

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of Board of Health

Meeting No. 4

May 12, 2003

The Board of Health met on Monday, May 12, 2003 in Committee Room No. 1, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:10 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Joe Mihevc, Chair	x
Councillor Augimeri	x
Councillor John Filion	x
Councillor Norman Kelly	x
Councillor Jane Pitfield, Vice Chair	x
Councillor David Soknacki	x
Ms. Helen Chan	x
Mr. Brian Hyndman	x
Mr. Brian MacKay	x
Dr. Rosana Pellizzari	x
Ms. Nancy Peters	x
Trustee Mark Stefanini	x
Mr. Lee Zaslofsky	x

Councillor Mihevc in the Chair.

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by, Trustee Stefanini the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health held on April 7, 2003 were confirmed.

Staff Recognition

The Board of Health recognized the following Toronto Heart Health Partnership Community Partners:

- Colin Jenkins and Mirja Steele from The Heart and Stroke Foundation;
- Loren Fried and Kathryn Sim from The North York Harvest Food Bank;
- Tony Petitti from The Toronto Catholic District School Board; and
- Richard Ward and Carla Robins from The Toronto District School Board.

The Toronto partnership has successfully leveraged partnership involvement from over 150 community agencies and individuals, and almost \$10 million in in-kind resources. Phase II of the provincial heart health initiative was confirmed with the renewal of Ministry funding in the amount of \$2.8 million for an additional 5 years (April 2003 to March 2008). [Minute No. 4.9 refers to the report.]

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, also recognized and commended Dr. Sheela Basrur, the Medical Officer of Health, and Toronto Public Health staff for their outstanding performance during the recent SARS outbreak and presented a plaque to the Medical Officer of Health honouring the teamwork of the Health Unit. The Board also gave a standing ovation.

The Board recognized, in particular, the following Toronto Public Health staff:

- Janice Ferris, Mark Taylor and May Wong (Hotline);
- Marjolyn Pritchard, Katherine Ormiston, Dunja Kreznarich, and Mark Bartlett (Case Management);
- Mary Ann Gatbonton, Barb McPherson Jann Houston, Jo Ann Ackery and Janet Melanson (Contact Follow-up); and
- Barb Switzer Maria Herrera (Responding to the Community).

The following staff, representing their colleagues, addressed the Board:

- May Wong (Hotline);
- Mark Bartlett (Case Management);
- Barb McPherson (Contact follow-up); and
- Barb Switzer (Community Response).

4.1 Children's Mental Health

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health presenting the results of a needs assessment and literature review regarding the mental health of young children in Toronto, initiated by the Children and Youth Action Committee and Toronto Public Health; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health commend the Children and Youth Action committee for identifying children's mental health as a significant issue requiring further attention and for providing the funding to complete the report entitled "Improving the Mental Health of Young Children in Toronto: Needs Assessment and Literature Review";
- (2) this report be forwarded to the Children and Youth Action Committee for its consideration;
- (3) Toronto Public Health collaborate with Children's Services Division, Community and Neighbourhood Services Department, and other relevant City services to

prepare a joint follow-up report on an implementation plan and implications of the “Improving the Mental Health of Young Children in Toronto: Needs Assessment and Literature Review” report; and

- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The following persons appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Dr. Michael Boyle, McMaster University; and
- Fiona Nelson, Chair, Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition.

On motion by Councillor David Socknacki, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report and, further, requested Toronto Public Health and Children’s Services Division staff, when drafting recommendations for the follow up report outlined in Recommendation No. (3) to:

- (a) consider the establishment and measurement of success indicators; and
- (b) prioritize the recommendations which require City resources.

(Children Youth Action Committee, c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health)

4.2 Healthy Babies, Healthy Children Evaluation

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health providing an overview of the provincial program evaluation that was conducted by the Integrated Services for Children Division of the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care on the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health acknowledge the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care’s commitment to supporting local Healthy Babies Healthy Children programs by co-ordinating and funding both the Integrated Services for Children Information System (ISCIS) database and the program evaluation;
- (2) the Board of Health advocate to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for funding levels that fully support the delivery of the Healthy Babies Healthy Children in accordance with provincial program standards; and

- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Ron Robinson, President, Applied Research Consultants, gave an overhead slide presentation.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report, as amended, by amending Recommendation No. (2) to read:

- “(2) the Chair of the Board of Health and the Mayor be requested to advocate to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care in a letter to fully fund the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program at a level that supports program delivery in accordance with Ministry standards and guidelines;”

(Chair, Board of Health, Mayor Lastman, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health)

4.3 Sole Source Contract for Interpretation Services with Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre

The Board of Health had before it a report report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health requesting authority to extend the sole source contract with Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre for the provision of interpretation services required to deliver Toronto Public Health services to the City’s multicultural community; and recommending that:

- (1) concurrence be given for 2001/02 expenditures through Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre for the purchase of additional cultural interpretation services to support the delivery of Toronto Public Health programs, in the amount of \$784,700.00;
- (2) the sole source contract with Access Alliance Multicultural Community Health Centre for the purchase of cultural interpretation services be extended from January 1 to July 31, 2003 in the amount of \$350,000.00 with the understanding that a Request for Proposals has been initiated in order to establish a new purchase of service contract; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board also had before it a communication (May 6, 2003) from the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health recommend to Council the adoption of the foregoing report.

(Report No. 3, Clause No. 2)

4.4 2003/2004 Student Nutrition Program Service Subsidies

The Board of Health had before it a report (May 6, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health recommend that City Council execute agreements totalling \$1,999,340.00 with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success (\$1,795,057.02) and the Metropolitan Toronto Catholic Education Foundation (\$204,282.98) to administer the allocation of service subsidies to eligible student nutrition programs across the City of Toronto;
- (2) authority be granted to the Medical Officer of Health to take the necessary action to give effect thereto, including the execution of agreements with the Toronto Foundation for Student Success and the Metropolitan Toronto Catholic Education Foundation on behalf of the City; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

Councillor Mihevc appointed Mr. Zaslofsky Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

On motion by Councillor Mihevc, the Board of Health recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee and Council adoption of the foregoing report and, further, requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board, prior to the 2004 Budget process, on the level of funding necessary to meet the need and a strategy to achieve such funding.

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

(Policy and Finance Committee, c.Jane Speakman, Legal Services
– May 13, 2003)

4.5 Reduction of the Toronto Public Health 2003 Operating Budget

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 25, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health seeking approval for a technical amendment to the Toronto Public Health 2003 Operating Budget; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health forward this report to the Policy and Finance Committee for approval of a reduction of the Toronto Public Health 2003 Operating budget in the amount of \$985,842 gross, \$0 net; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

The Board also had before it a communication (May 6, 2003) from the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Board of Health recommended to the Policy and Finance Committee and Council that Toronto Public Health and City Council continue to maintain the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program at the current staffing and service levels.

(Policy and Finance Committee, c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health – May 13, 2003)

4.6 Harm Reduction Programs Targeting Drug Users in the City of Toronto

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health outlining the various harm reduction programs in the City of Toronto that target drug users; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health endorse this report and forward it to the Community Services Committee;
- (2) the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Community and Neighbourhood Services report back to the Board of Health and Community Services Committee on a process, including possible sources of funding, to initiate a municipal drug framework and strategy for the City of Toronto based on the four pillars of prevention, treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction; and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

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The following persons appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter:

- Dr. Peggy Millson, University of Toronto;
- David Collins, on behalf of Toronto Harm Reduction Task Force;
- Barb Panter, Safer Crack Use Coalition, and submitted a written brief;
- Lorraine Barnaby, Safer Crack Use Coalition, and submitted a written brief;
- Dr. Patrick Smith, Vice-President, Clinical Programs, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, and submitted a written brief; and
- Dr. Patricia Erickson, Research Scientist, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

- (A) Doctor Pellizzari moved that the report be adopted.
- (B) Councillor Kelly moved that the final report include comment on the amount of funds spent by the City on drug-related initiatives and the number of programs through which the funds are being difused at present.
- (C) Councillor Soknacki moved that the Medical Officer of Health be requested to consult with the Toronto Police Service during the development of the municipal drug framework and strategy.
- (D) Councillor Mihevc moved that the foregoing motion (B) by Councillor Kelly be amended by adding “and to include the estimated amounts of each of the four pillars of prevention treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction”.

The foregoing motions (A),(B),(C), and (D) **carried**.

In summary, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report, as amended, by adding the following:

“It is further recommended that:

- (i) the Medical Officer of Health be requested to consult with the Toronto Police Service during the development of the municipal drug framework and strategy; and
- (ii) the final report include comment on the amount of funds spent by the City on drug-related initiatives and the number of programs through which the funds are being diffused at present and to include the estimated amounts of funding for each of the four pillars of prevention, treatment, enforcement, and harm reduction.”

(Community and Neighbourhood Services Committee, Secretary, Board of Health, c. Medical Officer of Health, Commissioner, Community and Neighbourhood Services, Jane Speakman, Interested Parties – May 13, 2003)

4.7 AIDS and Drug Prevention Funding to Street Health Community Nursing Foundation

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health updating the Board of Health on the funding provided to All Saints' Church-Community Centre and Street Health Community Nursing Foundation for its harm reduction activities; and recommending that the Board of Health receive this report for information.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

4.8 Update on Regulatory Changes at Health Canada Related to Food and Nutrition

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health informing the Board of Health about recent regulatory changes at Health Canada related to food and nutrition; and recommending that:

- (1) the Board of Health communicate its support to the Federal Minister of Health for the new nutrition labeling policy announced by Health Canada in January 2003;
- (2) the Board of Health recommend to Health Canada that they adopt the following recommendations regarding health claims and food fortification:
 - (a) allow sufficient time to monitor the impact of generic health claims on purchasing patterns, dietary practices and population health outcomes before approving product-specific health claim regulations;
 - (b) ensure that fortification is based on sound nutrition rationale and targets nutrients of identified public health significance;
 - (c) demand evidence that the nutritional health of Canadians will be improved with fortification; and
 - (d) continue to take a leadership role in consumer education and devote resources towards consumer education campaigns relating to fortified foods.

- (3) the Board of Health re-affirm to Health Canada the need for an effective and sustainable national nutrition surveillance system with accurate nutrition methodology; and
- (4) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Mr. MacKay, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report and, further, directed that a copy of the report be forwarded to the Ontario Public Health Association and the Association of Local Public Health Agencies for information.

(Federal Minister of Health, c. ALPHA, OPHA, Jane Speakman,
Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health – May 13, 2003)

4.9 Toronto Heart Health Partnership

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health providing the Board of Health with an update on the implementation of the Ontario Heart Health Program (OHHP) in the City of Toronto and providing highlights of the previous 5 years; confirming the renewal of funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) for an additional 5 years (April 1, 2003 to March 31, 2008); identifying preliminary plans set forth by the Toronto Heart Health Partnership (THHP) for this period; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

4.10 Amendment of Building Codes to Reduce Hot Tap Water in Homes

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 29, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health reporting on proposed amendments to the National Building Code and to the National Plumbing Code to reduce hot tap water in homes; and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Ms. Chan, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

4.11 Toronto Public Health – 2002 Year-End and 2003 Capital Budget Variance Report

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health informing the Board of Health of Toronto Public Health's capital budget variance

as at December 31, 2002 and first quarter of 2003; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Board of Health also had before it a communication (May 6, 2003) from the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee advising the Board of having received the report.

On motion by Councillor Soknacki, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

4.12 Toronto Public Health – 2002 Year-End and 2003 Q1 Operating Budget Variance Report

The Board of Health had before it a report (April 28, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health apprising the Board of Health of Toronto Public Health's budget variance as at December 31, 2002 and first quarter of 2003; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Board of Health also had before it a communication (May 6, 2003) from the Board of Health Budget Subcommittee advising the Board of having received the report.

On motion by Councillor Soknacki, the Board of Health received the foregoing report.

4.13 Local Health Committee Minutes

The Board of Health had before it the following Minutes:

- (a) Toronto/East York Local Health Committee meeting held on January 14, 2003;
- (b) Scarborough Local Health Committee meeting held on January 23, 2003; and
- (c) Etobicoke Local Health Committee meeting held on March 5, 2003.

On motion by Dr. Pellizzari, the Board of Health received the foregoing Minutes.

4.14 Appointments to Local Health Committees

The Board of Health had before it the following confidential communications which were considered in camera, having regard that such reports contained personal information related to identifiable individuals:

- (i) (March 26, 2003) from the Chair, North York Local Health Committee, recommending the appointment of a member to the North York Health Committee; and
- (ii) (May 7, 2003) from the Chair, Etobicoke Local Health Committee, recommending the appointment of three (3) candidates to the Etobicoke Local Health Committee, for the remainder of the term of Council or until their successors are appointed.

On motion by Trustee Stefanini, the Board of Health:

- (1) appointed Miriam Bensimon to the North York Local Health Committee for a term of office expiring November 30, 2003, or until her successor is appointed; and
- (2) appointed Carol Polych, Karen Wright and Marek Zarkowski to the Etobicoke Local Health Committee for a term of office expiring November 30, 2003 or until their successors are appointed.

(North York Local Health Committee, Etobicoke Local Health Committee, c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health – May 13, 2003)

4.15 2003 Annual Conference of alPHa

The Board of Health had before it a communication (April 19, 2003) from Brian MacKay requesting permission to attend the 2003 Annual Conference of AlPHa.

On motion by Councillor Kelly, the Board of Health approved the attendance of Brian MacKay as the Board of Health's representative at the aforementioned conference.

(Medical Officer of Health, c. Brian MacKay, Jane Speakman, Legal Services – May 13, 2003)

4.16 West Nile Virus

The Board of Health had before it communications (May 2, and 6, 2003) from Councillor Norm Kelly regarding West Nile Virus and the Toronto Waterfront Plan and private property catchbasins.

The Board of Health:

- (1) referred the foregoing communication (May 2, 2003) from Councillor Kelly with respect to the Toronto Waterfront and West Nile Virus to the Medical Officer of Health for report back to the Board; **(moved by Councillor Kelly)**
- (2) referred the foregoing communication (May 2, 2003) from Councillor Kelly with respect to West Nile Virus and private property catchbasins to the Medical Officer of Health for a report thereon directly to Council for its meeting on May 21, 2003; **(moved by Councillor Kelly)**
- (3) requested the Medical Officer of Health to include in her report comment on the advisability of passing a standing water by-law and/or other means to ensure that standing water that may have West Nile Virus-carrying mosquitoes be dealt with effectively; **(moved by Councillor Pitfield)**

Councillor Mihevc appointed Councillor Pitfield Acting Chair, and vacated the Chair.

- (4) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report to the Board for its next meeting on BTI; **(moved by Councillor Mihevc)** and

Councillor Mihevc resumed the Chair.

- (5) directed the Medical Officer of Health to aggressively enforce existing legislation relating to standing water and its threat to public health. **(moved by Councillor Kelly)**

(Report No. 3, Clause No. 3)

4.17 Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

The Medical Officer of Health provided the Board of Health with a brief verbal update on the recent SARS outbreak.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health received the foregoing update.

4.18 Cancer Care Ontario

The Board of Health considered a deputation from Fiona Nelson, Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition, with respect to the Cancer Care Ontario, Cancer 20/20 plan.

On motion by Mr. Hyndman, the Board of Health requested the Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition and the Medical Officer of Health to prepare a response to the Cancer Care Ontario, Cancer 20/20 plan including practical actions and timelines.

(Toronto Cancer Prevention Coalition, c. Fiona Nelson, Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health – May 13, 2003)

4.19 Proposed Pesticides By-law

On motion by Councillor Pitfield, the Board of Health requested the Chair of the Board of Health to meet with the Mayor with a view to issuing a statement to condemn the recent actions taken by the Toronto Environmental Coalition, with regard to issuing misleading information following the Board's action with respect to the proposed Pesticide By-law.

(Chair, Board of Health, c. Mayor Lastman, Jane Speakman, Legal Services, Medical Officer of Health – May 13, 2003)

The Board of Health adjourned at 5:35 p.m.