

North York Local Health Committee

**Tuesday April 21, 2009
North York Civic Centre
5100 Yonge Street
Committee Rm 4, lower level
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

APPROVED MINUTES

Present: Janet Maher, Marvin Gold, Jane McDonald, Bill Coleman, Earle Straus, Anna Walsh, Valerie Sterling (Chair), Sara Farrell, Eleanor Ziv, (recorder)

Regrets: Margaret Cheung, Sue Makin, Anne McConnell, Lidia Monaco, Sandra Romano Anthony

Absent: Christian Havriliuc

1.0 Welcome

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Add TPH Strategic Planning to 7.0 Agenda Planning for Meetings – May and June

Agenda was approved by Anna Walsh and seconded by Janet Maher

3.0 Review of Minutes of March 3, 2009

Motion to approve Minutes was made by Anna Walsh and seconded by Janet Maher

4.0 Business Arising from Minutes:

4.1 Sewage Leakage and Possible Related Illnesses – Discussion with Dr. Howard Shapiro

Valerie welcomed Dr. Howard Shapiro, Associate MOH, Healthy Environments, to the meeting. Earle has been investigating the issue of sewage leakage and possible related illnesses. Dr. Shapiro answered questions regarding water safety and discussed health risks. There have not been any related illnesses e.g., salmonella, gastrointestinal illness or hepatitis due to sewage leakage. Sewage pipes are not considered an imminent health risk and there are many systems in place to ensure Toronto water is clean and safe. Toronto's drinking water is taken from Lake Ontario and not directly from groundwater springs.

All in agreement that Toronto's aging infrastructure is a concern but was being addressed via public works and at this time posed no imminent health risk. Valerie thanked Dr. Shapiro for taking the time to speak with our committee.

This item will now be taken off the agenda.

5.0 Poverty and Health Provincial Budget Review – Next Steps

Valerie thanked Janet, Sara and all the members involved in putting together the letter that was sent to Premier McGuinty. Janet stated that her community contacts received responses to the letter to Premier McGuinty within a week of them sending a copy of our letter to the Premier.

Valerie discussed that she was informed that the Ontario government budget is completed at least 6-8 months ahead of being released and thus was questioning the effectiveness of community consultations, advocacy etc. on budget items. ALPHA will have a resolution re the \$100 food supplement going to their AGM in June and poverty advocacy groups are still pushing the government to fulfil their promises.

ACTION: Eleanor will send the response to our letter to the group who attended the roundtable when the response is received. Members to think of next steps and will discuss at the June meeting.

6.0 Board of Health Update

Student Nutrition Programs: Schools are concerned about kids coming to school hungry..

Food Vouchers: The MOH signs contracts with Loblaw's, Metro and other large grocery stores for food vouchers for clients in need, to promote healthy eating. These vouchers are distributed to several programs and each program is accountable for their distribution.

Questions:

- How much is the total budget per year?
- How many programs are involved?
- How many clients involved? How many food vouchers does each client receive?
- What are the objectives for giving out the vouchers?

ACTION: Sara will follow up and get these questions answered.
To also be included in May agenda.

Sara stated that: Student Nutrition Programs: Schools are concerned about kids coming to school hungry. **TPH Student Nutrition Program** [(SNP) currently funds 30% of start up of programs]. If a school is interested in starting a nutrition program, they need to fundraise, as well as, find volunteers to run the program and to sustain it. The Committee is concerned about communities' ability to start and sustain programs in current economic downturn.

Lead Pipes Report (for information only) from Public Works regarding lead contamination in peoples' houses. There is a nine year program in place to replace the pipes. City will replace pipes up to the home but it is the responsibility of the owner to replace the pipes in their home. There is a \$100 rebate program to install a filter for at risk homes where young children and pregnant women reside. Water still has to be monitored once new pipes are installed. An assessment was made in conjunction with the MOH on health risks. Homes built before mid 1950s are part of the program.

Food Safety and Food Bourne Illnesses in Toronto. Look into closing the gaps in the reporting system. Canadian Food Inspection Agency is the only agency doing recalls. The MOH's presentation on Food Safety and Food Bourne Illnesses in Toronto 2009 is an excellent report clarifying who takes responsible for what.

ACTION: Eleanor to send a copy of Dr. David McKeown's presentation on Food Safety and Food Bourne Illnesses to Committee members.

The proposed Link between Union Station and Pearson International Airport in certain areas is being planned to go through residential neighbourhoods.

The Board of Health passed the following motion: That the MOH conduct an independent assessment of the health impact of this proposed rail line on the local air shed and report back to the BOH on its findings.

BOH Champion Award Report - discussed in 8.1

Pandemic update received – Individual preparedness is available on the website.

Budget – many budget items on Agenda.

7.0 Agenda Planning for Meetings – May 13 and June 9

May 13 – Nutrition plus information on SNP food funding for schools

- Public Health Champions Awards – nominations?

June 9 – Strategic Planning - Sue and Sara to facilitate a Strategic Plan discussion.

Committee would like to receive more information/background/process before the scheduled meeting.

ACTION: Sara will find out the process/background/specific information/involvement for the Strategic Planning and get back to the Committee at the May meeting.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Public Health Champions Awards

BOH passed a motion to establish a Committee and invite one representative from each LHC to participate on this Committee. According to the schedule, a meeting is planned in September. Total involvement may be 1 - 2 meetings.

May 4 - call for nominations - close by June 6 – Committee convenes in September – award ceremony late October, early November.

Jane offered to be the North LHC rep and this item to be included in May's agenda to brainstorm possible nominations.

ACTION: Eleanor to obtain nomination criteria and distribute to the Committee members before the May meeting.

8.2 LHC Minutes not going to BOH

The minutes from all the LHC are not getting to the BOH on a regular basis for inclusion with the Board Agenda. Members expressed their dissatisfaction at this omission.

This will be looked into and rectified.

8.3 Gyms

Anna Walsh expressed concern that there are no regulations for personal trainers in gyms and there are injuries. No standardized training for trainers and instructors. They are not giving the correct training methods.

The certification that all the certifying bodies use is based on a single set of performance standards which are the minimum requirement deemed by experts in the field. CPTN and Can Fit Pro offer courses and the bigger gyms subscribe to them. If a gym is a member of this organization then trainers have to have certification. Liability insurance is high so most gyms become members.

With privately owned gyms certification is not standardized or regulated. It is voluntary to do this.

Dr. Shapiro said Public Health does inspect gyms.

ACTION: Valerie asked Jane to do research on gym certification and report back at the next meeting.

9.0 Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Janet Maher
Meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

10.0 Next Meeting

Wednesday May 13th
Tuesday June 9th
Cmte Room 4, lower level, NYCC
6:00 pm. – 8:00 p.m.