



April 24, 2025  
Board of Health Meeting  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025 commencing at 2:07 p.m.

**PRESENT:**

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member (Vice Chair)
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling	Board Member
Mr. E. Taylor	Board Member
Mr. D. Warden	Board Member
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. K. Bastian	Manager, Strategic Initiatives
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. C. Richards	Manager, Foundation Standards
Ms. N. Rowe*	Manager, Communications
Mr. I. Santos	Manager, Information Technology
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

**REGRETS:**

Mr. S. Molnar	Board Member
---------------	--------------

*\*Represents virtual participation*

## **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 2:07 p.m.

### **1.2 AGENDA**

#### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-1.2)**

Moved by D. Shinedling

Seconded by M. Ryan

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for April 24, 2025 be approved.

Carried.

### **1.3 Reminder to disclose Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof when Item Arises.**

### **2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-2.1)**

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by D. Warden

That the minutes for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for March 27, 2025 be approved.

Carried.

### **3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

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 his report.

D. Shinedling commended Dr. Tran and the communications team at Southwestern Public Health (SWPH) for their thoughtful media engagement, noting that recent coverage demonstrated strong leadership and sensitive messaging. Dr. Tran recognized the communications team's efforts in responding to inquiries, identifying opportunities, and helping frame messages effectively, which has contributed to showcasing the organization in many positive ways.

### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-5.1)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by G. Jones

That Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's report for April 24, 2025.

Carried.

## **5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report**

C. St. John reviewed the report.

M. Peterson commended staff on the significant reduction in vaccine-preventable disease rates, noting it was the lowest he had seen. He remarked on the contrast between SWPH's results and a recent news story where thousands of students were suspended for outdated immunizations at another health unit. He praised the team for their excellent work in achieving this milestone.

M. Ryan shared concerns about recent social media commentary unfairly targeting rural residents for driving negative public health statistics. He appreciated the monthly reports from staff, noting that they helped him counter misinformation with accurate data and strengthened his ability to respond with a more informed stance.

C. Agar followed up on a previous inquiry regarding HeatADAPT funding. She asked how the funds were being spent and whether they would support vulnerable populations, referencing the program's objectives. C. St. John confirmed that an update would be included in the CEO report at the next Board meeting.

D. Shinedling asked for more information about the increase in BORN screening rates. He was curious about how these rates improved so quickly. D. Smith explained that hospital liaisons—public health nurses embedded in local hospitals—have been instrumental in working directly with both administration and clients. Their ongoing presence and education efforts helped reinforce the importance of the screen and contributed to the improvement.

D. Shinedling then asked if any modelling had been done to forecast future trends in screening rates. C. Richards responded that the Foundational Standards team does not currently conduct such modelling but appreciated the suggestion.

D. Shinedling also asked whether SWPH is aligning with provincial procurement guidelines regarding purchasing Canadian products. C. St. John confirmed that this is currently under review.

M. Ryan raised a question about how SWPH's funding compares to other public health units, particularly in terms of per-resident or per-client funding. He suggested that more detailed analysis could help support advocacy for more equitable funding allocations. M. Nusink responded that while SWPH has conducted broad comparisons, it has not yet analyzed funding to

such a granular level. She noted that obtaining this level of detail would be difficult, as many health units are not inclined to share their internal financial breakdowns.

C. St. John added that this lack of data-sharing amongst health units is an ongoing challenge. She noted that funding equity has been raised with the Ministry through the Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators (AOPHBA) and is under consideration as part of the funding review process for 2025.

M. Ryan emphasized the importance of SWPH taking a leadership role by proactively gathering its own comparative data, rather than waiting for the Ministry or other health units to do so. He expressed that a strong, evidence-based advocacy position could be more effective in influencing funding decisions.

D. Mayberry expressed caution about how far SWPH should go in inviting comparisons. He noted that there are many complexities and variations across health units, and going too deep into these details might lead to unproductive comparisons or misinterpretations.

D. Mayberry thanked staff for the encouraging progress and positive outcomes shared in the report.

#### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-5.2-3.2)**

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Amending Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Southwestern Public Health effective January 1, 2024.

Carried.

#### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-5.2-3.3)**

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Amending Agreement between the Ministry of Health and Southwestern Public Health effective January 1, 2025.

Carried.

#### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-5.2)**

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by J. Couckuyt

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for April 24, 2025.

Carried.

## **6.0 NEW BUSINESS**

## **7.0 TO CLOSED SESSION**

### **Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-C7)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by G. Jones

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 # (2025-BOH-0424-C8)**

Moved by M. Ryan

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-C3.1)**

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by D. Shinedling

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Report for April 24, 2025.

Carried.

**Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-C3.2)**

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health approve the Special Ad Hoc Building Committee Report for April 24, 2025, and the recommendations contained therein.

Carried.

**9.0 FUTURE MEETING & EVENTS**

**10.0 ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

**Resolution # (2025-BOH-0424-9.0)**

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the meeting adjourn to meet again on Thursday, May 22, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

Carried.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_

