

**Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health
MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH
Wednesday April 5, 2023**

The Board of Health of Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health Unit met at 2:00 p.m. at the GUELPH Office.

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), Rodrigo Goller, David Anderson, Linda Busuttil, Guy Gardhouse, Erin Caton, Steve Cavell, Ralph Manktelow, and Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets: None.

Ex-officio member(s) in attendance: Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

Staff members in attendance were: Chris Beveridge, Rita Isley, David Kingma, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum (AMOH), Kyle Wilson, Michael Whyte, Sonja Vukovic, Rob Cunnington, Meghan Wiles, Lisa Hebden, Janet Kwansah, Karen Mulvey, Emerson Rajaram, Patryk Wardach, Camille Loucks, Danny Williamson, Melissa Quartarone, Anna Vanderlaan, Kyley Alderson, Mary Anne Kozdras, and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guests in attendance were: Joanne Shuttleworth (MEDIA), Austin Cardinell (MEDIA), Adam Donaldson (MEDIA).

1.0 Call to Order

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

G. Bridge called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m., and Dr. Mercer read the WDGPH Land Acknowledgement in full.

2.0 Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest

There are no disclosures of pecuniary interest declared at this time.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

MOTION: “To approve the Minutes of March 1, 2023 as presented.”

Moved: R. Goller

Seconded: C. White

CARRIED

4.0 MOH Updates

MOH Update(s):

Dr. Mercer provided an update as follows:

- In 2022, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health investigated seven hundred fifteen (715) animal bites. In the same year two (2) bats tested positive for rabies.

- As WDGPH is part of a Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNR) enhanced surveillance zone, the Agency was also part of a wildlife aerial baiting program which saw 7.5 million vaccine baits delivered to wild animals by air and ground, since 2015. Rabies cases have since decreased by 95%.
- Vaccine baits do not replace regular rabies vaccinations and pet owners are encouraged to contact their veterinarian if concerned about a bite.
- Dr. Mercer provided a brief update regarding avian influenza (H5N1).
- If residents own domestic chickens that are ill, they are encouraged to visit their veterinarian.
- Residents should be aware to not handle any deceased wild birds or let their pets consume dead wild birds.
- The annual flu shot does not protect against the H5N1 strain.

5.0 Presentation(s)

Opioid Update

M. Whyte presented in conjunction with Board of Health report BH.01.APR0523.R13 – Opioid Update (see 8.0 BOH Report(s) for summary).

6.0 Business Arising

- None.

7.0 Consent Agenda

- BH.01.FEB0123.C02 – Influenza and COVID Vaccinations
- Discussion commenced regarding the possibility of annual Covid vaccine, mimicking the process of the annual influenza vaccine. Future state will continue to have Covid and Influenza vaccines available each fall prior to respiratory season as well as the possibility of being a combined vaccine at some point.
- BH.01.FEB0123.C03 – Naloxone Distribution
- A Board member requests clarification about which organizations are permitted to carry naloxone. Public Health only distributes kits to specific organizations per provincial direction.
- BH.01.FEB0123.C04 – Sexual Health Program 2023

MOTION:

- (a) “That the Board of Health receive the Consent Agenda item(s), which have been given due consideration, for information.”

Moved: D. Anderson

Seconded: S. Cavell

CARRIED

8.0 BOH Report(s)

BH.01.APR0523.R10 – Trends in Reported Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph: 2022

Dr. Mercer introduced and R. Isley and C. Loucks reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R10 – as follows:

- Reviewing STI trends is important to manage the cases, gain clarity about the context and appropriately manage the outcomes.
- WDGPH reinstated services as of 2022, beginning with asymptomatic screening clinics. Moving to expanding access to family planning services and pregnancy support.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R10 – Trends in Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph: 2022 as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Manktelow
Seconded: S. Cavell

CARRIED

BH.01.APR0523.R11 – Long-Term Care Home/Retirement Home COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Rates 2022

Dr. Mercer introduced and K. Alderson reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R11 – as follows:

- Vaccines are one of the most effective ways to prevent against serious illness. WDGPH monitors the vaccine coverage in WDG Long-Term Care Homes (LTCH) and Retirement Homes (RH) carefully to promote vaccine uptake as these populations are among the highest at risk.
- Vaccine rates and coverage in LTCH and RH was high and is a tribute to the homes’ individual efforts and the WDGPH vaccination campaigns.
- Booster doses of the Covid-19 vaccines are not mandatory in LTCH and RH, however WDGPH will continue to work with these organizations with a focus on maintaining the high uptake experienced in 2022. The Agency will continue its work to improve the rates in areas with lower coverage to ensure residents are equally protected.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R11 – Long-Term Care Home/Retirement Home COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Rates 2022 as presented, for information.”

Moved: R. Goller
Seconded: G. Gardhouse

CARRIED

BH.01.APR0523.R12 – Oral Health (Healthy Smiles Ontario)

Dr. Mercer introduced and J. Kwansah reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R12 – as follows:

- As April is Oral Health Month, this report will update the Board on public health dental programs.
- Oral health diseases are seen as one of the most common communicable diseases and highly treatable if detected early. The burden of disease is higher in lower income

residents, youth, and immigrant families. WDGPH appreciates the hardships of these communities and refers these patients for appropriate care.

- As of April 2023, 60% of the children in elementary schools in WDG have been screened and since 2019 there has been a 33% increase of children with urgent dental needs. The Agency continues to encourage eligible families to enroll in the dental program if needed. More information can be found [here](#).

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R12 – Oral Health Screening (Healthy Smiles Ontario) as presented, for information.”

Moved: L. Busuttil

Seconded: R. Goller

CARRIED

BH.01.APR0523.R13 – Opioid Surveillance Update

Dr. Mercer introduced and M. Whyte reviewed the contents of BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R13 – as follows:

- This report provides preliminary estimates from 2022 of the rate of opioid emergency department (ED) visits and mortality.
- The rate of opioid related ED visits decreased from 2021 to 2022 as did opioid related deaths and both remain below the provincial average.
- WDGPH continues to work closely with community partners in the consistent operation of the FAST Overdose Alert Platform and through thoughtful community partnerships, the Agency will continue to support WDG’s collective response to the opioid-related harms demonstrated by the data.

MOTION: “That the Board of Health receive BOH Report BH.01.APR0523.R13 – Opioid Surveillance Update as presented, for information.”

Moved: C. White

Seconded: S. Cavell

CARRIED

10.0 Committee (Verbal) Report(s)

Finance + Audit Committee Report:

- NONE.

Human Resources Committee Report:

- See Closed Session at #12 below.

Executive Committee Report:

- NONE.

11.0 Correspondence

- NONE.

Media and Public attendees were asked to disconnect from/leave the meeting, at this time, as this Board of Health meeting contains a “Closed Session” section which falls under the exemptions pursuant to Section 239 of the *Municipal Act*. Please note that this session is **not** open to members of the public or the press.

(3:31) The Open Session portion of the meeting ended, and everyone disconnected from the online portion of the meeting or left the meeting room.

12.0 CLOSED SESSION

- To approve the March 1, 2023 Closed Session BOH Minutes.
- To receive Closed Session Human Resources Committee Reports
BH.05.APR0523.R01 – Annual Health and Safety Activities Report [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees], BH.05.APR0523.R02 – Annual Key Human Resources Activity Report [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees], and BH.05.APR0523.R03 – Labour Relations Update (2023) [labour relations or employee negotiations]
- MOH Update(s) [the security of the property of the BOH].

(3:31)

MOTION: “To move into Closed Session to approve Closed Session BOH Minutes of March 1, 2023; receive Closed Session Human Resources Committee Reports BH.05.APR0523.R01 – Annual Health and Safety Activities Report [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees], BH.05.APR0523.R02 – Annual Key Human Resources Activity Report [personal matters about an identifiable individual, including BOH employees], and BH.05.APR0523.R03 – Labour Relations Update (2023) [labour relations or employee negotiations]; and to receive MOH Update(s) [the security of the property of the BOH].”

Moved:

D. Anderson

Seconded:

D. Bull

CARRIED

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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH
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CLOSED SESSION

Members in attendance were: George Bridge (Chair), Guy Gardhouse, Linda Busuttill, Erin Caton, Ralph Manktelow, Duncan Bull, Rodrigo Goller, David Anderson, Steve Cavell and Chris White.

Member(s) with regrets were: None.

Ex-officio member(s) in attendance were: Dr. Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO.

Staff member(s) in attendance were: Rita Isley, David Kingma, Kyle Wilson, Chris Beveridge, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, Patryk Wardach and Laura Kelly (Recording Secretary).

Guest(s) in attendance were: NONE.

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES TO BE PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER.

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(4:31) Returned to Open Session.

MOTION: “To Ratify the Closed Session Decisions of the April 5, 2023 Board of Health meeting.”

Moved: D. Anderson
Seconded: D. Bull **CARRIED**

MOTION: “That the Board of Health approves a monetary mandate for the WDGPH Bargaining Team.”

Moved: C. White
Seconded: G. Gardhouse **CARRIED**

13.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

MOTION: “To adjourn the meeting.”

Moved: G. Gardhouse
Seconded: E. Caton **CARRIED**

APPROVED this 3rd day of May, 2023.

Board of Health Chair

Medical Officer of Health, CEO