed with the Agenda. The report provided a summary of closure orders and charges against food premises to date this year. The BCHU website contains food premises inspections, charges, and closures, and food premises post their inspection certificates in their windows. Dr. Comley advised that Public Health Inspectors work with operators to provide education about requirements.

*Gerry Moniz and Alyssa Stryker joined the meeting at 11:21 a.m.*

### **7.5 COVID-19 Report**

Dr. Rebecca Comley presented the COVID-19 Report as distributed with the Agenda. There is an overall decrease in COVID activity. Ministry guidelines are moving to integrate COVID-19 into routine management along with other infectious diseases. Bivalent vaccine is now available in Brant for the priority populations, with full availability for adults expected on September 26. Pharmacies will be coming on board with this. Demand expectations are uncertain.

A fall COVID wave superimposed on a heavy influenza season would be of serious concern provincially. Brant's vaccination rates are generally very good; all areas faced reduced coverage for Doses 3 and 4 and with the younger age cohort. It is challenging to convince people to get vaccinated once the vaccination mandates lifted.

#### **7.6 Strategic Planning**

No report

#### **7.7 Brantford Brant Norfolk Ontario Health Team Update**

Dr. Rebecca Comley provided an update on the Brantford Brant Norfolk Ontario Health Team (BBNOHT). It has been a difficult summer for health care providers in general. The BBHOHT has been focussing on the digital health strategy; BCHU is participating in that discussion. There is interest in resuming the Mobile Enhancement Support Team (MEST).

Reports 7.1 through 7.7 were received for information, due to lack of quorum.

*Dr. Comley left the meeting at 11:34 a.m.*

### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **8.1 Harm Reduction Program Report**

Gerry Moniz and Alyssa Stryker presented the Harm Reduction Program Report as distributed with the Agenda. The report highlighted activities in building relationships; reinvigorating Drugs Strategy structure and governance; refreshing and expanding existing initiatives; advancing and supporting the work of the Drugs Strategy partners; and launching new initiatives. All secondary schools in Brant have Naloxone available on site and training is provided by the school boards. Alyssa will provide Members with the Drugs Strategy Terms of Reference in a future report. Members asked that the Board co-sign or be named in the letter of support for a local consumption and treatment site.

*Alyssa Stryker and Gerry Moniz left the meeting at 11:45 a.m.*

#### **8.2 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases School Immunization Program Report**

Dr. Rebecca Comley provided information on the Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) School Immunization Program. The current priority is the Grade 7 immunization clinics for Meningitis, Human Papillomavirus, and Hepatitis B. School clinics occur in October and May as two of the vaccinations require two doses. During COVID, BCHU operated some school clinics and offered various catch-up clinics for students. Brant's coverage rates are lower than in previous years, but higher than the provincial average. Outreach is planned to all students who missed vaccinations in the past two years to provide the opportunity to catch-up on outstanding immunizations.

#### **8.3 Brant County Health Unit Organizational Chart**

Brent Richardson presented the draft Brant County Health Unit (BCHU) Organizational Chart as distributed with the Agenda. Chair Brown stated that it is a dynamic document with changes as part of usual operations. Members requested, for a future meeting, information on any cost savings involved with the new structure.

Reports 8.1 through 8.3 were received for information, due to lack of quorum.

### **9. CORRESPONDENCE** *(Board members may request a copy of items that are not attached from Board of Health Secretary)*

- 9.1** Correspondence received from Timiskaming Health Unit, dated July 15, 2022, re decriminalization of personal possession of illicit drugs.
- 9.2** Correspondence received from Timiskaming Health Unit, dated July 15 2022, re substance abuse harms.
- 9.3** Correspondence received from Niagara Region, dated July 19, 2022, re employer-paid sick days.
- 9.4** Correspondence received from Niagara Region, dated July 22, 2022, re opioid drug supply.
- 9.5** Correspondence received from Niagara Region, dated July 29, 2022, re public health funding shortfalls.
- 9.6** Correspondence received from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, dated August 11, 2022, re indirect impacts surveillance dashboard (COVID).

Correspondence was received for information.

**10. QUESTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**10.1** Board Members were invited to the Annual BCHU Staff BBQ on September 15, 2022.

**11. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

**11.1** Presentation/Training – Indigenous Culture and Land Acknowledgement

**12. NEXT MEETING DATES**

Wednesday, October 19, 2022.

Regrets noted from Kevin Davis. *(NB 10.19.22 Kevin Davis did in fact attend the October 2022 meeting.)*

Members discussed the need to pass some priority motions, the upcoming municipal election on October 24, the City’s lame duck Council, and uncertainty about the timing of municipal appointments to the Board post-election. It was suggested that a Special Meeting could be called for the priority motions: David Bailey and John Bell indicated they could attend. Chair Brown will inquire of the City Members about attendance at a Special Meeting and the timing of new appointments for a December meeting. Councillors can be polled to determine availability to ensure quorum.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by: Nancy Church**

**“THAT the Board of Health meeting be adjourned at 11:50 a.m.”**

**Carried.**

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date