

**THE CITY OF TORONTO**

**Clerk's Department**

**Minutes of the Interim Board of Health**

**Meeting No. 1**

**Wednesday, January 7, 1998.**

The Interim Board of Health met on Wednesday, January 7, 1998, in Committee Room A, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Mr. Robert Davies  
Councillor John Filion  
Councillor Irene Jones  
Dr. Rosanna Pellizzari  
Ms. Elca Rennick  
Mr. Peter Tabuns

The Acting Medical Officer of Health called the meeting to order.

**1. Introduction of Acting Medical Officer of Health.**

Dr. Sheela Basrur, Acting Medical Officer of Health, introduced herself and welcomed all Interim Board of Health members.

**2. Election of Chair.**

The Acting Secretary invited nominations for the office of Chair of the Interim Board of Health.

Mr. Peter Tabuns was nominated for the office of Chair of the Interim Board of Health, but declined the nomination.

Councillor John Filion was nominated for the office of Chair of the Interim Board of Health. There being no further nominations, Councillor Filion was declared Chair of the Interim Board of Health and assumed the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

**(Clause No. 2(a), Report No. 1)**

**3. Election of Vice-Chair.**

Councillor Irene Jones was nominated for the office of Vice-Chair of the Interim Board of Health. There being no further nominations, the Chair declared Councillor Irene Jones Vice-Chair of the Interim Board of Health.

**(Clause No. 2(a), Report No. 1)**

**4. Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Program.**

The Board had before it a report (December 30, 1997) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health outlining the critical issues and timelines for implementation of the Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Program, and recommending that:

- (1) The Interim Board of Health:
  - (a) approve implementation of the Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Program for Toronto;
  - (b) recommend that the City of Toronto enter into contracts for lay home visitors and public health nurses as set out in this report, so that the program can be properly implemented;
- (2) The City of Toronto contract for lay home visiting services with the seven agencies referred to in this report;
- (3) Human Resources Department staff work with Healthy Babies/Healthy Children Program managers to recruit and hire lay home visitors and public health nurses as needed to ensure timely start-up of this program; and
- (4) The contracts referred to in recommendation (2) be satisfactory in form and content to the City Solicitor.

The Board recommended to Council the adoption of the foregoing report.

**(Clause No. 1, Report No. 1)**

**5. Implementation Plans for 1998/1999 Community-Based Funding Programs for AIDS Prevention and Drug Abuse Prevention.**

5. (Cont'd.)

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The Board had before it a report (January 6, 1998) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health regarding two ongoing funding programs administered by the former City of Toronto, and recommending that:

- (1) The Board of Health authorize the Acting Medical Officer of Health to finalize schedules, undertake promotion and revise the 1997 application package as needed to implement the AIDS and Drug Abuse Prevention funding programs in keeping with grants-related decisions made by the Community and Neighbourhoods Services Committee and City Council; and
- (2) The Board of Health authorize the Acting Medical Officer of Health to recruit members to review panels for the AIDS and Drug Abuse Prevention funding programs that reflect representation according to the membership guidelines in place in 1997. Such review panels will make funding recommendations to the Board of Health in May/June 1998.

The Board adopted the foregoing report.

**(Clause No. 2(b), Report No. 1)**

**6. Orientation.**

The Board had before it a report (January 6, 1998) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health forwarding a document, entitled "Service Description for Briefing Book", prepared to assist in briefing the members of Council regarding public health services and programs offered in the new City of Toronto.

The Board:

- (1) Requested that a report be prepared regarding changes that have occurred in relation to public health programs and staffing/vacancies subsequent to the report sent to the Liaison Committee of Boards of Health in the Toronto area on this in the summer of 1997; and
- (2) That the report (January 6, 1998) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health be received and that members forward comments regarding the briefing document to Dr. Basrur.

**7. Announcement Regarding the Appointment of an Acting Medical Officer of Health.**

7. (Cont'd.)

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The Secretary distributed the following draft communications to be issued by the Chair of the Interim Board of Health:

- (1) (January 8, 1998) for Ontario Health Units announcing the appointment of Dr. Sheela Basrur as the Acting Medical Officer of Health for the new City of Toronto effective January 1, 1998; and
- (2) (January 8, 1998) for community partners and agencies announcing the appointment of Dr. Sheela Basrur as the Acting Medical Officer of Health for the new City of Toronto effective January 1, 1998.

The Board received the foregoing draft communications and authorized the Chair to distribute a communication announcing the appointment of Dr. Sheela Basrur as the Acting Medical Officer of Health for the new City of Toronto effective January 1, 1998.

**8. Next Meeting.**

The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Monday, January 26, 1998, at 4:00 p.m. at Metro Hall.

**9. Board of Health Composition and Reporting.**

The Secretary distributed a copy of a motion moved by Councillor Layton regarding amendments to Council's draft Procedural By-law.

The Interim Board of Health recommended to Council for its meeting on January 8, 1998, that:

- (1) The Board of Health report directly to City Council;
- (2) Section 97 of Council's draft procedural by-law be amended to include the Chair of the Board of Health as a member of the Strategic Policies and Priorities Committee;
- (3) The Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit be composed of 13 members. The 13 members of the Board shall consist of:
  - (a) Seven (7) members of Council; and

9. (Cont'd.)

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- (b) Six (6) citizen members - one from each of the former municipalities to be recommended by the Community Councils (each Community Council to recommend one (1) citizen appointee);
- (4) The Chair of the Interim Board of Health, Councillor John Filion, be one of the Council representatives appointed to the Toronto Board of Health; and
- (5) Council seek a legislative change to increase the members for the Toronto Board of Health from a maximum of 13 to a maximum of 15 to allow for representatives from the Public and Separate School Boards.

The Board also requested the City Solicitor to report at its next meeting on the implications of inviting school board representatives to sit on the Board as non-voting members until such time as the legislative change to increase the members for the Toronto Board of Health from a maximum of 13 to a maximum of 15 is secured.

The Board also requested that Public and Separate School Boards be invited to send one representative each to the Board of Health as non-voting representatives until such time as the legislative change to increase the members for the Toronto Board of Health from a maximum of 13 to a maximum of 15 is secured.

**10. Meningitis Update.**

Dr. Basrur addressed the Board on the recent meningitis outbreak in the Kitchener and Waterloo region.

**11. Citizens' Forum on Public Health.**

The Board had before it a report to Council prepared by the Citizens' Forum on Public Health.

The Board agreed to continue to provide staff support to this Group.

**(Clause No. 2(c), Report No. 1)**

**12. Dr. Marion Powell.**

The Chair read a notice of motion regarding the passing of Dr. Marion Powell.

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Chair.