

Approved

Scarborough Local Health Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 13, 2006

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Scarborough Civic Centre – Committee Room 2

Present: Carvel Burrell, Dianne Cairney, Vaij Chari, Colin Hughes, Brian Hyndman (Chair), Linda Napier, Niloy Sen, Heidi Sin, Yasmin Vali

Toronto Public Health Staff:

Carol Timmings, Lisa King, Janet Melanson (Minutes)

Guests: Toronto Public Health Staff:

Susan Shepherd, Project Manager, Toronto Drug Strategy

Regrets: Ed Castro, Dean Maxwell

1.0 Review of the Agenda

2.0 Draft Minutes of April 11, 2006

The minutes of April 11, 2006 were approved as amended.

ACTION: Janet to forward minutes to Erinn Leckie for the Board of Health.

3.0 Review of Local Health Committee Priorities

The priorities of the Local Health Committee were reviewed and one item was added for discussion under Other Business:

15.1 Child Youth Health – Morningside Heights school expansion - Colin

4.0 Guest Speaker: Susan Shepherd, Project Manager, Toronto Drug Strategy.

Susan Shepherd presented information from the Toronto Drug Strategy. The strategy focuses on alcohol and crack cocaine as the most harmful drugs in Toronto and is built around the “four pillars” prevention, harm reduction, treatment and enforcement. Tobacco is not part of this strategy because there is already a tobacco strategy in place.

From the strategy 7 key themes evolved and 66 Recommendations were identified. All recommendations were approved by City Council in December, 2005 with some amendments.

Susan discussed how the recommendations will be implemented within the 17 designated priorities. Details are available at [Toronto Drug Strategy Report](#) .

5.0 Board of Health Update

Brian gave an update on two environmental items discussed at the Board of Health.

The impact of a proposed cellular phone plan using existing City infrastructure was discussed. A health impact assessment has been ordered to determine potential exposure to radio waves.

Brian briefed members on the Community Right to Know disclosure report re: environmental toxins in specific neighbourhoods.

6.0 Toronto Strong Neighbourhood Strategy Update

Lisa gave an update on the Scarborough Neighbourhood Action Teams (NATs). A handout was distributed and filed.

Scarborough Village is not yet a formal NAT due to delay in hiring a community development officer.

Colin asked if there is a model or specific **policy** plan for the NATs. Lisa explained that each NAT operates individually based on the community. There isn't a NAT structure imposed on communities. Community Health Officers go out into the neighbourhood and scan the environment to see what resources and programs already exist. NATs build on existing structures and each NAT has its own action plan. City services are brought in as needed. There is no specific time frame or master plan for the NATs, they are just beginning to evolve.

The committee noted that getting resources for these communities are a challenge. Concern was expressed about taking resources from one needy community to put into another because it is designated as a priority neighbourhood.

7.0 School Space Availability for Community Groups Update

Lisa informed members that there is no waiving of fees for use of school space. There is a policy and a fee schedule but each community can negotiate with their local schools.

Niloy asked if libraries were an alternative for space availability and Lisa confirmed that libraries are full with programs and additional space is not available.

8.0 Toronto Public Health – Healthy Environments, Bluffers Park Study Follow-up

Results from the Bluffers Park Study were released and it was determined that bird droppings were the major source of e-coli at Bluffers Park.

Brian provided a handout from Eye Weekly that addressed the Bluffers Park Study. A copy of the article has been filed.

Colin thinks that the community being denied access to Toronto beaches because of bird droppings is a sad statement on the stewardship of our environment. Colin noted two

articles from the Scarborough Mirror on Bluffers beach. One cited an environmental group who thought that birds were a scapegoat and that untreated stormwater was a pollution concern.

We don't yet have information on why the Rouge beach is closed so often.

ACTION: Lisa will contact Mahesh Patel and track where the report on the Bluffers Park Study is now and give the information to Brian and Colin.

Colin and Brian will prepare a letter to be addressed at the June Board of Health meeting. Brian will provide information on the Bluffers Park Study to the Board of Health to raise the profile of Scarborough beach water quality.

10.0 LHINs Update

Lisa attended the Central East LHINs meeting on May 22, 2006. The meeting was intended to engage the community; however, Lisa felt that it could have been organized better. A good cross section of people attended, however diversity was not reflected in the LHINS panel. Handouts were distributed and have been filed.

Brian added that there will be a Chronic Disease Prevention and Management Network Building Day on Monday June 26, 2006. Information on registration for the meeting was handed out and a copy has been filed.

11.0 Pandemic Flu Information Session Update

Brian attended a Pandemic Flu Information Session on Thursday, June 8, 2006 in the Council Chambers. An Associate Medical Officer of Health was present and discussed what could happen in the event of a flu pandemic. A question and answer session was held to answer questions such as employer liability, employer and employee responsibilities and continued services in the event of a fly pandemic.

12.0 Joint Meeting of Local Health Committee and Board of Health Reminder

Brian reminded members of the Joint Meeting of the Local Health Committees and Board of Health. Maria Herrera also e-mailed invitations to members on May 8, 2006.

13.0 Advocate to Ministry of Health - Dental care for uninsured vulnerable adults

Vaij discussed the need for funding to support the dental clinic for uninsured vulnerable adults. Vaij asked Toronto Public Health to contribute \$160,000 support by September 2006 so the clinic can remain open. This amount will pay for the services of one dentist, one dental assistant, supplies and equipment maintenance for one year starting September 2006.

ACTION: Carol will bring the issue to other Local Health Committees attention at the June 19th meeting.

Carol will speak to Joel Rosenbloom and give Vaij and Brian an update on the possibility of Toronto Public Health support for the dental clinic.

14.0 September Meeting – Scarborough Local Health Committee

Brian asked members for their availability for an additional Local Health Committee meeting to be held September 12, 2006 in addition to the October 10, 2006 meeting. Members agreed to the additional meeting. Brian added that Foster Louks from the Central East LHINs expressed an interest in meeting with the Scarborough Local Health Committee.

ACTION: Brian will invite Foster Louks to the September 12, 2006 meeting.

15.0 Other Business

15.1 Child Youth Health – Morningside Heights - Colin

The Toronto District School Board will construct a new school in Morningside Heights to be open September, 2007 and the Toronto Catholic District School Board will build a new school next to it within 5 to 10 years.

Colin reported that the Ontario Ministry of Education has promised to pay for building child care spaces in new schools if municipalities agree to provide child care subsidies. The School Boards, the City of Toronto and the community want a child care to link the 2 schools and serve the whole neighbourhood.

Colin would like to use this opportunity to advocate for a designated space for childcare with subsidies. He would like to write to Sandra Pupatello, Minister of Education asking for her advocacy.

ACTION: Colin will prepare a draft a letter to Sandra Pupatello seeking advocacy from the Board of Education. Brian will review, sign and send the letter on behalf of the Scarborough Local Health Committee and copy the Minister of Child and Youth Services and local MPPs.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 12, 2006
Scarborough Civic Centre
Committee Room #1
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.