

**THE CITY OF TORONTO**

**City Clerk's Office**

**Minutes of Board of Health**

**Meeting No. 6**

**July 14, 2003**

The Board of Health met on Monday, July 14, 2003 in Committee Room No. 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:12 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	
Councillor David Soknacki	
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 Councillor Augimeri, the Minutes of the meetings of the Board of Health held on May 12, 2003 and June 16, 2003 were confirmed.

**Staff Recognition**

The Chair advised that the Community Coalition Concerned About SARS had presented Toronto Public Health with a plaque in recognition of TPH's efforts in combating the recent SARS outbreak.

**6.1 The City of Toronto Corporate Smog Alert Response Plan: Status Report**

The Board of Health had before it a report (June 23, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health reporting on the implementation of the City of Toronto Corporate Smog Alert Response Plan and the impact of smog alert days on the delivery of City services; and recommending that:

- (1) the Commissioner of Works and Emergency Services, as Chair of the Toronto Interdepartmental Environment Committee (TIE), ensure that the City's Corporate Air Quality Strategy includes consideration of year-long corporate actions by City Divisions, Agencies, Boards and Commissions that reduce smog; and
- (2) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Councillor Augimeri, the Board of Health adopted the foregoing report.

(Commissioner, Works and Emergency Services (Chair, TIE) – c. Medical Officer of Health, Jane Speakman, Legal Services – July 16, 2003)

**6.2 City Auditor 2002 Follow-up: Review of Food Safety Program, Toronto Public Health**

The Board of Health had before it a report (June 30, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health providing a detailed response on the nature and extent of action taken by the Medical Officer of Health in response to the City Auditor's November 2002 Follow-up report on the Food Safety Program and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Councillor Augimeri, the Board of Health received the foregoing report and directed that a copy be forwarded to the Audit Committee for consideration.

(Audit Committee – c. Medical Officer of Health, Jane Speakman, Legal Services – July 16, 2003)

## **6.2 Mobile Dental Program for Low-Income Seniors Living in Long-Term Care Facilities**

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 2, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health providing the Board of Health with information on the cost to fully harmonize mobile dental services for low income residents of long-term care facilities (LTC) at the current level of service in existence in the South Region, the health benefits of such a service, and eligibility criteria to ensure that the program targets only those seniors who are unable to afford such services elsewhere; and recommending that this report be received for information.

The Board of Health also had before it a communication (July 7, 2003) from the Committee Secretary, Board of Health Budget Subcommittee, advising the Board of Health of having requested the Medical Officer of Health to give consideration to phasing-in costs for the Mobile Dental Program for low-income seniors if the City were to harmonize this program.

The Board of Health:

- (1) requested the Medical Officer of Health to report back to the Board of Health on policy options for the phase-in of the Mobile Dental Program for Low-Income Seniors; **(moved by Mr. Zaslofsky)** and
- (2) concurred with the recommendation of the Budget Subcommittee, and requested the Medical Officer of Health to give consideration, for the 2004 budget process, to phasing-in costs for the Mobile Dental Program for Low-Income Seniors if the City were to harmonize this program. **(moved by Councillor Augimeri)**

(Medical Officer of Health – c. Jane Speakman, Legal Services – July, 14, 2003)

## **6.4 Provincial Investigation relating to the introduction and spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**

The Board of Health had before it a report (June 24, 2003) from the City Solicitor providing the Board of Health with information relating to the Provincial SARS investigation and recommending that this report be received for information.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health received the foregoing report for information.

## **6.5 Toronto Public Health – Funding Cutbacks and Service Reductions**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (June 30, 2003) from the Acting President, CUPE Local 79, requesting permission to address the Board with respect to CUPE's concerns regarding cutbacks and service reductions.

Anne Dubas, on behalf of CUPE Local 79, appeared before the Board of Health in connection with the foregoing matter, and submitted a written brief.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health:

- (1) requested the Medical Officer of Health to re-establish programs and services to pre-SARS levels;
- (2) requested the Director, Employee and Labour Relations, to take appropriate action with a view to commencing Labour Management meetings as soon as possible; and
- (3) requested the Medical Officer of Health to work with the appropriate Unions to ensure that each redesign, restructuring and reorganization work group or committee have at least one union representative and alternate.

(Medical Officer of Health, Director, Employee and Labour Relations – c. Anne Dubas, CUPE, Jane Speakman, Legal Services – July 14, 2003)

## **6.6 Local Health Committee Minutes**

The Board of Health had before it Minutes of the Toronto/East York Local Health Committee meeting held on May 22, 2003.

On motion by Mr. Zaslofsky, the Board of Health received the foregoing Minutes for information and, further, requested the Toronto District Health Council to conduct a needs assessment and gap analysis on access to dental care by the uninsured, unemployed, and underemployed between the ages of 18 to 64 and recommend ways that this gap in health care services may be addressed.

(Toronto District Health Council, c. Medical Officer of Health,  
Local Health Committees, Jane Speakman, Legal Services –  
July 14, 2003)

#### **6.7 Toronto Seniors' Assembly Advocating for Seniors' Rights**

The Board of Health had before it a communication (July 3, 2003) from the City Clerk, Community Services Committee, advising that the Committee, on July 3, 2003, in considering the attached report dated June 19, 2003 from the Seniors' Advocate, respecting the Toronto Seniors' Assembly Advocating for Seniors' Rights, among other things, referred the following Recommendation No. (1) to the Board of Health for consideration.

On motion by Trustee Stefanini, the Board of Health advised Council that it concurs with the following Recommendation No. (1) of the Seniors' Advocate:

“(1) the Toronto Board of Health consider and include in its budget submission for 2004 the re-establishment of a City complaint hotline for retirement homes and an increase in funding to the vulnerable adults and frail elderly program.”

(City Council, c. Administrator, Community Services Committee,  
Councillor Anne Johnston, – c. Medical Officer of Health,  
Jane Speakman, Legal Services – July 14, 2003)

#### **6.8 Authorization to Receive Funding for Methadone Works**

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 10, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health requesting authority for the Medical Officer of Health to sign an agreement with Focus Young Adult Addiction Services (“Breakaway”) to receive funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the 2003/04 fiscal year for the operation of Methadone Works Program; and recommending that:

- (1) the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to sign an indemnification agreement with Focus Young Adult Addiction Service (“Breakaway”) enabling the receipt of \$90,000 for the operation of Methadone Works for the 2003/04 fiscal year in form and content satisfactory to the City Solicitor;
- (2) the 2003 Public Health Operating Budget be increased by \$20,000 (gross) and \$0 (net); and

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

On motion by Dr. Pellizzari, the Board of Health recommended to Council the adoption of the foregoing report.

**(Report No. 5, Clause No. 2)**

**6.9 Provincial Funding for SARS Research on Community Transmission and Quarantine Effectiveness**

The Board of Health had before it a report (July 14, 2003) from the Medical Officer of Health seeking approval to receive funding from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care for the 2003/04 fiscal year to carry out a study of Community Transmission and Quarantine Effectiveness in relation to the recent SARS outbreak; and recommending that:

- (1) the Medical Officer of Health be authorized to receive up to \$655,000 of funding in the 2003/04 fiscal year for research into SARS transmission and quarantine in the community;
- (2) City Council authorize and adjustment to increase the Toronto Public Health (SARS) 2003 Operating Budget by \$410,165 (gross) and \$0 (net); and
- (3) the appropriate City officials be authorized and directed to take the necessary action to give effect thereto.

On motion by Dr. Pellizzari, the Board of Health recommends to Council the adoption of the foregoing report.

**(Report No. 5, Clause No. 3)**

The Board of Health adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Chair