



Board of Health

Executive Committee Meeting A with RCDHU Senior Management Team

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.

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

01. Call to Order

P. Emon called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

02. Agenda Approval

The agenda was amended to include the following reference documents:

- [Responses to Discussion Points and Questions from the Public Health and Emergency Health Services Modernization Presentations, in Preparation for the February 04, 2020, Meeting in Ottawa](#)—Dr. Cushman's paper
- [Criteria for Public Health Modernization](#)—table with 13 Criteria with [Criteria for Public Health Modernization—Guidelines](#)
- [Informally the position of the Municipal Sector](#)—Chair's 2020-Feb-04 paper

- [County of Renfrew—Investing in Municipal Health Care to End Hallway Health Care](#)—CoR position paper

Resolution: # 1 EC 2020-Feb-04 Meeting A

A motion by M. A. Aikens; seconded by C. Reavie; be it resolved that the Executive Committee agenda be approved, as amended to include Dr. Cushman paper, the 12 points and Chairs Feb 04 paper, the CoR position paper.

Carried

03. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared.

04. Public Health Modernization

- a. Public Health Modernization Consultation
The Chair referred the meeting participants to the [Executive Overview](#) that was presented to the Honourable John Yakabuski on October 11, 2018, by the Board's Executive Committee. The report was made in advance of the move by the Ontario government for Public Health Modernization.

At 10:09 a.m., Dr. Robert Cushman joined the meeting by telephone.

The following points, shown below, are excerpts from page five of the *Executive Overview*, and could be considered for the preparation of a *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Ottawa Public Health (OPH)*:

- Reduction of duplication of regional public health services.
- Improved research and quality control for RCDHU staff. Provision of shared call options for an MOH after hours etc.
- Language committing to the building of capacity and training with our local employees.
- Strong language committing to our board being local and governance and management of this agency remaining with RCDHU Board.
- A statement of cost, billing details, duties of the AMOH, i.e. 50% of their time in our community and cost to reflect that.
- Regular reporting and presence at monthly RCDHU Board.

- Regular chairing and attendance with senior managers.
- A commitment to research of our issues, with our funds and partnerships, of local health concerns.
- Annual accountability to complete annual goals and objectives approved by the RCDHU Board.

Originally, the Public Health Modernization Consultation, with Jim Pine, Municipal Advisor, was scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at the Ottawa Algonquin College Campus. The meeting was postponed:

. . . 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.

Dr. Cushman’s document—[Responses to Discussion Points and Questions from the Public Health and Emergency Health Services Modernization Presentations](#)—was approved as RCDHU’s basis for discussion for the upcoming Public Health Modernization Consultation per the following motion that was contained in the Executive Committee Report approved by the Board on Thursday, January 30, 2020:

Resolution: #3 EC 2020-Jan-27

A motion by M.A. Aikens; seconded by C. Reavie; be it resolved that the Executive Committee recommend to the Board that the Board accept the Report from Dr. Cushman marked Jan. 2020 # A as the basis for our position at the Feb 4th Consultation Session in Ottawa.

Carried

P. Emon shared that a tentative date, for the postponed *Consultations* might be Thursday, February 27, 2020, in Ottawa.

The [Discussion Paper—Public Health Modernization](#) was recommended as a reference guide, to ensure that RCDHU’s position paper aligns with government priorities.

RCDHU needs a consistent message, such as, the Board will continue to

evaluate a formal collaboration that meets the needs of our community and recognizes our rural presence. No decisions have been made for RCDHU in response to the provincial initiative—*Public Health Modernization*.

Dr. R. Cushman provided input on the following items:

- page two—in Executive Overview—the Board was working on a creative solution for a MOH
- RCDHU SMT will provide an updated version of the MOU with OPH
- RCDHU is a large geographic area with a small population located between Ottawa and the United Townships of Head, Clara and Maria
- page three
 - #4—reiteration re: the need for a strong central health agency—Public Health Ontario

Slide 17

- page five
 - #2—addresses capacity issues
 - #4, #5 and #6—collaboration on joint projects and joint structures, like Ontario Health Teams
 - #10—common theme
 - #16—First Nations and Francophone
 - #20—local presence
- page ten
 - local presence is important—don't lose the little guy—bigger isn't always better
 - #14—representation based on local needs
 - clinical outcomes and information for rural residents,
 - strong representation for urban and rural areas
 - address health equity and strong rural representation on the Board of Health
 - #14 or #21—governance needs to be added and rolled into response
 - need strong governance that meets stakeholders' needs

SMT is tasked to write a one-page position paper that outlines what RCDHU has achieved to date.

b. AMO position

P. Emon recommended the use of the AMO research paper—[*Partners for a Healthy Ontario—A check-up on the Municipal Role in Public Health*](#)—as

a reference document for SMT as they prepare the RCDHU position paper for Public Health Modernization. Emon will forward the paper to SMT.

AMO, ROMA do not want large cities as the centre for rural communities.

The Chair referred to—[*Informally the position of the Municipal Sector*](#)—for views of AMO and ROMA on Public Health Modernization.

c. Review of *County of Renfrew—Investing in Municipal Health Care to End Hallway Health Care*

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Committee and Senior Management Team reviewed the CoR position paper.

Some of the areas addressed included:

- The removal of references to public health found on page one, two, four, six, eight, nine, ten, 11 and 12
- # 9—needs further discussion
- #10—not evidence based
- #11—Public Health Ontario should stand alone
- Page six
 - *vaccinations—now—*influenza immunization
 - *both the public health system—now—*the primary acute care
 - *patients—now—*clients
 - third paragraph—*As a public health care provider—now—*As a local health care provider
- page eight
 - *such as Public Health and—now—*such as the Renfrew
- page nine
 - *Centre and Public Health,—now—*Centre and the County of Renfrew
- page 11
 - *reduced from 35 to 10—now—*reduced from 34 to 10
 - *The County of Renfrew, City of Pembroke and Renfrew County & District Board of Health firmly—now—*The County of Renfrew and the City of Pembroke firmly
 - *Some of the unique factors—now—*Some of the factors
 - *older than Provincial median) , —now—*older than Provincial median),
- page 12
 - *alcohol abuse, poor diet—now—*alcohol use, nutrition

- *and Renfrew County and District Health Unit—now—and the Township of South Algonquin*
- *divide Municipal Governance and Operation—now—*
 - 1. Municipal Governance
 - 2. Operations
- *In addition, by integrating—now—In addition, explore collaboratively with RCDHU opportunities to reduce duplication by integrating local public health*
- *to achieve—now—explore*
- page 13
 - *delete—be consolidated into the local public health unit within the County of Renfrew’s operations to better align prevention programs and reduce duplication.*
 - *delete—Recommendation #7: Consolidate current Boards of Health (BoH) with elected municipal council and integrate public health administration/ finance/ human resources/information technology with current municipal corporate services.*
 - *Recommendation #8: Create regional Medical Officers of Health (MOH) to support the provincial Medical Officer of Health—now—Recommendation #8: Collaboratively support the Board of Health (BoH) in its efforts to secure a Medical Officer of Health (MOH) that meets the requirements of the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) related to the oversight of public health in Renfrew County and District for programs and services.*
 - *Recommendation #10: Reinvest cost saving from the integration of public health with municipal governance and operation back into local public health programs—now—Reinvest cost savings from found efficiencies back into local public health programs and services.*
 - *Recommendation #11: Merge Public Health Ontario with Ontario Health to create a more efficient, streamlined agency to achieve cost savings and reduce hallway health care—now—Recommendation #11: Create a stronger linkage between Public Health Ontario and Ontario Health enabling a more efficient, streamlined agency to achieve cost savings and reduce hallway health care.*

- d. Criteria Scoring for the County of Renfrew
Column E.—County of Renfrew was added as the fifth option on the *Criteria for Public Health Modernization* spreadsheet table. The Committee and SMT scored CoR, using the *Guidelines—Criteria for Public Health Modernization*. The spreadsheet is hyperlinked here—[Criteria with CoR added](#).

- e. Moving Forward
This afternoon, following the meeting with CoR representatives, a press release will be forwarded to media agencies in Renfrew County and District.

05. Date of Next Meeting

The next Executive Committee meeting will be at the call of the Chair, before the Emergency Services and Public Health Modernization Consultations, with SMT and CoR representatives invite to attend.

06. Adjournment

Resolution: # 2 EC 2020-Feb-04 Meeting A

A motion by J. Visneskie Moore; seconded by D. Janke; be it resolved that the Executive Committee adjourn at 12:45 p.m.

Carried

The Executive Committee meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Chair

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