

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Scarborough Local Health Committee
Monday, February 2, 2009
6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Scarborough Civic Centre – Committee Room 1

Present: Lucy Bonanno, Vaij Chari (Chair), Marisa Charles, Heidi Sin, Dr. Abdul Fattah,
Saleem Haniff

Toronto Public Health Staff
Jann Houston, Bessie Shaw, Jean Liburd (Minutes)
Bibi Nasib-Mohammed (Observation/Minutes – Back up Administrative Support)

Regrets: Ed Castro, Haweiya Egeh, Colin Hughes, Brian Hyndman, Khaliq Jabbar,
Linda Napier, Dhinesh Sivananthan

Guest: Nancy Day, Supervisor, Health Status & Epidemiology, Metrics & Planning Unit,
Toronto Public Health

1.0 Review of Agenda

Item 5.0 was moved up as the first item. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

2.0 Approval of Minutes of January 12, 2009

The Minutes of January 12, 2009 were approved. Moved by Heidi and seconded by Lucy.

3.0 Business Arising

3.1 Advocacy Guideline Workshop Update

Dr. Fattah provided a brief update on the workshop. Discussions occurred around identifying the gaps and developing a strategic plan and comparing the outcomes. Dr. Fattah felt that LHC should develop a guideline to include issues from TPH, develop a framework to address the issues. He also suggested that there should be issues-specific discussions and perhaps inviting leaders within the communities who can disseminate information to their respective groups. Ongoing communication is very important and LHC to continue discussions of their role in advocating.

3.2 Windpower

Bessie advised the committee that there was not enough information to do a presentation. After reviewing the WHO and Ohio reports, there were no evidence in these reports of negative impacts on health. Lucy shared information on a recent article published in the Scarborough Mirror which indicated a 50/50 split on the effects of wind turbine noise on health. Vaij suggested that LHC continue to monitor.

3.3 Bedbugs

Bessie provided handouts on various TPH Fact Sheets on Bedbugs and informed the group that more information can be found on the TPH web site at www.toronto.ca/health.

3.4 SLHC Minutes to Board of Health

Jean advised that the SLHC Minutes for November have been sent for submission to Board of Health.

Action: Jean to forward Approved Minutes of January 12th, 2009 to the Committee Administrator for submission to the Board of Health.

4.0 Board of Health Update

Jann provided a brief update on BOH. Jann mentioned that the following reports will be presented to B.O.H. at the monthly meeting on February 10th, '09: City of Toronto-South East District Botswana HIV/AIDS Prevention Partnership, Childhood Immunization Coverage in Toronto, Hot Weather Response and Pandemic Influenza update.

Last meeting update: Election of Chairs for 2009 – Councillor John Filion, Chair and Councillor Janet Davis, Vice Chair. Report on Trans Fat reduction – The Medical Officer of Health recommends that TPH continue to monitor Trans Fat reduction initiatives at the Federal level and in other jurisdictions.

5.0 The Unequal City-Income and Health Inequalities in Toronto Report

A copy of The Unequal City: Income and Health Inequalities in Toronto report and a copy of the slide presentation was handed out to the members.

The report links health and income, and shows that people with low income experience greater risk of illness, higher rates of disease and death at an earlier age than people with higher income. Most of the indicators show a gradient of health relative to income such that health status improves through each income increment.

The report also illustrates the impact of Toronto's health inequalities by showing what would happen if everyone was as healthy as those with the highest income. A few examples include:

- nearly 1,100 (18 per cent) fewer premature deaths
- about 1,300 (20 per cent) fewer low birth weight babies
- nearly 1,000 (46 per cent) fewer teen pregnancies

Nancy also stated that more information about health inequalities in Toronto must be gathered and analyzed to help guide service delivery, to monitor trends and to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions.

6.0 Public Engagement

6.1 ANC

Bessie reported that a job fair has been scheduled for April 4, 2009. Members will continue to brainstorm on how to promote the role of LHC. Marisa is working on the brochure that will be forwarded to the group for their feedback. Suggestions were tabled to have more displays at upcoming events in the spring and summer.

Action: Marisa to send out LHC Brochure to members for feedback

7.0 CINOT Program Expansion

Vaij reported that the Minister of Health Promotion announced that effective January 1, 2009, the provincial Children In Need of Treatment (CINOT) dental program is expanded to include children up to their 18th birthday. This expansion was announced as part of the Provincial poverty reduction strategy. Toronto Public Health will be receiving funds to cover 100% of treatment costs in 2009. However, beginning in 2010, the expansion will be cost shared 75:25 percent between the Province and the City, respectively.

There was a motion tabled to advocate for 100 percent provincial funding in 2010 and beyond for the CINOT program. Discussion followed on the future financial strain that the program will place on municipal budgets.

8.0 Other Business

No other business was reported.

9.0 Next Meeting Date

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

6:00 p.m. in Committee Room #2