



**PRESENT:** Doug Lawrance, Janelle Zacharias, Wendy Brunetta, Lucille MacDonald  
Bob Bernie, Trudy Sachowski, Bekkie Vineberg, Jamie Kristoff

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Marilyn Herbacz, CEO  
Kit Young Hoon, MOH  
Lindsay Koch

**GUESTS:** Donna Stanley, Director of Health Protection

**REGRETS:**

**ABSENT:**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 28-2024 CARRIED</b>	<b>J. Kristoff B. Vineberg</b>
THAT the Agenda for the Board of Health meeting dated May 3, 2024 be approved.	

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

None declared.

**4. CHAIR'S ACTIVITY REPORT**

Chair Doug Lawrance shared that he, Dr. Young Hoon, and Marilyn Herbacz will meet with representatives from the Ministry of Health this week to discuss the outcome of the Voluntary Merger Viability Assessment. Any relevant updates from this meeting will be shared with the Board.

**5. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 29-2024 CARRIED</b>	<b>L. MacDonald J. Zacharias</b>
THAT the Minutes of the Northwestern Health Unit Regular Board of Health meeting held March 28, 2024 and special meeting held April 15, 2024 be approved as written.	

**6. PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS**

Donna Stanley, Director of Health Protection joined the meeting to share a presentation regarding Harm Reduction, and Sexually Transmitted and Blood-Borne Infections (STBBIs).

*Donna Stanley left the meeting at 9:16am*

**7. VOLUNTARY MERGER COMMITTEE DISBANDMENT**

The Board of Health met in a special meeting April 15, 2024 and voted not to proceed with a voluntary merger with TBDHU. This decision concludes the work of the committee, and it is therefore disbanded.

<p><b>Motion / Resolution: # 30-2024</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>B. Vineberg</b> <b>L. MacDonald</b></p>
<p>WHEREAS the Voluntary Merger Assessment Committee, made up of representatives from Northwestern Health Unit's (NWHU) Board of Health, MOH, and CEO, along side those from Thunder Bay District Health Unit (TBDHU) have completed their objectives in assessing the viability of a voluntary merger between NWHU and TBDHU; and</p> <p>WHEREAS the Boards of Health from each participating health unit passed resolutions the week of April 15, 2024 opposing a voluntary merger based on the findings of the viability assessment;</p> <p>NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT Northwestern Health Unit's participation on the Voluntary Merger Assessment Committee be hereby withdrawn.</p>	

**8. alPHa UPDATES**

Trudy Sachowski, alPHa Representative shared some highlights from her recent trip to Queen's Park in her role as alPHa representative and was celebrated in the legislature for the work she does on behalf of public health.

Trudy shared that she has been invited to participate on a panel with Bonnie Clark, a Municipal Councillor from Peterborough, Dr. Robert Kyle from Durham Region Public Health, about Strengthening Public Health at the AMO Conference in August. Additionally, a panel will be held at the alPHa conference in June.

**9. CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION**

**9.1 CEO & Finance Report** *Marilyn Herbacz, CEO. Reference #2024.05.03-9.1 the report will be kept on file.*

Marilyn Herbacz shared highlights from her written report and added that NWHU has submitted a letter to the All Nations Health Partners OHT to remove the health unit from formal partnership given the limited ways in which public health engages in primary care. NWHU will continue to be a resource to the OHT and others in the region.

Marilyn will be reviewing bank balances and looking into investing some of the funds. This will come forward to the Board for further discussion and decision at a future meeting.

<p><b>Motion / Resolution: #31-2024</b> <b>CARRIED</b></p>	<p><b>T. Sachowski</b> <b>W. Brunetta</b></p>
<p>THAT the following Corporate Administration Reports be received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2024.05.03-9.1 CEO &amp; Finance Report</li> </ul>	

**10. PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS**

**10.1 Medical Officer of Health Update** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.05.03-10.1; the Report will be kept on file.*

Dr. Young Hoon provided a high-level overview of her written report, with an update that BOH Members Wendy Brunetta and Janelle Zacharias will attend the RRDOHT in person session.

Dr. Young Hoon highlighted the Green Door Project annual report which was shared with the Board. This project does great work for people in our communities who have a great need for dental care.

**10.2 CMOH 2023 Annual Report** *Dr. Kit Young Hoon, Medical Officer of Health. Reference #2024.05.03-10.2; the Report will be kept on file.*

The 2023 Annual Report from the Chief Medical Officer of Health was released in April. NWHU’s Dr. Young Hoon was a key member of the expert panel working alongside Dr. Moore on this report, sharing her experiences and expertise, data and significant time to inform the report. Dr. Young Hoon has been recognized by Dr. Moore for her work on this year-long project.

Dr. Young Hoon shared that this CMOH report has been well-received by health units across the province with a focus on multi-sectoral approaches to substance use and addiction.

The communication plan for this report is not meant to generate advocacy efforts at this time, but to share it broadly, noting that work related to the content of the report will likely continue for at least the next ten years. It was suggested that a briefing page on the report could be created to share alongside communications being sent to municipalities, partners, and MPPs.

Dr. Young Hoon recognized Dr. Moore for his bravery in putting forward this report, and how it will support local Medical Officers of Health in their efforts to address substance use and addictions in their communities.

<b>Motion / Resolution: # 32-2024 CARRIED</b>	<b>B. Bernie L. MacDonald</b>
THAT the following Public Health Program Reports be received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2024.05.03-10.1 Medical Officer of Health Update</li> <li>• 2024.05.03-10.2 CMOH 2023 Annual Report</li> </ul>	

<b>Motion / Resolution: #33-2024 CARRIED</b>	<b>T. Sachowski J. Zacharias</b>
WHEREAS the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario has released his 2023 annual report on substance use and harms; and  WHEREAS substance use has been identified as one of the leading causes of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and deaths in Ontario; and	

WHEREAS substance use costs the province of Ontario billions of dollars each year in health care, lost productivity, criminal justice, and other direct costs; and

WHEREAS the Northwestern Health Unit has significantly higher rates of substance use and related harms than the rest of Ontario;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) Board of Health endorse the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario's report and commit to working on the recommendations outlined for public health.

**11. FACE TO FACE MEETING**

The Board does not currently have a face-to-face meeting planned for 2024. The September 27<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting will be held in person in Kenora.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE**

Regular Meeting: May 24, 2024 at 8:30am

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair accepted a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:02am.

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

**CONFIRMED AS WRITTEN**

THIS .....24..... DAY OF ....MAY.....2024



MEETING CHAIR, BOARD OF HEALTH

  
RECORDER