

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Division

Minutes of the Board of Health

Meeting No. 7

Thursday, July 22, 1999

The Board of Health met on Thursday, July 22, 1999, in Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

	<u>1:10 p.m.-3:15 p.m.</u>	<u>In-Camera Session 3:15 p.m.-3:45 p.m.</u>
Councillor John Filion, Chair	x	x
Councillor Irene Jones, Vice-Chair	x	x
Ms. Jan Campbell		
Mr. Robert Davies	x	x
Trustee Gerri Gershon		
Councillor Anne Johnston	x	x
Councillor Joan King	x	x
Ms. Gail Lindsay		
Mr. Brian MacKay	x	x
Councillor Joe Mihevc	x	x
Mr. Steven Pinnock	x	x
Councillor Michael Prue	x	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x	x

Members were present for some or all of the time period indicated.

Confirmation of Minutes.

Minutes of the following meetings of the Board of Health were circulated to Board Members, for submission and confirmation at the next meeting of the Board:

- April 6, 1999;
- May 6, 1999;
- June 3, 1999; and
- June 28 and 29, 1999.

7.1 Impact on Public Health of Implementing the Report of the Task Force on Community Safety.

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 12, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health implement the recommendation to establish a Substance Abuse Sub-Committee of the Board of Health according to the proposed membership and terms of reference outlined in Appendix B;
- (2) the Board of Health support the transfer of the Youth Mentoring program from the Healthy City Office to Toronto Public Health, effective September 1, 1999, with a view that the Medical Officer of Health investigate sources of funding beyond the 1999 fiscal year; and
- (3) the Board of Health forward this report to the Community Services Committee via the Children's Action Committee.

Councillor King moved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to submit a further report to the Board of Health on funding for the Year 2000.
(Carried)

Mr. Zaslofsky moved that the Board of Health adopt the aforementioned report, subject to:

- (i) amending the membership of the Substance Abuse Sub-Committee of the Board of Health to include an additional Member of Council who is not a Member of the Board, to be selected by the Striking Committee; and
- (ii) deferring consideration of Board of Health representation on the Substance Abuse Sub-Committee until the Board meeting scheduled to be held on September 21, 1999.

(Carried)

(Medical Officer of Health; Community Services Committee through the Children's Action Committee; Striking Committee)

7.2 Expansion of Public Health Dental Program and New Management Structure for Dental Services.

The Board of Health had before it a report (June 30, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health updating the Board of Health and the Community Services Committee on the expansion of the Public Health dental program and the new management structure for dental services; noting that the Ontario Dental Association has written to advise the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services that they will not be submitting a proposal for a pilot project for 1999; and recommending that the Board of Health and the Community Services Committee receive this report for information.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health received the aforementioned report.

(Medical Officer of Health)

7.3 1999 Drug Abuse Prevention Grants.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (June 21, 1999) from the Co-Chairs, Drug Abuse Prevention Grants Review Panel, recommending that:

- (1) Drug Abuse Prevention funding in the total amount of \$626,100.00 be provided to 80 projects listed in Appendices A and B of this report, funds for which are in the 1999 Toronto Consolidated Grants Program Budget;
- (2) release of funds be subject to the satisfactory completion by the various grant applicants of the Declaration Form regarding the adoption of Toronto's Non-Discrimination Policy; and
- (3) authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including to execute the Letters of Understanding on behalf of the City, on the terms and conditions as outlined in this report (see Appendix C).

Mr. Zaslofsky declared his interest in the foregoing matter in that he is the Chair of the Board of Scadding Court Community Centre.

Ms. Cathy Kozma, Community Co-Chair of the Drug Abuse Prevention Program Grants Review Panel, appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter.

Councillor Jones moved that the Board of Health recommend to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report. **(Carried)**

Councillor Mihevc moved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to examine the funding level of the program, with a view to providing a more reasonable amount in the Year 2000 budget process. **(Carried)**

(Clause No. 2, Report No. 6)

7.4 1999 AIDS Prevention Grants.

The Board of Health had before it a joint report (June 30, 1999) from the Co-Chairs, AIDS Prevention Grants Review Panel, recommending that:

- (1) AIDS Prevention Grants totalling \$1,115,908.00 be provided to 52 projects as recommended in Appendices A and B of this report;
- (2) release of funds be subject to the satisfactory completion of a Declaration Form regarding the adoption of Toronto's Non-Discrimination Policy; and
- (3) authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including to execute the Letters of Understanding on behalf of the City, on the terms of conditions as outlined in this report (see Appendix C).

Mr. Zaslofsky declared his interest in the foregoing matter in that he is employed by the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

On motion by Councillor King, the Board of Health recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 3, Report No. 6)

7.5 1999 Community Services Grants - Recommended Allocations to AIDS Service Organizations.

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 9, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) Community Services Grants totalling \$132,236.00 allocated to five AIDS service organization applicants, as described in Appendices A and B of this report, be approved;
- (2) release of the funds be subject to the satisfactory completion of a Declaration Form regarding the adoption of the City of Toronto's Non-Discrimination Policy; and

- (3) authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the execution of the Letters of Understanding on behalf of the City, on the terms and conditions as outlined in this report (see Appendix C).

Mr. Zaslofsky declared his interest in the foregoing matter in that he is employed by the AIDS Committee of Toronto.

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health recommended to Council the adoption of the aforementioned report.

(Clause No. 4, Report No. 6)

7.6 Amalgamation of Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS).

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 12, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health forwarding, for information, a report dated July 7, 1999, wherein it is recommended that:

- (1) the six existing Reportable Diseases Information System (RDIS) databases be amalgamated; and
- (2) the funding for this project amounting to \$250,000.00 be reallocated from the Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPD) Redesign Project which was approved as part of the 1998 Capital Budget - Transition Projects;

and noting that due to time constraints, such report has been submitted to the City's Policy and Finance Committee, which meets two days prior to the Board meeting, and that a verbal report will be provided on the Committee's decision.

The Board of Health received the aforementioned communication.

(Medical Officer of Health)

7.7 Update on Strategic and Program Planning 1999.

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 6, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health providing information on the major outputs of the Strategic and Program Planning process completed to date for Public Health; and recommending that the Board of Health approve the vision, mission, guiding principles and divisional directions as set out in this report (Appendix A).

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health approved the vision, mission, guiding principles and divisional directions as set out in the aforementioned report, subject to amending the Vision Statement to read as follows:

“Our Toronto will be the healthiest city possible, where all people enjoy the highest achievable level of health.”

(Medical Officer of Health)

7.8 Review of Animal Services.

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 13, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health respecting the status of the Review of Animal Services, and advising that the Humane Society of the United States will submit its final draft on July 26, 1999; setting out the process for reviewing the draft report; and noting that the final report will be available to the Board of Health meeting scheduled to be held on September 21, 1999.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health received the aforementioned communication.

(Medical Officer of Health)

On motion by Councillor Prue, the Board of Health recessed to meet privately to give consideration to the following item, Minute No. 7.9, in accordance with subsection 55(7) of the Municipal Act, having regard that such communication relates to a personnel matter.

7.9 Medical Officer of Health Performance Appraisal.

The Board of Health had before it a confidential communication (June 23, 1999) from Ms. Gail Lindsay, Chair, MOH Performance Appraisal Sub-Committee, respecting the Medical Officer of Health Performance Appraisal and enclosing mission statement and goals and objectives for the year 1999/2000.

The Board of Health approved the Performance Appraisal Targets appended to the aforementioned communication.

(Medical Officer of Health; Chair, MOH Performance Appraisal Sub-Committee)

7.10 Hot Weather Response Plan.

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 22, 1999) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health recommend that City Council adopt the interim Hot Weather Response Plan as outlined in Appendix A;
- (2) up to \$150,000.00 be set aside within the Community and Neighbourhood Services Department through internal reallocations from Toronto Public Health and the Shelter, Housing and Support Division to cover the expenses in 1999 of the Hot Weather Response Plan;
- (3) the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) continue to consult with other city agencies, volunteer organizations and community groups to determine how they can best contribute to the Plan;
- (4) Toronto Public Health contract with Environment Canada to provide ongoing forecast and timely notifications of Humidex levels for Toronto;
- (5) the MOH co-ordinate the development of a comprehensive, city-wide response and its potential costs for consideration during the 2000 budget process. This comprehensive plan may include specific actions by other city agencies, volunteer groups and community organizations co-ordinated by Toronto Public Health and an evaluation component to ensure that the goals of the Plan are being met;
- (6) the MOH expand the yearly public health education campaign directed towards hot weather to increase the public's knowledge of the appropriate responses. This should include an emphasis, where possible, on community development strategies including the creation of neighbourhood partner programs for vulnerable residents, along with the provision of information to organizations that serve members of vulnerable populations;
- (7) the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism be requested to improve access to permanent sources of potable water (e.g., drinking fountains) along with bathing and washroom facilities in drop-in centres and community centres, in consultation with local businesses and community organizations that serve Toronto's homeless and underhoused populations;

- (8) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services and the Commissioner of Economic Development, Culture and Tourism assess the present state of community centres, drop-in centres and other publicly owned/operated gathering places that could be used as places for people to cool off and as places to bathe. The response should identify resources needed to up-grade and expand these facilities, including installing air conditioning and bathing/washroom facilities where necessary and extending their hours of operation;
- (9) the Toronto Housing Company, as part of its Tenant Support Program, develop responses for when a heat warning is issued by the summer of 2000;
- (10) the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services conduct research to better quantify the extent to which Toronto residents are at increased risk for heat related illness as a result of poor ventilation, inadequate air conditioning or other conditions in their homes;
- (11) the MOH further investigate the health effects of hot weather and consult with Environment Canada and other agencies to gain a better understanding of the weather systems that have a substantial impact on health;
- (12) the MOH consult with area hospitals, physicians, Toronto Ambulance Services and other interested parties on the feasibility of establishing an active surveillance system focusing on the health impacts of heat stress caused by hot weather, such as emergency room visits and increased mortality;
- (13) Toronto Public Health participate in research into the relationship between hot weather and local health effects using data from the surveillance system and other sources and use the results to establish a scientific basis for heat response thresholds;
- (14) the Toronto Atmospheric Fund be requested to collaborate with Toronto Public Health to develop a workshop in the fall of 1999 on hot weather responses involving experts from Canada and from American cities that have successfully implemented heat emergency plans;
- (15) the Toronto Atmospheric Fund be requested to analyze the Toronto heat island effect and identify methods to mitigate summer heat over the long term, such as enhancing the urban forest, promoting green rooftops and gardens, and encouraging the use of lighter coloured construction material for rooftops that minimize energy use, thereby reducing the impact on air pollution and climate change;

- (16) Toronto Public Health consult with the Toronto Atmospheric Fund on the development of policy options and proposed programs to mitigate the summer heat over the long term from a global warming perspective; and
- (17) City Council authorize and direct the Chief Administrative Officer to incorporate into the City's Emergency Plan a response to extremely hot weather conditions (Humidex over 45 degrees Celsius), should they arise.

The Medical Officer of Health gave a presentation to the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter.

Councillor Mihevc moved that the Board of Health recommend to Council:

- (1) the adoption of the aforementioned report; and
- (2) that the Public Health Unit, in seeking to establish Hot Weather Alert indices, incorporate air quality (smog) criteria as well as appropriate Humidex and heat stress criteria, to together form a Toronto Heat and Smog Index appropriate to the City's local conditions.

(Carried)

Councillor Johnston moved that :

- (1) every Councillor be requested to identify in their wards potential cooling sites, both public and private, and areas where there are large numbers of seniors; and
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health's report on the Hot Weather Response Plan be forwarded to the Seniors' Task Force and the Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons for their information and comment.

(Carried)

(Seniors' Task Force; Advisory Committee on Homeless and Socially Isolated Persons)

(Clause No. 1, Report No. 6)

7.11 Raccoon Removal Policy.

The Board of Health had before it a communication (June 14, 1999) from Councillor Tom Jakobek, East Toronto, forwarding a communication from Mr. Nicholas Fabian, Bellhaven Road Community Action Group, disagreeing with the City's policy concerning raccoons; and requesting the opportunity for Mr. Fabian to appear before the Board of Health.

On motion by Councillor Jones, the Board of Health referred the aforementioned communication to the Animal Services Advisory Sub-Committee for consideration and the hearing of depositions, and for report thereon to the Board as soon as possible but no later than the meeting of the Board scheduled to be held on October 18, 1999.

(Councillor Tom Jakobek; Animal Services Advisory Sub-Committee; Medical Officer of Health; Mr. Nicholas Fabian)

Subsequent to the meeting of the Board, a communication (July 31, 1999) was submitted by Mr. Nicholas Fabian, advising that the "Bellhaven Road Raccoon Petition" had been withdrawn on July 20, 1999, and declared null and void; that a copy of the notice of withdrawal was sent to Mayor Mel Lastman and Councillors Tom Jakobek and Sandra Bussin; and that the subject matter was now closed.

The Board of Health adjourned its meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Chair.