



**Northwestern  
Health Unit**

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**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE  
NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT**

MINUTES of the Regular Board of Health Meeting  
August 18, 2023  
Electronic Meeting

**PRESENT:** Doug Lawrance, Janelle Zacharias, Wendy Brunetta  
Bekkie Vineberg, Jamie Kristoff, Bob Bernie, Nicole Brown

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  
Marilyn Herbacz, CEO  
Kit Young Hoon, MOH  
Lindsay Koch

**GUESTS:**  
Alex Berry, Manager – Communications & Foundations Services  
Miranda Sigurdson, Manager – Family Health  
Dawn Sauve, Manager – Dental Health

**REGRETS:** Trudy Sachowski  
**ABSENT:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Doug Lawrance called the meeting to order at 8:30am.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 60-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>J. Kristoff W. Brunetta</b>
THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated August 18, 2023 be approved as amended.	

**3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

None declared.

**4. CHAIR’S ACTIVITY REPORT**

Doug Lawrance worked with NWHU Administration on the AMO Delegation briefing notes, and shared that the Municipality of Sioux Lookout hosted

**5. MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING, JUNE 23, 2023**

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 61-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>B. Vineberg J. Zacharias</b>
THAT the Minutes of the Northwestern Health Unit Board of Health meeting held June 23, 2023 be approved as written.	

## 6. PRESENTATIONS

- a. Foundations Annual Update:** Alex Berry, Manager - Communications & Foundations  
The Foundations Team supports the work of the individual programs within the organization through connecting the work that all programs do, such as health equity, Indigenous Engagement, Continuous Quality Improvement, etc. Alex shared a presentation related to the team and program structure, bodies of work, reports generated based on data collection and evaluation, and some of the team's current projects.

*Alex Berry left the meeting at 8:58am.  
Miranda Sigurdson joined the meeting at 8:56am.*

- b. Family Health Annual Update:** Miranda Sigurdson, Manager – Family Health  
The Family Health Team focuses on Healthy Growth and Development (Child and Reproductive Health) – funded by the Ministry of Health, and Healthy Babies Healthy Children program which is 100% funded by the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services. These programs are required under the Ontario Public Health Standards. Miranda shared information related to 2022 program results, 2023 priorities, program highlights and next steps. Family Health works closely with and refers to other programs within the health unit such as Dental Health and Speech, Hearing and Vision.

*Miranda Sigurdson left the meeting at 9:  
Dawn Sauve joined the meeting at 9:37am and left at 10:13am.*

- c. Dental Health Update:** Dawn Sauve, Manager – Dental Health  
The Dental Health team operates across the region and offers the following: Healthy Smiles Ontario; Ontario Works Dental Claims (adults only); Preventative Services; Mobile Dental Office & Community Clinics; School Dental Screening; Children's Oral Health Initiative; Ontario Seniors Dental Care Program; Green Shield Canada Partnership; Mary Berglund Community Health Centre Hub Partnership; Community Water Fluoridation. NWHU's dental program is able to serve eligible clients who may not be able to access dental care due to barriers like cost, where private dental clinics are not able to offer or accommodate subsidized care.

## 7. IN CAMERA

No closed session held.

## 8. aIPHa UPDATES

No monthly update.

## 9. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION

- 9.1 CEO & Finance Report** *Marilyn Herbacz, CEO. Reference #2023.08.18-9.1; the report will be kept on file.*

Marilyn shared some highlights of her written report: working on a CEO compensation evaluation; management structure project; HR Strategy which will come to the Board in September; IT Strategy for October or November; and a Power BI dashboard for the

Finance Team which will enable different types of reporting of NWHU’s financial information. A new budget tool is being implemented for use with the 2024 budget.

It is expected that an announcement regarding public health funding will be made during the AMO Conference.

**9.2 AMO Delegation**

Members of the Board of Health who are attending the AMO Conference met to review the briefing notes to be shared as part of NWHU’s delegation to the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services taking place August 21, 2023. Topics to be covered include Food Insecurity and School Food Programs, and Healthy Babies Healthy Children (HBHC) funding.

NWHU has also supported the City of Kenora and the Municipality of Sioux Lookout on their delegations to other ministries.

We received communication from the Ministry of Health thanking us for requesting a delegation related to public health mitigation funding, but they were unable to accommodate us this time.

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 62-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>W. Brunetta N. Brown</b>
THAT the following Corporate Administration Reports be received:  - 2023.08.18-9.1 CEO & Finance Report	

**10. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS**

**10.1 Medical Officer of Health Update** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2023.08.18-10.1; the Report will be kept on file.*

**10.2 Ontario Health Team (OHT) Partnership Strategy** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2023.08.18-10.2; the Report will be kept on file.*

Dr. Young Hoon facilitated a brief discussion related to NWHU’s work as part of the three OHTs in the region (ANHP, Kiiwetinoong Healing Waters, RRDOHT). NWHU managers continue to work on and discuss this as the work moves ahead. Updates on this work will continue to come to the Board for discussion and information sharing as needed.

**10.3 Foundations Annual Update** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of Alex Berry, Manager of Communications & Foundations Services. Reference #2023.08.18-10.3; the Report will be kept on file.*

**10.4 Environmental Health: Outdoor Air Quality** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of Thomas Nabb, Manager of Environmental Health. Reference #2023.08.18-10.4; the Report will be kept on file.*

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES August 18, 2023**

This report was triggered by the increase in significant air quality concerns stemming from wildfires across the country. Member Jamie Kristoff offered that mining companies often have air quality data and monitoring that could be investigated for health unit reporting and evaluation.

The Board expressed appreciation for this data and how it supports recommendations for risk mitigation in general and higher-risk populations.

- 10.5 CDP: Vaping** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health, on behalf of Julie Slack, Manager of Chronic Disease Prevention. Reference #2023.08.18-10.5; the Report will be kept on file.*

This information will be incorporated into some school programming to help students understand the risks and impacts of vaping. This content does not necessarily reach the media but is important prevention work. Inspections are completed by Public Health Inspectors and the Tobacco Enforcement Officer under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act.

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 63-2023 CARRIED</b>	<b>B. Vineberg B. Bernie</b>
THAT the following Public Health Program Reports be received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2023.08.18-10.1 Medical Officer of Health Update</li><li>• 2023.08.18-10.2 OHT Partnership Strategy</li><li>• 2023.08.18-10.3 Foundations Annual Update</li><li>• 2023.08.18-10.4 Environmental Health: Outdoor Air Quality</li><li>• 2023.08.18-10.5 CDP: Vaping</li></ul>	

- 11. AMENDMENTS:** None.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE**

September 27, 2023 at 8:30am – Kenora, CityView Boardroom

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:00am

**BOARD OF HEALTH FOR THE NORTHWESTERN HEALTH UNIT:**

**CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN**

**THIS .....27..... DAY OF ....SEPTEMBER.....2023**



**MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH**



**RECORDER**