



A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, October 24, 2024 commencing at 1:04 p.m.

PRESENT:

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member (Vice-Chair)
Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Ms. C. St. John	Chief Executive Officer (ex officio)
Dr. J. Lock	Acting Medical Officer of Health (ex officio)
Ms. W. Lee	Executive Assistant

GUESTS:

Ms. C. Walsh	Lead, Platinum Leadership
Mr. A. Bartley	Lead, Platinum Leadership
Ms. E. Arnett	Manager, Healthy Schools
Ms. K. Bastian	Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Ms. S. Croteau	Epidemiologist
Ms. J. Deroo	Public Health Nurse
Ms. J. Gordon	Administrative Assistant
Mr. P. Heywood	Program Director
Ms. B. Ledgley	Public Health Nurse
Ms. S. MacIsaac	Program Director
Mr. D. McDonald	Director, Corporate Services and Human Resources
Ms. M. Nusink	Director, Finance
Ms. C. Richards	Manager, Foundational Standards
Ms. N. Rowe*	Manager, Communications
Mr. Y. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

MEDIA:

Mr. R. Perry*	Aylmer Express
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**represents virtual participation*

REGRETS:

Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. J. Preston	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member

**REMINDER OF DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF
WHEN ITEM ARISES**

1.1 CALL TO ORDER, RECOGNITION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 1:04 p.m.

1.2 AGENDA

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-1.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for October 24, 2024 be approved as amended.

Carried.

1.2 Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when the Item Arises, including any related to a previous meeting that a member may not have been in attendance for.

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

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-2.1)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for September 26, 2024 be approved.

Carried.

3.0 CONSENT AGENDA

No items.

4.0 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED REQUIRING ACTION

No items.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR INFORMATION.DISCUSSION.DECISION

5.1 SWPH Advancing School Health Programming: Integrating Health Promotion to Enhance Student Well-being Report

E. Arnett and B. Ledgley presented the report.

M. Ryan noted his approval regarding the data and analysis presented on the HRPP (Healthy Relationships Plus Program) and its positive impact on mental health and skills development, expressing great interest in the presentation of pre- and post-intervention data.

E. Arnett noted the unique model of the HRPP program, wherein it is offered universally to all grade 7 and 8 students, rather than targeting only those with identified issues. This approach aims to build skills and protective factors for all students and provides a greater data set by which to track the impact of the program.

M. Ryan suggested presenting the HRPP program data and outcomes to the Oxford City Council and steering committee, as it demonstrates the kind of impactful preventive work and outcomes that the Board is looking to support. E. Arnett agreed this would be valuable, noting the HRPP program has been extensively evaluated, including a randomized control trial.

E. Arnett also noted the importance of a comprehensive strategy to address youth issues, not just relying on one program, recognizing the key role of parents and caregivers as well as the need to build capacity and sustainability with educational partners (such as summer sessions to train teachers on delivering aspects of the program).

J. Herbert suggested exploring raising the legal drinking age to 21 as a way to address alcohol-related problems in schools. While the group acknowledged this may not be a feasible advocacy approach with the current government, there was agreement that alcohol is a top issue that needs attention.

C. Agar asked if the 205 school-based sexual health appointments were typical given the number of high school students. E. Arnett clarified that these appointments represent students supported in schools and that the health unit lacks capacity to be the primary source of sexual health information for all students in schools. To address this, they promote services to school staff for referrals and also operate a sexual health clinic at the health unit. C. St. John noted the 205 school appointments are in addition to 2,700 clients served at fixed clinics in 2023 for example.

In summary, the discussion focused on the positive outcomes of the HRPP program, ways to further leverage and expand it, and the need for a multi-faceted approach to addressing youth

mental health and substance use challenges and the Board discussed the value in finding ways to expand and replicate this type of impactful, preventative programming that is demonstrating positive results, especially in areas like mental health and addiction.

M. Ryan expressed hope that the Board would receive a future report to help support this type of data-driven, meaningful work that aligns with the Board's priorities, moving to amend the motion accordingly.

B. Martin added her sincere commendation of the report as well.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-5.1)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health receive the report titled Advancing School Health Programming: Integrating Health Promotion to Enhance Student Well-being for October 24, 2024 and that staff return a report on how the HRPP program can be enhanced.

Carried.

5.2 SWPH Changes to Ontario's Alcohol Retail System and Updated Report on Actions to Mitigate Alcohol-Related Harms for October 24, 2024

J. Deroo presented the report.

D. Shinedling respectfully asked if the planned letter could also be directed to the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions. He followed up with the suggestion that the letter be delayed if a possible provincial election should occur in Spring 2025, and sent to the ministers within a couple of weeks after members have been confirmed and sworn in.

G. Jones indicated that provincial policies will make it challenging for municipalities to support public health policies as they have the power to supersede local zoning implementation.

M. Ryan suggested SWPH direct its letters to Councils instead of municipal staff, whereby it would be up to council to direct staff to do the work rather than have SWPH staff asking municipal staff to act. D. Mayberry supported this suggestion.

J. Herbert suggested advocating for raising the legal drinking age to 21. Dr. Lock emphasized the importance of grounding any public policy advocacy in strong evidence and suggested that staff should first examine the evidence supporting such a change. She also noted that the current political climate may not be conducive to this advocacy. Cynthia St. John added that she would discuss the input with staff, consider their perspectives, and review available data before determining next steps.

B. Martin asked about data on the normalization of alcohol consumption in outdoor settings, specifically regarding temporary patio extensions on municipal property, such as sidewalks or

street-side parking spaces, introduced during the pandemic. She questioned whether this setup, while within a licensed area, might have similar normalization effects as alcohol consumption in parks.

J. Deroo responded that while there is research on normalization generally when alcohol consumption is visible, she did not have specific data related to patio extensions. She noted that patios often involve controlled environments with servers and physical barriers, unlike park settings where overconsumption and lack of control can be issues. She acknowledged the topic as an area for potential future exploration.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-5.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the Changes to Ontario's Alcohol Retail System and Updated Report on Actions to Mitigate Alcohol-Related Harms for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

5.3 SWPH Report on Further Investments in Public Health: October 2024 Update

C. St. John presented the report.

M. Ryan asked if the HRPP report presented earlier would fit under the substance abuse prevention or mental health promotion category. C. St. John noted that such work would fall under and address multiple priorities.

B. Martin asked whether the work of infection prevention and emergency management address mitigating the risk of potential future pandemics, epidemics, or outbreaks. C. St. John responded that emergency management and infection prevention and control (IPAC) generally need to be treated separately as, for example, work in congregate living settings equips staff with skills to help mitigate outbreaks, whereas the emergency management of pandemics would extend beyond individual sectors like congregate living and require broader efforts.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-5.3)

Moved by D. Shinedling

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the SWPH Report on Further Investments in Public Health: October 2024 Update for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

5.4 Governance Standing Committee Report

G. Jones presented the report.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-5.4)

Moved by M. Ryan
Seconded by G. Jones

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Governance Standing Committee Chair's report for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

5.5 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed her report.

It was noted that vaccination clinics for Covid-19 are walk-in.

Dr. Lock noted the best practices for managing illness without access to rapid antigen tests is to treat it like other respiratory viruses for most of the population. For the general public, the advice is to stay home when sick, wear a mask in public if necessary, and seek healthcare if symptoms are severe. For high-risk individuals, such as those who are immunocompromised or over 65, the "test-to-treat" approach is recommended. These individuals should get tested at a pharmacy or by their primary care provider if they have symptoms, as they may be eligible for treatment.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-5.5)

Moved by D. Shinedling
Seconded by J. Couckuyt

That the Board of Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-C7)

Moved by D. Shinedling
Seconded by D. Mayberry

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

- (a) the security of the property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about an identifiable individual, including municipal or local board employees;
- (c) a proposed or pending acquisition or disposition of land by the municipality or local board;
- (d) labour relations or employee negotiations;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local board;

- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose;
- (g) a matter in respect of which a council, board, committee or other body may hold a closed meeting under another Act;
- (h) information explicitly supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board by Canada, a province or territory or a Crown agency of any of them;
- (i) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial, financial or labour relations information, supplied in confidence to the municipality or local board, which, if disclosed, could reasonably be expected to prejudice significantly the competitive position or interfere significantly with the contractual or other negotiations of a person, group of persons, or organization;
- (j) a trade secret or scientific, technical, commercial or financial information that belongs to the municipality or local board and has monetary value or potential monetary value; or
- (k) a position, plan, procedure, criteria or instruction to be applied to any negotiations carried on or to be carried on by or on behalf of the municipality or local board. 2001, c. 25, s. 239 (2); 2017, c. 10, Sched. 1, s. 26.

Other Criteria:

- (a) a request under the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, if the council, board, commission or other body is the head of an institution for the purposes of that Act; or
- (b) an ongoing investigation respecting the municipality, a local board or a municipally controlled corporation by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, an Ombudsman referred to in subsection 223.13 (1) of this Act, or the investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2014, c. 13, Sched. 9, s. 22.

Carried.

8.0 RISING AND REPORTING OF CLOSED SESSION

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-C8)

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-C3.1)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Special Ad Hoc Building Committee Report for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024- C3.2-2.0A)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the 2024 Risk Register with noted Mitigation Strategies Update as presented to the Governance Standing Committee for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024- C3.2-2.0B)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the 2025 Risk Register with Mitigation Strategies as presented to the Governance Standing Committee for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-C3.2)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by L. Rowden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Governance Standing Committee Chair’s report for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-C3.3)

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by G. Jones

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer’s Report for October 24, 2024.

Carried.

9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS

10.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Resolution # (2024-BOH-1024-10)

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by M. Ryan

That the meeting adjourns to meet again on Thursday, November 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. or earlier at the call of the Chair.

Carried.

Confirmed: 