

# Board of Health Meeting Summary

*June 8, 2011*

Peterborough County-City  
**HEALTH UNIT**  
...because health matters!

## **A Day in the Life: Community Workers in Food Action Programs**

Community Workers Peter McCarthy, Laura Jack and Janice McCue described their work in the Health Unit's food action programs in Peterborough City, County and First Nations. Activities are geared to help priority populations such as young parents, single adults and seniors living on low incomes to improve their cooking skills and share healthy meal ideas. Staff teach "Come Cook With Us" classes for groups of up to 20 participants where they learn how to develop healthy recipes, make fast nutritious meals and meal planning. A new "Come Cook with Us" series for a local workplace will be launched in July. Health Unit staff also coordinate cooking sessions called "Collective Kitchens" where participants meet once per month for a three-hour cooking session to prepare three to four meals that are then packed up to share at home with their families. Participants find great value in this program not only because they need food but for the socializing benefits. Running these programs involves planning, organizing, delivering the workshop, followed by documentation and evaluation. Staff also fundraise for food and supplies to keep the Collective Kitchen program going. Community Workers described new partnerships with schools where they created a "Cooking Out of the Box" resource so that teachers can integrate cooking in the curriculum. Staff also support another food action initiative, the YWCA's JustFood Box, where fresh produce and staple items are packed and distributed twice a month. In addition, Health Unit Community Workers are also involved with a number of community partnerships, such as gleaning and community gardens.

## **Curve Lake Health Centre Update**

Health Manager Phyllis Williams presented an overview about the Curve Lake Health Centre (CLHC) which provides health, housing and family services to local residents. CLHC operations include day care, social services (such as food bank support, breakfast programs, employment case workers), a family health team, senior services (providing home and community care), education, promotion and prevention programs (including Community Health Nurses, addictions support, mental health services, child protection workers, etc.). The traditional medicine wheel framework is used to guide the full spectrum of health activities for the community including advocating, counselling, educating and facilitating. Ms. Williams identified current needs in the community such as the expansion of both the daycare and seniors facilities, dental services (which the Health Unit can now hopefully address through the mobile dental bus), and more therapeutic services.

## **Auditor's Report and Audited Financial Statements**

Mr. Richard Steinganga presented the Health Unit's audited financial statements for 2010. They were found to present fairly the financial position of the Health Unit according to Canadian accounting standards.

## **Staff Report – WHO Code Breastmilk Substitutes**

The Board endorsed the staff recommendation to encourage the Federal Minister of Health that Canada to introduce legislation to monitor and enforce adherence with the World Health Organization (WHO) Code for the safe and appropriate marketing of breastmilk substitutes. The WHO Code was developed in 1981 to protect breastfeeding and the health of infants and children around the globe. Increasingly clever and bold marketing strategies used by formula manufacturers, including electronic communications, juxtaposed with fiscally restrained health care budgets, undermine the ability of women to make informed decisions about infant feeding that are free of commercial pressure to use formula.

## **New Funding for Social Determinants of Health Nurses**

As part of a province-wide initiative, the Health Unit is receiving funds to create two new nursing positions to address the social determinants of health. These new nurses will work with priority populations for our area including children in poverty, vulnerable seniors and those with mental health concerns.

### **Bed Bug Funding**

The Health Unit received \$46,408 from the province to support bed bug promotion. This funding will be used to educate residents on the identification and prevention of bed bug infestations in our community.

### **Staff Report – Daycare Playground Inspection Review**

The Board approved the continuation of the service at a cost recovery rate of \$100/inspection with the expense allocated to the daycare. Provision of daycare playground inspections is available through private contractors and is not a requirement of the Ontario Public Health Standards. There are 20 daycares eligible for this service. The new fee structure will come into effect January 1, 2012.

### **Staff Report – Smoke-Free By-Laws for Outdoor Spaces**

Locally, the City of Peterborough and the Township of Smith-Ennismore-Lakefield have created or amended smoke-free by-laws for outdoor spaces. The Board of Health requested that municipalities and band councils that have not yet developed smoke-free by-laws/resolutions review outcomes from local experiences and take steps to reconsider the potential for application within their communities. Dr. Pellizzari noted that new grants are available for First Nations to develop resolutions to create smoke-free communities. Councils were encouraged to invite Health Unit staff to present on local successes and the health benefits of the bylaw at their future meetings.

### **Approval of 2011 Budget: HBHC**

The Board of Health approved the 2011 budget for the Healthy Babies, Healthy Children program. Modifications in staffing have been made to continue delivering the program which hasn't seen a funding increase in many years.

### **Wireless Technology**

Dr. Pellizzari was requested by the Board of Health to prepare a report on the health impacts of wireless technology for a future board meeting.

### **OPSEU Agreement Ratification**

The Board of Health ratified the collective agreement for OPSEU.

**Next Meeting:** September 14, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari  
Medical Officer of Health

Deputy Reeve Andy Sharpe  
Chair, Board of Health

*Any questions, please contact: Brittany Cadence, Communications Officer, 705-743-1000, ext. 391*