

Renfrew County and District Health Unit
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



Board of Health

Executive Committee Meeting B
with
RCDHU Senior Management Team
and
Representatives from the County of Renfrew

Tuesday, February 04, 2020

The meeting of the Executive Committee of Renfrew County and District Health Unit's Board of Health was held in the RCDHU Classroom at 7 International Drive, Pembroke, Ontario, and included RCDHU Senior Management Team and representatives from the County of Renfrew.

Present:

Peter Emon	Chair
M. Ann Aikens	Member
Daniel Janke	Member
Christine Reavie	Member
Janice Visneskie Moore	Member

Staff:

Vicki Benoit	Director, Health Protection
Heather Daly	Acting Chief Executive Officer/Director, Corporate Services
Marilyn Halko	Executive Assistant (Secretary)
Carla Walters	Director, Health Promotion/Chief Nursing Officer

Guests:

Michael Barber	Media Relations/Grants Coordinator
Melissa Botz	Coordinator, Communication and Emergency Preparedness
Michael Donohue	Chair, County of Renfrew Health Services and Social Services—Provincial Modernization Ad Hoc Committee
Paul Moreau	Chief Administrative Officer/Clerk, County of Renfrew
Debbie Robinson	Warden, County of Renfrew

At 2:00 p.m. Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Renfrew County and District Health Unit, joined the meeting via telephone.

01. Call to Order

P. Emon called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

02. Agenda Approval

The agenda was approved as presented.

Resolution: # 1 EC 2020-Feb-04 B

A motion by J. Visneskie Moore; seconded by C. Reavie; be it resolved that the Executive Committee approve the agenda, as presented.

Carried

Resolution: # 2 EC 2020-Feb-04 B

A motion by C. Reavie; seconded by M. A. Aikens; be it resolved that the Executive Committee, in order to facilitate discussion, invite the members of County Council and Staff to address the Committee and participate in discussion as recognized by the Chair.

Carried

03. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

04. Public Health Modernization

a. Public Health Modernization Consultation

Preamble—Background

The consultation session for Public Health Modernization, with Jim Pine, scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at Algonquin College, in Ottawa, was postponed, per the email below:

. . . Given the situation with 2019-nCoV (Novel Coronavirus), and in recognition of the need for readiness planning by both public health and emergency health services personnel at this time, a decision has been made to postpone these sessions.

Public health units were scheduled to meet with J. Pine in the morning and emergency services and municipalities in the afternoon.

b. Executive Overview

The [Executive Overview](#) was used as a reference document. It was presented to the Honourable John Yakabuski, MPP, Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, by the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Board of Health, on October 11, 2018, in advance of the government's proposal for Public Health Modernization.

- c. AMO position
P. Emon added an updated [AMO position](#) to the meeting materials.
- d. County of Renfrew paper
The Executive Committee viewed the County of Renfrew's (CoR) position paper—[Investing in Municipal Health Care to End Hallway Health](#)—for the first time, at the meeting held on Monday, January 27, 2020. The Committee voiced their concerns about references to RCDHU, without consultation by CoR, in the preparation of this document.

This document was presented to County Council on Wednesday, January 29, 2020, without consultation with RCDHU. The health unit was referenced throughout the CoR document.

As a result of the Committee's objection to multiple references to RCDHU, throughout the document, the following motion came forward at County Council on Wednesday, January 29, 2020:

THAT County Council approve that the Warden, Chair of Health Committee and staff participate in the planned consultations announced for Eastern Ontario; AND FURTHER THAT the Warden, Chair of Health Committee and staff engage with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) Board, communicating the County of Renfrew's willingness to seek opportunities to find efficiencies between the two organizations as outlined in the County of Renfrew's position paper; AND FURTHER THAT representatives from the County of Renfrew inform the Province of Ontario, as part of the consultation process, that the Renfrew County and District Health Unit has not endorsed the position of the County of Renfrew.

Then as a follow-up, after a long discussion, at the Regular Board of Health meeting on January 30, 2020, regarding the County's position paper, M. Donohue, Board Member, proceeded to the County of Renfrew Administration office to arrange a meeting with representatives from the County of Renfrew, the Board of Health's Executive Committee and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit's (RCDHU) Senior Management Team. The proposed date for the meeting was Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. This date was available due to the postponement of Public Health and Emergency Services Modernization consultations in Ottawa.

In an email to H. Daly, P. Moreau, verified that Warden Robinson and

County of Renfrew representatives would meet at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4, 2020.

During the Meeting

The CoR position paper was projected onto the screen, at the front of the room, and collectively edited by the group. P. Moreau made the revisions to the document, in real-time, that included: deletions, changes and strikethroughs.

References to public health were found on the following pages: one, two, four, six, eight, nine, 10, 11, 12 and 13.

Some of the edits were as follows:

- #7 Collaboratively investigate opportunities to integrate public health administration/finance/human resources information technology with current municipal corporate services of the County of Renfrew.
- #8 Collaboratively explore organizational structures like those that currently exist in the Ottawa semi-autonomous Board.
- #9 Remove and consider putting in the paramedic services section.

During the meeting, the two groups worked collaboratively together to review the information in the CoR position paper, making changes that reflected the consensus of both parties.

- e. Other
[Responses to Discussion Points](#) for consultation regarding Public Health Modernization.
- f. Path Forward
After revisions are completed, the two parties will review the CoR paper position, again, at a meeting set by the Executive Committee Chair, preferably before the new date is set for the postponed public health modernization consultation.

When the meeting wrapped up, the consensus expressed, by those in attendance, was that the meeting with the County of Renfrew and Renfrew County and District Health Unit was productive.

The two groups will meet again to format a vision for delivering public health, in Renfrew County and District, including the City of Pembroke and the Township of South Algonquin, that will provide, protect and benefit our community.

The recommendations will be shared with the provincial government.

05. Adjournment

Resolution: # 3 EC 2020-Feb-04 B

A motion by C. Reavie; seconded by J. Visneskie Moore; be it resolved that the Executive Committee adjourn at 4:00 p.m.

Carried

Note: At the conclusion of the meeting the following press release was sent by M. Barber and M. Botz to Renfrew County and District media:



For Immediate Release

(Pembroke, Ontario, February 4, 2020)

County of Renfrew and Renfrew County and District Health Unit Board of Health met today to discuss a collaborative approach to Public Health modernization. Decisions will be made in the best interest of residents of Renfrew County and District to ensure equitable access to health services. The goal is to maintain a local perspective on health service delivery including public health.

“County of Renfrew and Renfrew County and District Health Unit are encouraged and have had an incredibly productive meeting, we are looking forward to future supportive and collaborative meetings and are confident we will find a way forward,” says Janice Visneskie Moore, Board of Health Chair.

County of Renfrew and Renfrew County District Health Unit need to consider how we deliver public health services to ensure these services continue to meet the evolving needs of people across Renfrew County, City of Pembroke, South Algonquin Township, and Algonquin Park.

Warden of the County of Renfrew, Debbie Robinson shared, "Today's successful meeting brought together two organizations that serve the health needs of our residents in Renfrew County and District and is working towards a collaborative approach to engaging the Province on the modernization of public health."

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For more information:

Melissa Botz, R. Kin
Coordinator, Communications and Emergency Preparedness
Renfrew County and District Health Unit
Tel: 613 735-8654 Ext. 590
Fax: 613-735-3067
media@rcdhu.com
www.rcdhu.com

Michael Barber, DMB Dipl. MM
Media Relations/Grants Coordinator
County of Renfrew
Tel: 613-735-7288
mbarber@countyofrenfrew.on.ca
www.countyofrenfrew.on.ca

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Chair

The original approved meeting minutes were signed by P. Emon, Executive Committee Chair.