

Board of Health Meeting

January 22, 2026



Open Session Minutes

A meeting of the Board of Health for Oxford Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit was held on Thursday, January 22, 2026, commencing at 1:00 p.m.

Present:

Ms. C. Agar	Board Member
Mr. J. Herbert	Board Member
Ms. K. Hobbs	Board Member
Mr. G. Jones	Board Member
Ms. B. Martin	Board Member (Chair)
Mr. D. Mayberry	Board Member
Mr. M. Peterson	Board Member
Mr. L. Rowden	Board Member
Mr. E. Taylor	Board Member
Mr. S. Molnar**	Board Member
Mr. D. Shinedling**	Board Member (Vice Chair)
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. 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, Foundational Standards
Ms. N. Rowe	Manager, Communications
Mr. Y. Santos	Manager, IT
Mr. D. Smith	Program Director

Media:

Mr. J. Konecny**	Aylmer Express
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Note: ** indicates virtual participation

Regrets:

Mr. J. Couckuyt	Board Member
Mr. M. Ryan	Board Member

1.1 Call to order, recognition of quorum

The meeting was called to order by C. St. John at 1:02 p.m.

1.2 Approval of agenda

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-1.2

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That the agenda for the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health meeting for January 22, 2026, be approved as amended.

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.

1.5 Election of Officers

D. Mayberry nominated B. Martin for Chair. B. Martin accepted the nomination.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-1.5A

Moved by D. Mayberry

Seconded by D. Warden

That Bernia Martin be Chair of the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health for the year of 2026.

Carried.

B. Martin assumed the duties of the Chair.

D. Warden nominated D. Shinedling for the position of Vice-Chair for 2026. D. Shinedling accepted the nomination. D. Warden noted electing a provincial representative is consistent with practices on other boards of health and would support governance continuity and stability during a municipal election year.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-1.5B

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by L. Rowden

That D. Shinedling be Vice-Chair of the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health for the year of 2026.

Carried.

B. Martin thanked G. Jones for his service as Vice-Chair over the last 2 years. G. Jones thanked the group and endorsed D. Shinedling's election to the role.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-1.5C

Moved by J. Herbert

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health Chair delegate the Chief Executive Officer as acting "Head" for the purpose of ensuring the day-to-day fulfillment of Southwestern Public Health's compliance obligations under the Municipal Freedom and Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) for the year of 2026.

Carried.

2.0 Approval of minutes

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-2.1

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by D. Warden

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

Carried.

3.0 Consent agenda items

No items this month.

4.0 Correspondence received requiring action

No items this month.

5.0 Agenda items for information, discussion, decision.

5.1 Medical Officer of Health's Report

Dr. N. Tran reviewed the report.

E. Taylor asked whether there are any concerns regarding feeding birds during the winter. Dr. N. Tran advised that the primary risk is interacting with animals that are sick or dying and strongly recommended avoiding contact with such animals.

D. Mayberry inquired about the effectiveness of the current influenza vaccine given the circulating strains and its impact on those vaccinated. Dr. N. Tran noted that vaccine effectiveness varies annually depending on the strain match and is not fully known until the end of the season. Early data from countries such as the UK and Australia suggest

that the vaccine provides some protection against hospitalization even if the strain does not perfectly match. D. Mayberry commented that 60% effectiveness is still meaningful.

C. Agar requested an update on the Hart Hub in Woodstock following a news release in December 2025. Dr. N. Tran reported that the Hub has been operating for several months, highlighted it as a positive development for the region, and indicated he would review additional details from the Ontario Health Team as they become available. D. Mayberry added that the Hub's ten beds are fully occupied and it is functioning well, though there are ongoing transitions. P. Heywood noted that an engagement campaign is underway to raise community awareness and provide technical support. M. Peterson remarked that challenges remain for clients in securing housing after leaving the Hart Hub.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-5.1

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Medical Officer of Health's Report for January 22, 2026.

Carried.

5.2 Chief Executive Officer's Report

C. St. John reviewed the report.

K. Hobbs asked whether the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) are reviewed annually. C. St. John explained that the last full review was in 2018, prior to which it was 2012, and that standards are not reviewed annually. She noted a consultation process is involved in updates. B. Martin added that this review has been in development for the past three years. Dr. N. Tran noted that while standards undergo major reviews infrequently, protocols – particularly for technical areas like infectious disease – are updated more regularly, allowing for more nimble responses.

K. Hobbs asked whether the funding for the IPAC Hub is primarily for salaries. C. St. John confirmed this and noted that while it provides a good starting point for planning, temporary funding restricts hiring to short-term staff in an area that requires a depth of expertise. S. Molnar added that static funding over five years may result in marginal losses due to inflation and cost pressures.

E. Taylor asked whether the IPV program coordinates with the Solicitor General given that court reports indicate some cases are resolved quickly. C. St. John explained that this program does not coordinate directly but emphasized that a whole-system approach is needed to effect change. D. Smith noted the program's focus is supporting women with health and social needs, without interacting with perpetrators, and that data is being gathered to inform future advocacy and coordination.

C. Agar asked about Ontario's poverty reduction strategy and whether the Province is unique in downloading affordable housing costs to municipalities. B. Martin confirmed that this is unique to Ontario.

C. Agar requested information on local school mental health supports, specifically how Grade 9 students in Oxford and Elgin compare to the provincial average in two areas: awareness of available mental health resources and the likelihood of seeking help when needed. P. Heywood indicated that further research would be undertaken to gather this data and an update would be provided to the Board.

C. Agar also asked about sexually transmitted infection rates and whether demographic data is available to target interventions. C. St. John confirmed that such data is available and used for education and marketing purposes.

L. Rowden highlighted the persistently high rates of violence against women, noting that many instances go undocumented and emphasizing the importance of raising awareness. C. St. John acknowledged the issue as a significant public health concern.

D. Shinedling asked about the ultimate vision for the IPV program and potential mobilization. D. Smith noted that it is a federal initiative with time-limited funding for the first year, focused on data collection to support advocacy for continued funding and broader systemic change. He confirmed that an exit strategy is in place should funding expire at year-end.

D. Mayberry commented on the costs of sexual health issues and unintended pregnancies versus the cost of prevention, emphasizing the importance of school-based programs and suggesting reporting include both problem and solution costs to guide decision-making.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-5.2-3.1

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Warden

That the Board of Health ratify the signing of the IPAC Hub Transfer Payment Agreement for Southwestern Public Health as noted in the CEO's report.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-5.2

Moved by E. Taylor

Seconded by C. Agar

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's report for January 22, 2026.

Carried.

6.0 New business

No new business items.

7.0 Closed session

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-C7

Moved by G. Jones

Seconded by M. Peterson

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

- Labour relations or employee negotiations (s. 239(2)(d)): update regarding labour relations with union groups;
- Litigation or potential litigation (s. 239(2)(e)): briefing regarding a litigation matter; and
- Personal matters about identifiable individuals (s. 239(2)(b)): performance evaluations of Board employees.

Carried.

8.0 Rising and reporting of closed session

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-C8

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by D. Mayberry

That the Board of Health rise with a report.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-C3.1

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by M. Peterson

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the Chief Executive Officer's Closed Report for January 22, 2026.

Carried.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-C3.2

Moved by D. Warden

Seconded by E. Taylor

That the Board of Health for Southwestern Public Health accept the 2026 Chair and Vice-Chair's Verbal Report for January 22, 2026.

Carried.

9.0 Future meetings and events

The next scheduled Board of Health meeting will be:

- Thursday, February 26, 2026
- Orientation at 12:00 p.m. | Meeting at 1:00 p.m.
- Location: Oxford County Administration Building, 21 Reeve Street, Woodstock and virtual participation via MS Teams

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

Resolution # 2026-BOH-0122-10.0

Moved by M. Peterson

Seconded by J. Herbert

That the meeting adjourn to meet again on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 1:00 p.m.

Carried.

Confirmed: _____

