November 24, 2010

Dear Colleagues:

Subject: Update on Performance Management Initiatives

Work on establishing a performance management system for public health is progressing very well. Our current focus is the development of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards and Public Health Accountability Agreements.

Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards
The second and final phase of consultation on the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards (OPHOS) is now complete. The PMWG wishes to thank all participants in the e-survey for taking the time to complete the survey and for the thoughtful comments received. Overall, there was strong support for the scope, readability and usefulness of the standards. All feedback has been considered and necessary changes have been incorporated into the OPHOS draft document.

We are now working to finalize the OPHOS. The target release date is late fall, with publication in both English and French. 2011 will be a transition year for boards of health to become familiar with and prepare to report on the standards. Simultaneously, the ministry will be working with PMWG to establish indicators for the new standards.

The government is planning the roll out of the organizational standards to ensure that they are clearly communicated to the field, and to provide opportunities for questions and clarification. The roll out strategy will consider the fact that many boards will be undergoing transition, with many new board members in place over the next few months.

We want to take this opportunity to reiterate that the standards reflect current thinking on best practices, and it is believed that achievement of the standards will not be onerous. Mature, well functioning boards of health are likely to already be adhering to practices that are in line with the standards.

Accountability Agreements
A Public Health Accountability Agreement (PHAA) template is currently under development. Key development objectives are to simplify reporting and board of health interactions with ministries. The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) and the Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport (MHPS) are working together to meet these objectives.
The PHAA will incorporate existing Program-Based Grants Terms and Conditions and Performance Management for mandatory and related programs. The scope and content of agreements are expected to evolve over time.

The Indicator Technical Advisory Group (InTAC) continues to work on the derivation of indicators for Ontario Public Health Standards to be included in the PHAA. A phased implementation is planned to allow time for boards of health to become familiar with any new obligations and to implement appropriate measurement tools and supports to the field. 2011 will be a transition year to help establish baselines across indicators.

The Joint-Ministries/Boards of Health (JMB) committee has been established to provide detailed feedback and advice on the language of the proposed accountability agreement template. The JMB had its inaugural meeting on October 6, 2010. The meeting was a success with considerable enthusiasm and interest in the accountability agreements. The JMB membership list is attached to this communiqué (Appendix 1).

JMB will be meeting again early in the New Year. Following that meeting, a communication to the field will be issued to provide information on the work that is being done and the plans going forward.

**Information Privacy**
As mentioned in the last communiqué, the Information Privacy Working Group (IPWG) was convened to provide advice regarding issues related to the effective management of information privacy and security within boards of health. The IPWG released a communiqué in September.

If you have any questions regarding the work on the Performance Management Working Group, please contact Michele Weidinger at Michele.Weidinger@ontario.ca.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Shedden
Director
Public Health Practice Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Co-Chair, Performance Management Working Group

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari
Medical Officer of Health
Peterborough County-City Health Unit
Co-Chair, Performance Management Working Group

Dr. Arlene King, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Division, MOHLTC
Allison J. Stuart, Assistant Deputy Minister, Public Health Division, MOHLTC
Judith Wright, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health Promotion and Sport
George Zegarac, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Children and Youth Services
Catherine Fraser, Liaison Secretariat, Public Health Division, MOHLTC
Members of Performance Management Working Group
Appendix 1: Joint Ministries/Boards of Health Committee for Accountability Agreements Membership

Co-Chairs
Allison Stuart, ADM, Public Health Division (MOHLTC)
Jean Lam, ADM, Sport, Public Health and Community Programs Division, (MHPS)
Mary Johnson, Chair, alPHA Board of Health Section, Eastern Ontario Health Unit

Members from Health Units and Other Organizations
Maria Harding, Representative, alPHA Board of Health Section, Thunder Bay District Health Unit
Valerie Sterling, Representative, alPHA Board of Health Section, Toronto Public Health
Dr. Paul Roumeliotis, Chair, alPHA Council of Medical Officer's of Health, Eastern Ontario Health Unit
Dr. Allen Heimann, Representative, alPHA Council of Medical Officers of Health, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit
Dr. Penny Sutcliffe, Representative, alPHA Council of Medical Officers of Health, Sudbury & District Health Unit
Jane Speakman, Representative, Public Health Lawyers' Association, City of Toronto
Dale Jackson, Chair, alPHA Association of Public Health Business Administrators, Hastings and Prince Edward Counties Health Unit
Patricia Hewitt, Representative, alPHA Association of Public Health Business Administrators, Manager Public Health Programs, Halton Region Health Unit
Jo Ann Tober, CEO, Brant County Health Unit
Cynthia St. John, CEO, Elgin St. Thomas Health Unit

Members from the Ontario Government (MOHLTC, MHPS)
Sylvia Shedden, Director, Public Health Practice Branch (MOHLTC)
Beth Henning, Senior Medical Consultant (MOHLTC)
Penny Nelligan, Director, Standards, Programs and Community Development Branch (MHPS)
Liam Scott, Counsel, Legal Services Branch (MOHLTC)
Pier Falotico, Director, Financial Management Branch (MOHLTC)
Michèle Harding, Manager (A), Performance Management, Public Health Practice Branch (MOHLTC)
Laura Belfie, Manager, Sport, Public Health and Community Programs (MHPS)
Michele Weidinger, Lead, Performance Management, Public Health Practice Branch (MOHLTC)
Brent Feeney, Lead, Program Funding and Management, Public Health Practice Branch (MOHLTC)
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Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2010 1:02 PM
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Subject: PMWG Communiqué 8

Dear Colleagues,

Please find attached correspondence from the Performance Management Working Group Co-Chairs, Dr. Rosana Pellizzari, Medical Officer of Health, Peterborough County-City Health Unit, and myself, giving you an update on our recent activities.

Thank you.

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