

North York Local Health Committee Meeting
May 10, 2007, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2nd fl. Public Health Conference Room

Approved Minutes

Present: Bev McClelland, Jane MacDonald, Lidia Monaco, Valerie Sterling (Chair), Thanga Velumylum

TPH Staff: Sara Farrell, Eleanor Ziv (Minutes)

Regrets: Syed M. Kafil Akhtar, Sue Makin, Eva Tavaries, Wanda McNevin

1. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved by Lidia Monaco and seconded by Thanga Velumylum

2. Review of Previous Minutes – April 10, 2007

Minutes of April 10, 2007 were approved by Thanga Velumylum and seconded by Jane MacDonald

3. Arising from the Minutes of November 14, 2006:

3.1 LHINs letter: Board Support

- The letter Sue wrote to LHINs that was handed out at the April 10, LHC meeting has not been sent out yet.
- A Motion is to be included with the LHINs letter asking the Board of Health (BOH) to endorse the NY LHC's concerns re. children/youth health issues not being stated as a priority in the LHIN Integrated Service Plan.

ACTION: Eleanor to send letters (one to Toronto Central and one to the Central LHIN) with Valerie's signature.

ACTION: Letter and Motion to be submitted with Approved May Minutes to BOH.

MOTION:

Jane moved that the BOH endorse the letters from the NYLHC in response to the gaps in the identified priority areas described in the LHIN Integrated Service Plans.

Motion was seconded by Lidia.

3.2 Conference Feedback:

- The report from the Cancer Conference from last June will be taken off the agenda.
- In future the expectation will be that any LHC member attending a conference should return with feedback, or a package, to the LHC since there is a cost factor in sending members to these conferences.

ACTION: Sara will forward information on conferences to members and will also ask Maria if there is any budget for LHC to attend conferences with TPH covering the cost of registration.

3.3 Humber River Regional Hospital: Sara

- Sara spoke with Elaine Ebach, Community Health Officer for Toronto Public Health. The coalition visited the legislature and the NDP presented their petition

with the 5000 signatures. The coalition was informed that the decision for the hospital to be at Keele and Wilson had been already made.

- Elaine has agreed to keep us up to date. It was decided that this item has now been dealt with unless any further issue arises.

3.4 Ontario Public Health Standards Update: Sara & Sue

- Sara spoke with Sue regarding the Ontario Public Health Standards report to the Province. The report is over 200 pages long but there is an Executive Summary available.

ACTION: See summary attached.

4. Priority Issue and Action Plan for NYLHC to work on for 2007

****Lack of Services and Resources in NY****

Discussion Goals: To identify which services and resources are lacking in what priority areas e.g., dental, seniors, children, etc.; to determine if an inventory of services is needed/wanted; to clearly articulate what our end goal would be.

The lack of services in North York is a huge issue. Group discussed how best to tackle this. Priority Neighbourhoods in NY were discussed with questions around what the impact is on agencies and neighbourhoods that are not in the priority areas. Discussed challenge of North York and pockets of poverty, high needs within higher SEL neighbourhoods (e.g. the peanut plaza in the north east corner of NY). Sometimes it is difficult to get a clear picture of the needs when demographics are done by census tract or wards.

Discussion around many small nonprofit agencies and the need for stable, core funding to enable them to grow and be sustainable to better serve the community. Suggestion made around Public Health grants (Aids, Drug Prevention, Heart Health) in terms of increasing the allowable administration percentage or increasing amount allowable for staff to encourage organizational capacity building. This discussion will continue at the next LHC meeting.

ACTION: Sara to bring a large map of NY with 4 priority neighbourhoods marked on it. Also to copy Neighbourhood Action Team handouts from presentation.

ACTION: Valerie suggested doing a gap analysis using a map to assess the demographics of the high risk areas.

- One of the CHO roles is to assist smaller non profit organizations to build their capacity.
- There was discussion as to how United Way in States, Toronto and Vancouver allocate their funds. In the States they are moving away from core funding. United Way of Toronto does provide core funding. Suggestion for smaller agencies to partner together to cover core costs and increase their capacity this way. Discussion of challenges of forming and maintaining partnerships, must have common ground and have a mutual benefit to the agencies involved.

5. Board of Health Update: Valerie

- 3 items of interest:
 1. Ongoing Pandemic influenza update.
Toronto BOH has been given the lead to put together assessment centres but the province has not, to date, clarified funding allocation. This is a major issue.
 2. Use of masks.
Controversy over whether masks should or should not be used and which sort to use.
Toronto Public Health is waiting for an update from the Province. Nothing received yet.

3. Fluoridation of Toronto drinking water.

Report from MOH on why we should not omit fluoride from our drinking water. There are benefits into having a small amount of fluoride in the water. Health Canada does review amount of chlorine on a yearly basis. The level does appear to be going down.

Other items of interest were:

- BOH received funding from Federal Government to pilot high air pollution levels that affect people health.
- Reducing the amount of toxins in drycleaning fluids. A number of good recommendations were made: i) BOH requested the Federal Minister recognize the cancer causing factor. ii) Replace chemical cleaning with water based cleaning. iii) MOH consult with drycleaning industry to reduce the number of toxic substances used and to report back by 2008 to phase out the use of these substances. iv) Licensing division could possibly play a role in implementing the ban of toxic substances. v) PH could promote going green and partner with other programs working in environmental areas.
- Request was sent in to study the transmission (high voltage) lines in East York. Received a letter saying certain wards are being impacted. Suggestion was made that the BOH request the Minister of Environment to look into this.

ACTION: Valerie will find out if a health assessment has been done in the north corridor re high voltage lines.

- Minutes from previous NYLHC meetings were discussed:
 - October 17 Minutes - were used in Toronto Public Health Evaluation meeting.
 - In the November 14 Minutes - the LHINs website was mentioned but seniors, children & youth were not included. Highlighted areas from these minutes go to the BOH.
 - Lidia mentioned that youth leaders were going to be working with Seneca College.

ACTION: Valerie needs this information on youth leaders from Lidia.

- January 23 Minutes - re contact with Community Council. Work in collaboration.
- April 10 Minutes – Report to be circulated on impact on children’s poverty. Valerie has report now. Recommendations for MOH to report on 2 studies and report back to BOH.

ACTION: Valerie will provide the LHC members with the BOH recommendations. LHC will discuss this topic for possible actions.

6. Recruitment of New LHC Members

- Reminder that any current LHC member must reapply for next term. And if they can help promote the committee to others that would be great as well.
- May 22 is deadline for submitting applications. We need to ensure that members cover both geographic areas in NY as well as having varied areas of expertise.
- All applications to go to Erinn Leckie at 277 Victoria St.

ACTION: Eleanor to send out a reminder to committee members.

7. Next Meeting

Date: June 5th at 5: 30 pm in the Public Health 2nd floor conference room.

8. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9.40

Thanga thanked Valerie for all her help and input at all the meetings.