Addendum: Board of Health Meeting

Meeting # 03-17

Thursday, April 19, 2018

1:30 p.m.

Boardroom, Public Health Sudbury & Districts
ADDENDUM – THIRD MEETING
BOARD OF HEALTH
APRIL 19, 2018

7.0 ADDENDUM

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

i) Ministry Funding
   – Letter from the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated April 13, 2018
   – Letter from the Board Chair to the Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
dated April 16, 2018
   – Letter from the President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies to the
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care dated April 17, 2018
Dear Colleagues,

As a former medical officer of health, I know the vital role public health plays every day in protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians. The release of the new Ontario Public Health Standards in January of this year outlined a new mandate for public health focused on outcomes, and included a strengthened accountability framework to demonstrate the impact of the work of public health.

Legislated requirements for board of health and LHIN engagement in the Patients First Act ensures public health plays a key role in integrated planning - to include upstream interventions that will improve health, reduce health inequities and assist in re-orienting the health system.

In order to support the integral role of public health as a unique sector within an integrated health system, I am pleased to announce a two percent base funding increase to all boards of health for the provision of public health programs and services. An additional one percent increment will be allocated based on local need as detailed in the board of health Annual Service Plans submitted to the ministry in March.

This totals an additional $15M base funding investment in public health, on top of approximately $16M in one-time funding for a number of initiatives associated with the delivery of public health programs in Ontario.

This investment demonstrates my government's commitment to ensure Ontarians are able to recognize, value and benefit from the excellent work of public health across the health system and in local communities.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dr. Helena Jaczek
Minister

c:
April 6, 2018

The Honourable Helena Jaczek
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care
10th Floor, Hepburn Block
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister:

On behalf of the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts, I am writing to express the Board’s appreciation for the additional base funding to all boards of health as communicated in your letter dated April 13, 2018.

We are grateful that in addition to the funding announcement, your letter also recognizes the vital role of public health in protecting and promoting the health of all Ontarians. You further recognize that boards require additional support if we are to effectively contribute to an integrated health system.

At Public Health Sudbury & Districts we are working hard with many partners to leverage and build opportunities for health for all and respond to community pressures and needs. Important recent examples include our focus on poverty (Trillium Local Poverty Reduction Fund) and health equity (HQO collaboration on Northern Ontario Health Equity Strategy), our commitment to Indigenous engagement (Public Health Ontario collaborative research project) and our work with police, municipalities, schools and others in responding to the opioid crisis (recent emergency exercise).

The additional funding is an important step in addressing the financial pressures associated with responding to these many local public health needs and critical to maintaining a strong public health system for all Ontarians. We would highlight that ongoing investments are needed if we are to address local needs and the current and growing pressures on health system sustainability.
Our Board is committed to working with local and provincial governments to ensure our public health resources are used to the fullest extent to benefit all.

Thank you again for the funding announcement which, while welcome any time, is an investment that is especially appreciated in the current fiscal environment.

Sincerely,

René Lapierre
Chair
Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts

cc: Board of Health
Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, Association of Local Public Health Agencies
Glenn Thibeault, Member of Provincial Parliament, Sudbury
France Gélinas, Member of Provincial Parliament, Nickel Belt
Michael Mantha, Member of Provincial Parliament, Algoma-Manitoulin

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Hon. Helena Jaczek  
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care  
10th Flr, 80 Grosvenor St,  
Toronto, ON M7A 2C4

Dear Minister Jaczek,

Re: Public Health Funding Increase

On behalf of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) and its member Medical Officers of Health, Boards of Health and Affiliate organizations, I am writing today to express our gratitude for your April 13, 2018 announcement of a base funding increase for all boards of health.

As you may be aware, our members have been experiencing significant pressures over the past three years, during which the majority have had no increase to their base funding at all. With costs rising year-over-year, this has necessitated the development of strategies to deliver mandated services despite a de facto cut in available resources. These strategies, which are resource-intensive on their own, have largely been aimed at avoiding impacts on human resources, and have included reduced frequency of certain services, reduced supports for certain programs, delay in planning for others and reduced communications. Your announcement of a 2% increase to base funding for all boards of health is therefore most welcome, as many of our members have expressed concern that avoiding impacts on human resources may not be possible if the status quo prevailed for another year.

As you have noted, public health has been given a new mandate (among others) to assist in re-orienting the health system. We welcome this role and the additional resources to help our members fulfill it. We also welcome further discussions on what will be required to strengthen our existing ones.

We recognize the challenges inherent in allocating public money in the context of competing government priorities, so we are very grateful for this additional funding as a demonstration of your Ministry’s support of and commitment to public health as a unique sector.

Yours sincerely,

Carmen McGregor  
alPHA President

COPY: Dr. Bob Bell, Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care; Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health; Roselle Martino, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health and Long-Term Care, Population and Public Health Division