# MINUTES

**Board of Health Section General Meeting**

**Monday, June 11, 2007 • 1:45 – 5:00 PM**

Huron/Erie Room, Hilton Windsor
277 Riverside Drive West, Windsor

## PRESENT:

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<td>Rosario Capillo</td>
<td>Alex Cullen</td>
<td>Cliff Atwell</td>
<td>Charlene Gordon</td>
<td>Ron Carnahan</td>
<td>Paul Jobe</td>
<td>Gary Barton</td>
<td>Katrina Carrera</td>
<td>June Van Bastelaar</td>
<td>Ken Bertrand</td>
<td>Brian Todd</td>
<td>Dennis Roughley</td>
<td>Mary Golbourne</td>
<td>Doug Craig</td>
<td>Bob Fletcher</td>
<td>Maria Harding</td>
<td>Barbara Greenwood</td>
<td>Valerie Sterling</td>
<td>Rick Champagne</td>
<td>Gordon Montgomery</td>
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<td>John Currie</td>
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<td>Helen Mulligan</td>
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<td>Ellen Craeymeersch</td>
<td>Madeline Pearson</td>
<td>Mary Johnson</td>
<td>Bill Gvozdanovic</td>
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<td>Charles Simonds</td>
<td>Phyllis Kinoshameg</td>
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<td>Al Edmondson</td>
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<td>Patricia Coderre</td>
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<td>Joe LaRue</td>
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<td>Marcel Leduc</td>
<td>Jos Matko</td>
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<td>Tom McLaughlin</td>
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<td>Audrey Lacarte</td>
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<td>Gordon Post</td>
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<td>Neil Levac</td>
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<td>Doreen McInchey</td>
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## Chair:

Vance Blackmore, Board of Health, Middlesex-London Health Unit

### alPHA Staff:

Linda Stewart, Executive Director  
Susan Lee, Manager, Administrative & Association Services

### Guest Presenters:

Dr. George Pasut, Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care  
George Loney, President, Ontario Fabric Care Association  
Dr. Neil Farrell, Dental Director, Middlesex-London Health Unit
1.0 CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:49 PM.

A question arose concerning ballots. As a result, the elections process to the Section Executive Committee for 2007-08 (i.e. on alPHA Board of Directors) was explained by alPHA executive director L. Stewart. It was clarified that because current voting procedures allow for the last-minute addition of candidates to the slate of nominees, the pre-printed ballots that were issued to members in their conference folders were now inaccurate. The current slate would now include one candidate running for the two open Regional/Large Urban Centre seats on the alPHA Board in addition to the four board of health candidates who are running for the two open county/district seats. Members were informed that this Regional candidate would be acclaimed. When it was learned the Regional candidate was not in attendance at today's meeting, some members disputed allowing her nomination to stand, citing Article 6 (h) of the Board of Health Section Policies & Procedures which states that

*County/district boards of health shall be guaranteed four (4) members on the Executive Committee of the Section; health committees of Regional Council/Large Urban Centre shall be guaranteed two (2) members; and the board of health for Toronto shall be guaranteed one (1) member; only if the guaranteed number of candidates are present at the annual general meeting and supported by their board for election.*

2.0 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was a MOTION by H. Mulligan, SECONDED by M. Leduc and CARRIED to amend the last meeting minutes to include the names of Northwestern board of health members J. Roy, C. Viddal and C. Van Wallegham, who attended the previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting held February 1, 2007 were approved as amended on a MOTION by M. Harding SECONDED by J. Matko and CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING

3.1 Ministry Update

Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health (ACMOH) G. Pasut was introduced by the Chair. Dr. Pasut commended boards on their support for the proposed Ontario Public Health Standards and provided an update on Ministry activities (e.g., recruitment for a permanent CMOH continues, Ministry is reviewing extensively field input on the draft Standards). He also indicated the potential for Section input on public health HR needs as the province moves to address such issues.

The Acting CMOH also highlighted current legislation affecting public health (i.e. Bill 171, Health System Improvements Act) that is presently under review by the government. He further noted that Bill 171 establishes the proposed Health Protection and Promotion Agency and that Ministry staff is working behind the scenes to bring it to reality. He confirmed that once the Act is royally proclaimed, the Agency will officially come into existence.

On the issue of board of health budgets, Dr. Pasut stated that the Assistant Deputy Minister is actively reviewing submitted budgets in an accelerated fashion in the hopes that budget announcements will follow in the summer.
In answer to questions on board of health amalgamations and accreditation, Dr. Pasut confirmed that it is unlikely that there will be any major policy announcements leading up to the election, but offered the possibility of these in a post-election environment.

3.2 Association Update

L. Stewart referred to her written report in the agenda package. She informed members that alPHA has hired a new administrative assistant, Karen Reece. She also highlighted a few of the key advocacy activities the Association has worked on during the past few months.

3.3 Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation Update

H. Mulligan referred to her written report as the Section's representative on the board of the Ontario Council on Community Health Accreditation (OCCHA). This organization will be presenting to several health units about the accreditation process as part of its marketing efforts. OCCHA awaits to hear from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care on its decision as to which agency will be the province's accreditation body.

MOTION: That the report on OCCHA be received. (Moved by J. Matko, seconded by G. Hebert, CARRIED)

3.4 Board of Health Section Executive Elections

The following candidates for the two open County/District seats on the Board of Health Section Executive introduced themselves: V. Blackmore, G. Hebert, M. Johnson, and G. Montgomery. Following the collection of all ballots, scrutineers V. Sterling, M. Harding and S. Lee left the room to count the ballots.

V. Blackmore and M. Johnson were subsequently announced as winners of the election.

MOTION: That the ballots be destroyed. (Moved by C. Viddal, seconded by J. Matko, CARRIED)

The issue of whether to allow an absent candidate to acclaim a seat or not was revisited briefly. L. Stewart confirmed that wording on this subject in the Board of Health Section Policies and Procedures document will be reviewed carefully and tightened to avoid future confusion or discrepancies.

The Chair apologized for the lack of clarity on the elections process. It was determined that Colleen Jordan's nomination to one of the two vacant Regional/Large Urban Centre seats could not stand given her absence at the meeting, according to the current Board of Health Section Policies and Procedures. alPHA staff was directed to follow up with a call for nominations from all boards of health under a regional/large single-tier municipal structure.

ACTION: - alPHA will put a call out to the various regional or large single-tier municipal governments for nominations to the Section Executive Committee.
- The BOH Section Executive will review subsequent nominations and fill the vacancies as appropriate.
4.0 NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Wet Cleaning

George Loney, president of the Ontario Fabric Care Association, was introduced by the Chair and spoke on the wet cleaning process, a solvent-free alternative to dry cleaning clothes. Wet cleaning has arisen as an environmental challenge to perchlorethylene ('perc') used in dry cleaning. It involves using additives derived from natural products such as citrus, banana oil and natural silk proteins instead of substances that may cause potential human harm. Wet cleaning continues to grow but has been meeting resistance from many small business owners who are reluctant to change over to the new system for historical and financial reasons. Analyses by the wet cleaning industry show little downside to wet cleaning, which can clean more clothes while using less electricity and manpower. The only potential drawback is the initial cost to convert a cleaning system from dry to wet.

During the question period with Mr. Loney, it was noted that presently the government does not provide businesses incentive to switch from dry to wet, there is no current policing of the industry and there is a current lack of concrete evidence proving a causal link between perc and diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's. It was further noted that Health Canada has labelled perc a "probable carcinogen", while the US has identified it as an"suspected carcinogen". Before being thanked, G. Loney offered to visit and speak with boards of health on wet cleaning and distributed his contact information.

4.2 Water Fluoridation

Dr. Neil Farrell, Dental Director, Middlesex-London Health Unit, gave an overview of community water fluoridation, which is the addition of fluoride to water for the purpose of reducing tooth decay. He focused on the recent challenges to this public health practice by a number of Ontario municipalities. These municipalities oppose fluoridation mostly out of concerns of harmful health effects they believe are caused by fluoridation (e.g. fluorosis). The issue remains controversial because there is no one agency or group that has all the evidence on the subject. In Ontario communities such as London, Middlesex, and Sarnia are currently questioning the practice. A fallout from the Walkerton water tragedy, another challenge facing fluoridation is the low public confidence in the municipal water supply. He also noted that another body challenging fluoridation is the Fluoride Action Network, an advocacy group that includes scientists among their proponents.

The Middlesex-London Health Unit, with the broad support of public health units, has urged the MOHLTC to establish an Ontario Fluoridation Office to act as a central warehouse of fluoridation information and expertise.

Dr. Farrell concluded his presentation by underscoring not only the importance of oral health, but also the need for accurate and reliable information that is easily accessible to public health and health care professionals.

4.3 Learning from Each Other

4.3.1 Grow Ops and Meth Labs

Section Chair V. Blackmore provided background on the issue of marijuana grow operations ('grow ops'). alPHa recently surveyed health units, of which 18 responded, to determine how widespread the issue is across the province. It appears that some health units are struggling with what their role should be as it relates to grow ops. L. Stewart also raised the question of whether alPHa should play a role or not.
5.0 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held during the 2007 aPHa Fall Workshop, December 6-7, Toronto, ON.

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.