

Orientation on the Board Of Health

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The Board of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit

The Board of Health for Grey Bruce (The Board) is a self-governing body for the Grey Bruce Health Unit (GBHU). It was established pursuant to the *Health Protection and Promotion Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. H.7* (“HPPA”) and operated according to the Ontario Public Health Standards (“OPHS”), which are published as the public health standards for the provision of mandatory health programs and services by the Minister of Health, pursuant to Section 7 of the HPPA.

The GBHU provides the following role: “to support and protect the physical and mental health and well-being, resiliency and social connectedness of the health unit population, with a focus on promoting the protective factors and addressing the risk factors associated with health outcomes”.

GBHU Responsibilities

The OPHS define the responsibilities of public health in an integrated health system and are informed by the core public health functions, which include:

- Assessment and Surveillance;
- Health Promotion and Policy Development;
- Health Protection;
- Disease Prevention; and
- Emergency Management: “Effective emergency management ensures that boards of health are ready to cope with and recover from threats to public health or disruptions to public health programs and services. This is done through a range of activities carried out in coordination with other community partners.”

Structure of Boards of Health in Ontario

Autonomous 24

- 20 – Fully autonomous (**Board for GBHU**)
- 3 – Autonomous/Integrated
- 1 – Semi-autonomous

Integrated 10

- Regional – 7
 - Boards are Councils of Regional Government (federations of local municipalities), e.g., Niagara, Durham
 - No citizen representatives
 - No provincial appointees
- Single-Tier – 3
 - As above, but Boards are Councils of a Single Tier Municipality, e.g., Hamilton, Ottawa

Grey Bruce Health Unit Board of Health

Office of the Medical Officer of Health

Executive Assistant

Public Health Physician Consultant/
Associate Medical Officer of Health

Medical Officer of Health &
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Assistant

Chief Nursing Officer

Communications

IPAC &
IPAC Hub

Foundational Standards

Infectious Disease Prevention

Senior Manager of Operations

Environmental Health

Tobacco Enforcement

Chronic Disease Prevention

Injury Prevention

Oral Health

Senior Manager of Operations

Harm Reduction

Vaccine Preventable Disease

Healthy Babies, Healthy Children

Healthy Growth & Development

School Health/Childcare

Senior Manager of Finance

Finance

Information Technology

Facility Management

Chief Human Resources & Privacy Officer

Human Resources

Strategic Projects

Privacy

Effective Public Health Practice

Health Equity

Population Health Assessment

Emergency Management

Board Membership

Being a Board member is a high-demand role with an engaging portfolio that requires the most serious consideration from members, such as term, attendance, and foundational pieces in our policies and orientation

We trust the following key considerations will be useful when councillors reflect on their time commitments and skill set competencies that would best serve the Board as a unique governing body working to protect the health of communities within of Grey and Bruce

- Attendance - attend meetings on a regular and punctual basis. Members must be prepared to commit to a number of meetings as per Board policies; dedication of personal time, and a minimum of eight (8) hours a month to Board and committee meetings
- Accountability – Accountability to exercise the powers and discharges the duties of Board members honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the Board and the Health Unit. This accountability supersedes the personal interest of any member acting as an individual, or acting as a member of another organization, including as a councillor or other representative of a municipality

- Disclosure of Interest - Actual or potential conflicts of interest must be disclosed. Conflicts of interest are situations in which a Board member's personal considerations may affect, or have the appearance of affecting, required loyalty and ability to fulfill one's responsibilities to the Board and Health Unit
- Hierarchy - All business of the Board, including new business, emails, questions, and comments are vetted through the Chair, who shall decide how all business of the Board shall be dealt with including whether it should be:
 - Put on the Board agenda (governance matters), or
 - Directed to the Medical Officer of Health (operations matters)

- Acceptance – Board members must accept the responsibilities of their governance role. This means reading and making efforts to understand applicable background documents (legislations, policies, etc.) and knowing the business and performance of the Health Unit
- Commitment – Board members should be committed individually and as a group to the Health Unit's mission, mandate, goals, and processes to achieve them. They should have the necessary knowledge, abilities, and the commitment to fulfil their duties
- Strategic Planning – The Board focuses on strategic issues by engaging in the strategic planning process

- Board Continuous Quality Improvement – Beyond the initial orientation program, the Board will provide ongoing professional development to ensure that its members maintain or improve their skills, and that they continue to deepen their understanding of the Health Unit's services, and the role of the Board of Health including differentiation between:
 - governance and management
 - the role of municipal councillor and role of a Board of Health member
 - the Health Protection and Promotion Act (HPPA) and the Municipal Act. The Board's responsibilities are outlined in the HPPA and its regulations of Health. Ontario's HPPA gives Boards of Health their mandate

- **Communication** – The Board has internal and external communications processes that ensure access to relevant timely information, advice, and resources
- **Outcomes** – The Board evaluates its impact in the community by systematically reviewing its policies, monitoring progress in achieving strategic goals, and undertaking evaluations of itself, its members
- **Reporting** – The Board reports on its activities and outcomes to various stakeholders and in accordance with any legislative requirements



QUESTIONS?

