

THE CITY OF TORONTO

Clerk's Department

Minutes of the Interim Board of Health

Meeting No. 2

Monday, January 26, 1998.

The Interim Board of Health met on Monday, January 26, 1998, in Committee Room C, 2nd Floor, Metro Hall, Toronto, commencing at 4:00 p.m.

Members Present:

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

No Declarations of Interest pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act were declared.

Procedural By-Law

On motion by Rosana Pellizzari, the Board directed that its proceedings be governed by the Standing Rules of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario until such time that the Board adopts its own Procedural By-law.

Confirmation of Minutes.

On motion by Robert Davies, the Board requested that future minutes contain the names of staff who give presentations to the Board. The Minutes of the meeting of the Interim Board of Health held on Wednesday, January 7, 1998 were confirmed.

13. The role of non-members of the Board and City Council's action of January 2, 6, 8 and 9, 1998 respecting the Board of Health

The Board had before it a report (January 15, 1998) from the City Solicitor recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor John Filion, the Board:

1. Recommended that Council increase the size of the Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit to 10 municipal members.
2. Recommended that Council appoint Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Mr. Robert Davies and Ms. Elca Rennick to the Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit until such time as Council determines the citizen composition of the board and until such time as their successors are appointed.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board:

3. Requested the City Solicitor and the Acting Medical Officer of Health, to report to the Board's next meeting on February 23, 1998 on how Community Health Advisory Boards can be reconstituted in each of the former six municipality's urban areas.
4. Requested the Special Committee chaired by Councillor Miller to expedite its consideration of the membership structure of the Board of Health.
5. Invited the Toronto Public School Board and the Toronto Separate School Board to each send an elected representative to the next and subsequent meetings of the Board of Health as observers and that they be provided with a full agenda package and the Chair permit them to sit at the meeting table and participate in discussions.
6. Requested the Provincial Government to amend the Health Protection and Promotion Act to increase the maximum number of the members of the Board of Health for the City of Toronto Health Unit from 13 to 15 members to allow for elected school board representation.

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 2)

14. Preschool Speech and Language Services System

The Board had before it a report (January 7, 1998) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

1. The Interim Board of Health approve implementation of the Health Department's role as lead agency for the Metro Toronto Preschool Speech and Language System (pending Triministry approval of the plan).

Dr. Barbara Yaffe gave a presentation on this report.

On motion by Rosana Pelizzari, the Board:

1. Approved the implementation of the Health Department's role as lead agency for the Metro Toronto Preschool Speech and Language System (pending Triministry approval of the plan).
2. Requested the District Health Council to reconsider the proposed boundaries of the four local service groups to address issues of access, demographics and cultural sensitivities.
3. Requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health, in planning the implementation of this program, to pay special attention to access and language barrier issues in the former City of York.
4. Invited the George Hull Centre to attend a future meeting of the Board of Health to discuss the issues raised respecting service delivery in York.

15. Update on the Public Health Research, Education and Development Program

The Board had before it a report (January 13, 1998) from the Acting Medical Officer of Health recommending that the report be received for information.

On motion by Rosana Pelizzari, the Board of Health received this report for information.

16. Powers and Duties of the Acting Medical Officer of Health

The Board had before it a report (January 12, 1998) from the City Clerk forwarding Council's action taken at its meeting on January 2, 6, 8 and 9, 1998, in which Council granted authority for the introduction of a bill in Council substantially in the form of the draft by-law attached as Schedule 1 of the report dated January 5, 1998, from the Chief Administrative Officer.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board of Health received this report for information.

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 2)

17. Procedural By-law of the new Board of Health of the City of Toronto

The Board requested its Chair, the Acting Medical Officer of Health, the City Solicitor and the City Clerk to prepare a Procedural By-law for review by the Board.

18. Threats to health in the changing City: Choices for the future

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The Board had before it a report (October 6, 1997) from the Assistant City Clerk, former City of Toronto forwarding the former City of Toronto's action at its meeting on September 22 and 23, 1997, in which City Council endorsed the actions of the former City of Toronto's Board of Health and:

1. Directed that the report (September 9, 1997) from the Medical Officer of Health be forwarded to the Board of Health for the new City of Toronto.
2. Forwarded the report (September 9, 1997) from the Medical Officer of Health to all Boards of Health in Metropolitan Toronto, the Liaison Committee of the Boards of Health in the Toronto area and to the Boards of Education in Metropolitan Toronto.
3. Forwarded the report (September 9, 1997) from the Medical Officer of Health to the Ministers of Health, Community and Social Services, Education and Municipal Affairs with a request for an early conference to discuss the redeployment of potential savings from health services restructuring into community-based structures, including full service schools, as outlined in the "First Duty" report.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board deferred consideration of this report to the new Board's first meeting and requested Public Health staff to give a presentation on this report, and that the Acting Medical Officer of Health report further on the suggested format of a team to meet with the Ministers of Health, Community and Social Services, Education and Municipal Affairs to follow-up on the former Toronto Board of Health's request. The Board suggested that the Community Health Advisory Boards, once established, be involved in this process.

19. Report of the Task Force on Health and Work

The Board had before it a report (October 6, 1997) from the Assistant City Clerk of the former City of Toronto forwarding the former City of Toronto's action at its meeting on September 22 and 23, 1997, in which Council:

1. Adopted the report of the Task Force on Health and Work
2. Recommended that the new City of Toronto and the Board of Health for the new City of Toronto adopt the Report of the Task Force on Health and Work.
3. Forwarded the Report of the Task Force on Health and Work to the appropriate federal and provincial agencies and authorities concerned with this matter.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board:

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1. Forwarded this report to the first meeting of the new Board of Health and requested Public Health staff and representatives from the Task Force on Health and Work to give a brief presentation at that meeting on the report's recommendations.

On motion by Councillor Irene Jones, the Board:

2. Requested that this report be forwarded to the Commissioner of Human Resources for consideration as part of the budgetary process and that she give specific attention to Recommendations 15, 16 and 17 of the Task Force contained therein.
3. Requested that this report be forwarded to all bargaining units in the City of Toronto for information.

20. Low Birthweight prevention: A cohort study of the City of Toronto healthiest babies possible program.

The Board had before it a report (October 6, 1997) from the Assistant City Clerk, former City of Toronto forwarding the former City of Toronto's action at its meeting on September 22 and 23, 1997, in which Council endorsed the actions of the former City of Toronto's Board of Health and:

1. Adopted the report (September 2, 1997) from the Medical Officer of Health and forwarded same to the Toronto Transition Team, the Board of Health of the new City of Toronto and the new City of Toronto Council with the recommendation that the Healthiest Babies Possible program be expanded to meet the need for low birthweight prevention in the new City of Toronto.
2. Distributed the report to all health units in Ontario, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Community and Social Services and the Office of Integrated Studies.
3. Recommended program strategies be put in place to enable women to enter the program earlier in their pregnancies, and to maintain their participation to the end of their pregnancies as much as possible.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board deferred consideration of this matter to the first meeting of the new Board of Health and requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report to that meeting on the various strategies adopted in different jurisdictions and countries, their impact on low birthweight prevention and their cost effectiveness.

21. Parents helping parents - research results

The Board had before it a report (October 6, 1997) from the Assistant City Clerk, former City of Toronto forwarding the former City of Toronto's action at its meeting on September 22 and 23, 1997, in which Council endorsed the action of the former City of Toronto's Board of Health, and

1. Adopted the report (September 3, 1997) from the Medical Officer of Health and forwarded same to the Toronto Transition Team, the Board of Health of the new City of Toronto, and the new City of Toronto Council with the recommendation that the Parents Helping Parents program be continued and expanded to other communities with similar needs within the new City of Toronto.
2. Distributed the report to all health units in Ontario and the Ministry of Health.
3. Forwarded the report to the Metropolitan Toronto Community Services Department and to Caroline DiGiovanni, Chair, Metro Task Force on Services for Young Children and Families.
4. Recommended that periodic needs assessments be undertaken to determine the changing needs of ethno-cultural communities at risk in the new Toronto and ensure their access to the program.
5. Recommended that planning for the Parents Helping Parents program be closely coordinated with development of the new Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Program.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board deferred consideration of this report to a future meeting of the new Board of Health and requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report on the continuation and expansion of this program to other communities with similar needs within the new City of Toronto.

22. Review of PCB waste transfers across city boundaries

The Board had before it a report (October 6, 1997) from the Assistant City Clerk, former City of Toronto forwarding the former City of Toronto's action at its meeting

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on September 22 and 23, 1997, in which Council endorsed the actions of the former City of Toronto's Board of Health and:

1. Requested the Medical Officer of Health to continue to monitor the quantity and type of PCB waste transferred into and out of the City of Toronto, and the storage and treatment scenarios associated with those transfers, under the policy adopted by City Council at its meeting of November 1 and 2, 1993.
2. Requested the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy to continue to notify the new City of Toronto regarding all PCB waste transfers.
3. Requested the Medical Officer of Health of the new City of Toronto to continue to advise the Board of Health for the new City regarding PCB waste transfers into the new City.
4. Forwarded a copy of this report to the Regional Director, Ministry of Environment and Energy, Toronto District Office for consideration and response.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board:

1. Requested the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Energy to continue to notify the new City of Toronto regarding all PCB waste transfers and requested City Council to endorse its action in this respect.
2. In the interim until the review of the structural and governance issues has been resolved by Council, requested the the Acting Medical Officer of Health to:
 - a. continue to monitor the quantity and type of PCB waste transferred into and out of the City of Toronto and the storage and treatment scenarios associated with those transfers, under the policy adopted by the former City of Toronto at its meeting of November 1 and 2, 1993.
 - b. continue to advise the Board of Health regarding PCB waste transfers into the new City.
3. Requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report back to the Board on a suggested process for dealing with environmental issues and PCB issues.

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 2)

23. Alcoholic beverage availability

The Board had before it a communication (November 20, 1997) from Dr. A. Hukowich, Medical Officer of Health, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Board of Health forwarding a resolution passed by The Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Board of Health concerning the Sunday opening of Liquor and Beer Stores in their jurisdiction and recommending that the new City of Toronto oppose the extended hours of operation by the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) and Brewers Retail Inc. by advising the LCBO, in writing, that the new City of Toronto objects to the Sunday opening of retail outlets selling beverage alcohol.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board received this communication for information.

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 2)

24. Public Health in the new City of Toronto

The Board had before it a report (undated) from B. McKelvy, Leadership Group and Mental Health and Addictions Action Coalition stating that they believe that public health in Toronto is at risk and that the following recommendations should be adopted as Public Health policy:

1. The provision of and commitment to ongoing base funding for public health services, including reinvestment of monies already taken from public health budgets in Toronto and an emphasis on zero tolerance of further cutbacks to public health services.
2. Creation of a MegaBoard of Health that is robustly democratic with solid structural links to local voices; these links must be formal and have an appropriate degree of power to define public health needs and issues specific to local communities.
3. Membership on the MegaBoard of Health by people with substance abuse and other addictions problems and by psychiatric consumer/survivors.
4. Directly or indirectly achieved, two outcome criteria for determining all health-related policies, programs, activities and services: increased quality of life and increased choices/self-empowerment as defined by those who use the service, program and/or who are governed by the policy.
5. Priority for the prevention of poverty-related illnesses, such as homelessness, HIV, TB and pneumonia, with an emphasis on improving access to health care.

On motion by Councillor John Filion, the Board referred this report to the Acting Medical Officer of Health for consideration with program planning in 1998 and beyond.

25. Department of Public Health Budget

On motion by Councillor John Filion, the Board:

1. Requested its Chair to speak with Councillor Chow on how the Board can be kept advised of public health issues at Budget Review Group meetings.
2. Requested that a Special Meeting of the Board be held at 3.30 pm. on Tuesday, February 10, 1998, if possible, and requested the Administrator to canvass members to determine their availability.

26. Future meetings of the Board of Health

The Board of Health was provided with proposed meetings dates for 1998.

On motion by Rosana Pelizzari, the Board agreed to hold its next regular meeting on Monday, February 23, 1998 but deferred consideration of the remaining dates to the first meeting of the new Board of Health.

27. Smoking By-law

On motion by Rosana Pelizzari, the Board requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report back to its next meeting on the status of the smoking by-law in the new City and suggestions for next steps that need to be taken.

28. (January 21, 1998) from Dan Fraser, Correctional Officer at Minico Correction Complex

On motion by Councillor Irene Jones, the Board requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report back on appropriate action to address the concerns raised by Mr. Fraser in his communication.

29. (January 22, 1998) from DV.FX Disposal Service

On motion by Councillor Irene Jones, the Board requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to report back on how present regulations can be enforced to prevent the dumping of waste products generated by dentists into the sewer systems.

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board noted that the International Council for Local Environmental Issues (ICLEI) had a copy of a Swedish report on this subject which may be useful to the Acting Medical Officer of Health in preparing the Board's requested report.

30. Ice Storm

On motion by Peter Tabuns, the Board requested the Acting Medical Officer of Health to contact the Medical Officer of Health in Montreal and appropriate areas in eastern Ontario which was hit by the recent ice storm to determine what role the Public Health Department played in dealing with the crisis and any lessons that may have been learned, and report back to the Board of Health's meeting in May, 1998.

31. Sub-Committees

On motion by Elca Rennick, the Board requested appropriate staff to prepare an Inventory of the sub-committees of all the former Boards of Health in the former six municipalities.

The Committee adjourned its meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Chair.