

Board of Health Meeting

May 28, 2026



Open Session Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, May 28, 2026, commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Ms. K. Hobbs**	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar**	Board Member
Mr. J. Palmer	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. E. Taylor	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member (Vice Chair)
Dr. N. Tran	Medical Officer of Health (ex officio)
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

Guests:

Ms. J. Gordon	Administrative Assistant
Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. S. MacIsaac	Program Director
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink	Director, Finance
Ms. N. Rowe**	Manager, Communications
Ms. C. Richards	Manager, Foundational Standards
Mr. Y. Santos	Manager, IT
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

Media:

Mr. R. Perry**	Aylmer Express
Mr. I. McCallum**	MyBroadcastingCorp

Note: ** indicates virtual participation

Regrets:

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member

1.1 Call to order, recognition of quorum

The meeting was called to order by B. Martin at 1:02 p.m.

1.2 Approval of agenda

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-1.2

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for Thursday, May 28, 2026, be approved.

Carried.

1.3 Reminder of conflicts of interest

Reminder to disclose any pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof when the item arises, including interests related to a previous meeting the member did not attend.

1.4 Recording of minutes

Reminder that meetings are recorded for minute-taking purposes, and open session portions are publicly available for viewing for 30 days after being posted on Southwestern Public Health's website.

2.0 Approval of minutes

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-2.1

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for April 23, 2026, be approved.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-2.2

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for May 13, 2026, be approved.

Carried.

3.0 Consent agenda items

No items.

4.0 Correspondence received requiring action

No items.

5.0 Agenda items for information, discussion, decision.

5.1 Medical Officer of Health's Report

Dr. N. Tran reviewed the report.

Discussion took place regarding the new primary care funding and whether it could be used for facilities or physician recruitment. Dr. Tran explained that the funding is intended to increase attachment to team-based primary care through the addition of physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, and other health professionals. He noted that proposals will vary by organization and form part of a broader strategy that includes expanded medical school and residency positions, local recruitment efforts, and reduced licensing barriers for internationally trained health professionals.

A member of the Board commented on the strong support among pharmacists and pharmacies for the expansion of publicly funded vaccine administration and noted that pharmacists will soon be able to assess and treat nine additional minor ailments, which may help reduce pressure on primary care providers.

Questions were raised regarding how the public would be informed about the expanded vaccination services available through pharmacies. Dr. Tran advised that communication would occur through both provincial and local channels, with additional details expected closer to implementation. He noted that pharmacies would likely promote the new services alongside their existing offerings and that further information regarding eligibility criteria was still forthcoming.

Discussion also occurred regarding emerging research suggesting a potential association between certain vaccinations, including the shingles vaccine, and a reduced risk of dementia. Dr. Tran noted that early research findings have shown promising results, and a member of the Board commented that such findings could help encourage vaccine uptake.

No further questions were raised regarding the report.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-5.1

Moved by D. Shinedling

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's Report for May 28, 2026.

Carried.

5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed the report.

Members commented on early results from the Planet Youth survey, noting that while overall positive indicators were encouraging, even small percentages representing youth who do not feel safe or supported remain a concern. Staff noted that qualitative follow-up through focus groups has been undertaken to better understand the experiences behind the quantitative findings, particularly for marginalized or at-risk youth. The focus group findings and deeper analysis will be presented at a future meeting.

Questions were raised about the survey methodology used to gather Planet Youth data, including response rates and the representativeness of Grade 9 and 10 students. Staff noted that the requirement for parental consent created a barrier to participation, which may have impacted response rates, and that alternative consent approaches may be considered in future iterations to improve participation. It was also noted that focus groups included youth who are less connected to school-based settings in order to broaden perspectives.

Members expressed support for the alPHA resolutions and engaged in a broader discussion about how provincial resolutions are developed, considered, and advanced. Questions were raised about whether there is any historical prioritization of resolutions and how new resolutions are received alongside existing ones. It was noted that alPHA manages a large portfolio of open resolutions and that work is ongoing through established committees and working groups to advance and track these items over time.

Concerns were raised about whether the volume of resolutions risks diluting advocacy impact, with a question posed as to whether “piling on” additional resolutions is effective or whether it would be more impactful to focus advocacy efforts more strategically. It was also noted that, while the current resolutions align with public health priorities, there may be value in considering how local boards can contribute to broader advocacy direction.

Clarification was sought on whether the local Board prioritizes any of the four current resolutions over others. It was noted that alPHA receives resolutions at its annual meeting and considers them collectively as part of its broader provincial advocacy framework, rather than through a local prioritization hierarchy.

A further comment was made encouraging continued and potentially expanded advocacy on issues such as income supports, including guaranteed basic income, and broader social determinants of health. It was noted that the Board has previously supported related advocacy positions, and that similar issues have been addressed through past resolutions. It was also noted that where positions already exist on record, additional resolutions on the same topic may not be required unless there is a substantive change in direction or a new policy gap being addressed. The current resolutions were noted as addressing specific aspects of Ontario Works policy not previously covered.

A request was made to receive a summary of the Board's past advocacy related to these issues to support continuity and understanding of prior positions.

No additional questions were raised regarding the report.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-5.2-3.1

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the first quarter financial statements.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-5.2-3.2

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the Board Chair signing the 2026 engagement letter.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-5.2-3.3

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the signing of the 2025 program-based grants annual reconciliation report as presented as well as the engagement letter and review engagement letter.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-5.2-3.4

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the signing of the 2025 program-based grants annual reconciliation report as presented.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-5.2

Moved by J. Couckuyt

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for May 28, 2026.

Carried.

Referencing the preliminary Planet Youth information, the Chair highlighted the value of timely, local public health data in supporting municipalities and demonstrating how evidence can be used to help solve local issues.

6.0 New business

No items.

7.0 Closed session

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-C7

Moved by M. Peterson
Seconded by J. Palmer

That the Board of Health move to closed session in order to consider the following, as outlined in the Ontario Municipal Act:

- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations

Carried.

8.0 Rising and reporting of closed session

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-C8

Moved by J. Palmer
Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-C2.0

Moved by D. Mayberry
Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Report for May 28, 2026.

Carried.

9.0 Future meetings and events

The next official Board of Health meeting will be:

- Thursday, June 25, 2026
- Orientation at 12:00 p.m. | Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- Location: Oxford County Administration Building, 21 Reeve Street, Woodstock, ON; virtual participation via MS Teams

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0528-10.0

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Palmer

That the regular meeting adjourn to meet again on Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Carried.

Confirmed: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia", is written over a horizontal line.