

## **APPROVED MINUTES TORONTO/EAST YORK LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 15, 2009      **Time:** 6:00 p.m.  
**Location:** 277 Victoria Street – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor – Room 504

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**PRESENT:** Fiona Nelson (Chair)  
              Brian Parris  
              Marvin Greenberg  
              Roman Polochansky  
              Lino Grima  
              Marlon Merraro  
              Liz Janzen  
              Bryan Heal  
              Amy Khachatryan (Minutes)  
              Aldo Gatti  
              Katherine Hoffmann

**REGRETS:** Evadne Wilkinson  
              Jeanne Jabanoski  
              Penelope Marrett

### **1.0    Approval of Minutes of June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.**

**The minutes of June 9th, 2009 were adopted as read.**

### **2.0.   Presentation by Peter Dorfman (Manager of Health Promotion/ Planning and Policy) on “Food Strategy”**

Peter Dorfman presented the power point slide show on “Food Strategy Development”. He talked about problems that City of Toronto is facing i.e. dramatic changes in food challenges, rising diabetes and diet-related diseases etc. Many big cities are realizing that food is 21<sup>st</sup> century urban priority. Some of the examples of municipal food levers are: using public land/buildings for food growing, gardens and farmers’ markets; interpreting planning codes and using taxes to favour healthy food; leveraging good procurement budgets to support local, sustainable food; incubating small food enterprises; promoting sound nutrition advice and supporting breastfeeding; providing emergency healthy food to those in need, in non-stigmatized ways; promoting culinary tourism.

The main points of food strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> Century are to: build food assets in every neighbourhood; embrace food system thinking at City Hall, grow a prosperous food economy; support parents and children: make the healthy choice the easiest choice.

There was a discussion regarding the presentation. The members have been interested on whether or not this plan has been presented to public i.e. the School Board, the main landlords and /or landowners, the owners

of food stores etc. How the new strategy would impact the City in terms of different levels of population, the accessibility of food supplies, the overall health of Torontonians, the ethnicity of some areas. How food inspections would be carried over these changes etc. Which big food chain corporations have been involved in developing of the new strategy?

### **3.0. Business Arising**

Nothing to report

### **4.0. Strategic Planning presentation and feedback by Catherine Clarke, Liz Janzen**

TPH Strategic Plan was presented by Liz Janzen. She explained that a strategic plan is a tool to guide an organization's overall performance. It's a navigation aid to ensure the organization has charted the right course and to guide it safely through unknown territory.

The members of the Local Health Committee expressed their opinions regarding the Strategic Plan's 5 questions:

#### ***Questions for Local Health Committees***

- 1. *Based on your current knowledge or/relationship with Toronto Public Health, what do you think TPH does well?***
- 2. *What do you count on TPH to provide?***
- 3. *What trends should TPH consider over the next 5 years?***
- 4. *What issues should be most important to TPH over the next 5 years?***
- 5. *Do you have any additional comments?***

- We trust TPH staff; public health is very accessible. (Healthy babies program is really strong for young mothers).
- Food bank doesn't provide people in need with healthy choices. There is urgency to improve the quality of food.
- There should be an increase in number of children to receive nutrition at school- that could be targeted in new plan.
- From the international point of view – it's a system where staff and services are approachable; it's a very good communication between programs and general public.
- What TPH is doing very well is that they are both diversified and comprehensive. TPH is very professional and expert. The environmental quality is related to Health and should be included in the Guiding Principles Determinants of Health plan i.e. air quality/ water/ land use management.
- TPH always advocates so much for people. Advocacy needs to be always a key component of TPH.
- TPH needs to include the inequalities in the Determinants of Health as well.
- In terms of density and ethnicity there is major challenge on resources greater than it's ever been. Demanding from every

individual that they perform in consistency and application of regulations should be in place.

- Access to health services or other services is getting more problematic (confidential issues etc).
- Public health should look closely into staffing issues i.e. doctors or nurses shortage in situations when public health is impacted.
- We should have a capacity to track and analyse trends: for example - Inspection of food at all levels.
- There are two significant trends that should be taken into consideration by TPH – increased intensification in land use; another trend is increased chemical complexity. We seem to be living in more chemical complex whether its food, water and this would have more implications on health.
- Increase public health presence in schools, focus on children's health. To provide more links with schools in terms of education, having medical professional/ nurse present at school and also look closely how longer hours at school can impact the children's health in the long term.
- TPH needs to strategically partner/ broker with other service organizations because of their good track records and as they represent the voice that could serve marginalized population.
- TPH needs to focus on issues relating to elderly and also people with mental health issues.
- Use new technologies and standardized procedures and/or protocols for disease prevention.
- TPH has increasingly limited resources (resources for translation and working with diverse communities).

#### **5.0. Board of Health Report Update (Fiona)**

Nothing to report at this time. September BOH meeting has been cancelled.

#### **6.0. Biosolids Master Plan Update (Lino Grima)**

Lino attended the “Biosolids Master Plan” meeting on Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mennonite Church at 1774 Queen Street East hosted by Toronto Water. He will keep members updated on future activities and meeting dates.

**The meeting was adjourned at 8: 30 p.m.**

#### **7.0. Next Meeting**

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, October 13, 2009**  
**277 Victoria Street**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Floor – Room 504**  
**6:00 p.m.**