

**Chatham-Kent Board of Health  
Minutes**

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

11:00 a.m.

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**Call to Order**

Present: Councillor Joe Faas (Chair)  
Councillor Karen Kirkwood-Whyte  
Councillor Brock McGregor (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Carmen McGregor  
Ms. Noreen Blake  
Mr. Ron Carnahan  
Ms. Sharon Pfaff  
Teresa Bendo, Director, Public Health  
Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health  
Dr. April Rietdyk, General Manager, Community Human Services  
Lisa Powers, Executive Assistant, Community Human Services

Absent: Mr. Brennan Altman

**1. Provision for Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

No member of the Board declared a pecuniary interest on any matter on the open session agenda.

**2. Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 15, 2020**

Ms. Pfaff moved, seconded by Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte:

**“That the minutes of the Board of Health meeting of April 15, 2020 be approved.”**

The Chair put the Motion.

**Motion Carried**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**a) 2019 Student Oral Health Surveillance Update, Prepared by Laura Zettler, Epidemiologist**

This report is for the information of the Board of Health.

**Background**

The purpose of this information report is to summarize the findings of the 2019 Surveillance Update and to provide information about the Healthy Smiles Ontario

program, as requested by the Board of Health, at the February 2020 Board meeting. A copy of the full report is available upon request.

CK Public Health and other health units in Ontario work towards several outcomes related to oral health of children and youth. Boards of health are mandated to: conduct oral health screening of students; provide the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program; monitor community water fluoride levels; and use a comprehensive health promotion approach to address identified population oral health needs.

The requirements of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) mandate boards of health to conduct oral health surveillance of children in schools and report oral health data and information associated with the screening program in accordance with relevant protocols. The Oral Health team at CK Public Health screens all JK, SK and grade two students (and other grades depending on risk assessment of a particular school) in all Public and Catholic school boards, the French Catholic school board, and children in private schools that choose to participate in the screening program.

The HSO program is for Ontario residents, 17 years of age and younger, and consists of three streams: core; emergency and essential; and preventative, each with different clinical and financial eligibility requirements. CK Public Health promotes and supports enrollment with eligible families into the program streams, and provides clinical services specifically for the preventative stream of HSO.

For improved oral health status at the community level, programming needs to consider populations at higher risk of poor health outcomes. In Chatham-Kent there are higher rates of low-income compared to the province, with 17% of the population overall and over 22% of children (under the age of 18) living in low-income households. Levels of material deprivation vary across Chatham-Kent, putting some areas and communities at higher risk for poor health outcomes. Furthermore, there are some areas of Chatham-Kent (Tilbury, Wheatley, and surrounding areas) that do not receive community water fluoridation, which impacts a potential population of approximately 2,500 children under the age of 19. Important groups for oral health programming include Low German Mennonite, Indigenous, and newcomer populations accessing services or living in Chatham-Kent. Previous analyses has shown that for Chatham-Kent and Ontario, children under the age of 10 experienced the highest rates of day surgeries for dental caries and rates for Chatham-Kent were significantly higher in comparison to the province for age groups under 10 years old .

The Student Oral Health in Chatham-Kent: 2019 Surveillance Update provides a summary of student oral health surveillance indicators for Chatham-Kent. This summary covers the information collected through the screening program during the 2018-19 school year, including screening coverage and outcomes for JK, SK and Grade two students in Chatham-Kent. This report also includes information related to the HSO program, specifically the number of children screened as clinically eligible for the Emergency and Essential Services Stream (HSO-EESS),

by school year, and the number of preventative clinical services by calendar year in the preventative stream of HSO (HSO-PSO).

### **Comments**

#### Student Oral Health in Chatham-Kent: 2019 Surveillance Update

- During the 2018-19 school year, 2,812 JK, SK and grade two students across 43 schools received an oral health screening by the Oral Health Team at CK Public Health. Nearly 25% of schools screened were medium or high risk based on oral health surveillance criteria. Participation rates in the screening program were on average 90% of JK students and 93% of SK and Grade two students.
- Highest prevalence of tooth decay (evidence of decayed or missing/filled teeth due to decay) was among Grade 2 students at 46%, followed by 35% of SK students and 21% of JK students. This indicator has remained relatively stable over time for JK and SK students and has decreased gradually over the last several years for Gr. 2 students.
- As in previous years, JK students had the highest proportion of untreated dental caries. Among caries-affected teeth in JK students, nearly 25% were untreated cavities. Grade two students had the highest average number of caries-affected teeth per person. On average, a JK student had 0.9 teeth affected by caries, an SK student has 1.8 teeth affected by caries, and a Grade two student had 2.3 teeth affected by caries.
- The proportion of caries-free children (those who have never had any cavities at time of screening) is highest among JK students at 79% followed by 65% of SK students and 54% of Grade two students. This indicator has remained relatively stable over time for JK and SK students and is showing a gradual increase among Grade two students.
- Among JK, SK ,and Grade two students, there were relatively similar proportions (ranging from 7% to 9%) of children identified at screening as having urgent dental needs (also meeting the clinically eligibility requirement for the emergency stream of the Healthy Smiles Ontario program).
- In 2018/19 there were 3,969 children screened in the school setting, of which 7.4% were clinically eligible for the Emergency and Essential Services Stream of the Healthy Smiles Ontario program (HSO-EESS) – this percentage has remained relatively stable over time. Of 454 children screened in the clinic setting in 2018/19, 67% were clinically eligible for HSO-EESS.
- Preventative services are offered by CK Public Health through the Preventative Services Stream of HSO (HSO-PSO). In 2019 the Oral Health team saw 623 clients (2,903 preventative services provided across 852 appointments).

### **Consultation**

Staff from the Oral Health Team extracted the data that was analyzed for the purposes of this report, and were asked to provide feedback and further context where needed.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications. Costs incurred were covered within the current budget.

In response to a question from the Board, Ms. Rybansky indicated that the team is waiting on guidance documents from the Ministry of Education regarding safe delivery of programs in schools before school programming may be continued. Half of the Oral Health Team staff have been redeployed while the rest of the team remains back to support in-house reporting requirements. Ms. Rybansky indicated that children living in areas of no water fluoridation are able to access services to receive topical fluoride application.

Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte moved, seconded by Councillor C. McGregor:

**“That the 2019 Student Oral Health Surveillance Update report be received as information”.**

The Chair put the Motion.

**Motion Carried**

## **4. Education/Training**

### **a) Update on COVID-19, by Dr. David Colby, Medical Officer of Health**

In an effort to update the Board on the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Colby provided the following verbal update:

- 137 cumulative cases in CK
- Currently no capacity issues reported at the Chatham-Kent Health Alliance
- Update on the outbreak at Greenhill, including a reminder that temporary foreign worker bunkhouses in CK are inspected by CK Public Health prior to being occupied
- A number of Long Term Care (LTC) homes across Ontario experienced outbreaks, however no outbreaks have been reported to date in CK LTC homes
- The Province mandated testing of all residents and staff in LTC homes in Ontario; CK had a high rate of testing compliance that yielded no true positive results
- This testing mandate did create a temporary capacity issue at the laboratories

In response to questions from the Board, Dr. Colby indicated that currently roughly just under 4% of CK's population has been tested; the temporary capacity laboratory system created by the LTC home testing has cleared. Anyone in CK with a COVID-19 symptom is able to get tested.

Mr. Carnahan moved, seconded by Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte:

**“That the update report regarding COVID-19 be received as information.”**

The Chair put the Motion.

**Motion Carried**

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Items Requiring Action None**

### **B. Information Reports to be received**

#### **a) Director's Update for the Month of May, prepared by Teresa Bendo (verbal report)**

Ms. Bendo provided the following update:

- Essential services as defined in the Health Unit's business continuity plan continue to be offered
- Seeing increased requests for information regarding how businesses may safely re-open; this support is provided in partnership with municipal Economic Development and by-Law Enforcement
- Introduction of Stephanie Egelton, temporary Community Outreach and Public Relations Officer, covering Caress Lee Carpenter's maternity leave for one year
- Carina Caryn, Program Manager Chronic Disease and Well Being, returns from her maternity leave on June 1; thank you to Chris Sherman for filling this role for the past year
- Congratulations to two recent retirees, Michelle Bogaert (Health Educator) and Michael Hatten (Public Health Inspector)

#### **b) Community Human Services Update, by Dr. April Rietdyk, General Manager, Community Human Services (verbal report)**

In an effort to update the Board on the Community Human Services, Dr. Rietdyk provided the following update:

The Public Health Unit works through a Social Determinates of Health (SDOH) lens, these are the factors that determine and impact individual and community population health. There always needs to be a focus on SDOH, especially in times of crisis. The differences in health statuses of groups are called health inequities; CHS works to support the reduction of these. We need good evidence, we need to engage, we need to work with others beyond the health sector, and we need to share our knowledge. It's important to share with the Board what is happening across all of CHS to ensure the most vulnerable are cared for. Thank you to the community for working hard to flatten the curve, and to all staff at the Health Unit and CHS for their work to assist the community in the fight against COVID. There have been no complaints about the work load being asked of them.

Additionally:

- On March 27 CK Public Library staff were laid off; many staff stepped up and elected to be redeployed. The same week, all of Community Attraction and Leisure Services (CALs) had to stop all programming and events to help with the pandemic. Many of them have been redeployed, some have taken a leave. Staff are coming to work and doing their best to make sure that all are cared for
- Child Care and Early Years (CCEY) staff were first to volunteer for redeployment when their programming was closed
- In Housing Services, the vacancy rate is worse now and tenants are acting out in ways not seen before. Staff are working to keep them housed
- Employment and Social Services (ESS) has seen a 30% increase in caseloads, ESS also worked with multiple community agencies and municipal departments to get a 55 bed temporary shelter up and running in less than two weeks
- RVG is facing a Personal Support Worker (PSW) staff shortage. When visitors were excluded from LTC homes in Ontario, this saw hundreds of less people a week to help with resident care. Dozens of municipal staff have been redeployed to RVG and other community agencies who's programming has stopped have redeployed their staff to other LTC homes in CK
- In Public Health, the diligent work of staff has helped keep numbers low in CK. Staff have risen to the challenge, following up with cases and staying in touch with LTC homes 6 days a week to ensure they have the support they need. Some Health Unit staff have been redeployed as well.

Community Human Services divisions are very aware of all the issues in the community, and are working hard to meet their needs. We are tired, but we are determined to support the community.

The Board thanked Dr. Rietdyk for her report, and reiterated their appreciation for staff and all their hard work.

Councillor C. McGregor moved, seconded by Ms. Blake:

**“That the reports from Dr. Colby and Dr. Rietdyk be presented at an upcoming CK Municipal Council meeting.”**

The Chair put the Motion.

**Motion Carried**

Councillor Kirkwood-Whyte moved, seconded by Mr. Carnahan:

**“That the two reports be received as information.”**

The Chair put the Motion.

**Motion Carried**

### **C) Items to be Received and Filed**

Councillor C. McGregor moved, seconded by Ms. Blake:

**“That items a and b be received and filed”**

- a) Association of Local Public Health Agencies (ALPHA) Information Break, dated April 22
- b) ALPHA Statement on National Health Day

The Chair put the Motion.

**Motion Carried**

### **6. Non-Agenda Items**

Dr. Colby briefly addressed the Board and reiterated that as the Province begins a slow reopen, we must be cautious to try and keep a second wave of COVID-19 away. Imperative to continue with physical barriers, screening, physical distancing, and other safety measures that have been put in place.

The Board and Administration congratulated Councillor Carmen McGregor on the receipt of an ALPHA Distinguished Service Award. Councillor McGregor's hard work and dedication were acknowledged.

### **7. Time, Date and Place for the Next Meeting of the Board**

The next meeting of the Board will be held Wednesday, June 17, 2020 at the Health and Family Services building, 435 Grand Ave. W., Chatham, with the open portion of the meeting to start at 11:00 a.m.

**8. Adjournment**

Moved by Councillor B. McGregor that the meeting be adjourned at 11:56 am.

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Joe Faas, Chair