

# Board of Health Meeting Summary

*June 13, 2012*

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

## **Hiawatha Health and Social Services Update**

Trudy Heffernan, Health and Social Services Manager presented an overview of community health issues and health programs at [Hiawatha First Nation](#). Presently Type 2 diabetes is the number one health concern in the community; other health issues include addictions, obesity, heart disease, mental health, housing and water quality. Health programs encourage physical activity, tobacco awareness, nutrition and healthy weights. The Community Health Nurse leads numerous workshops and educational opportunities for members and also makes home visits. Ms. Heffernan identified a need for reserve-based psychologist or therapist, as well as ways of providing confidential services because privacy can be difficult to maintain in such a small community. The L.I.F.E. Centre also hosts an active community gardening program, and natural health care services are very popular including traditional teachings, massage, aromatherapy, and reflexology.

## **Peterborough Drug Strategy**

Kerri Kightley, Strategy Coordinator from the Peterborough Drug Strategy (PDS) Initiative presented the [final strategy report](#) prepared under the auspices of the PDS Task Force consisting of 25 community partners. Built on the four pillars of prevention, harm reduction, enforcement, and treatment, the report outlined a comprehensive drug strategy for the City and County of Peterborough, covering legal and illegal drugs, except tobacco. The strategy was developed through extensive community consultation involving youth, residents with lived experience, the general public and local service providers. This data, together with a review of current research into best practices for substance misuse prevention was used to create a number of strategic recommendations for action. Several emerging priorities were identified in the strategy, such as reducing stigma, public education and awareness raising, engaging with youth in conversations about marijuana, overdose prevention, integrated service responses for addiction and mental health, and investing in the strength of families. Currently there is an average of 16 deaths per year related to drug overdoses in the Peterborough area, which is equivalent to the annual number of local deaths from motor vehicle collisions. Each year, the direct cost of substance use in Peterborough City and County is estimated at over \$29 million (mostly health care and law enforcement). The strategy contains 94 recommendations for action based on the themes of supportive environments, housing, education, and health and social services. Ms. Kightley noted that local police partners stand out among other communities for their active embrace of harm reduction as a key approach in their work. A full version of the report will soon be available on the [PDS website](#).

## **2011 Auditor's Report of the Consolidated Financial Statements**

Mr. Richard Steinginga of Collins Barrow Kawarthas LLP, Chartered Accountants, presented the Health Units' 2011 audited financial statements. They were found to present fairly the financial position of the Health Unit according to Canadian accounting standards and approved by the Board of Health. The \$1,513,359 accumulated surplus noted on page 10 includes over \$1 million in capital assets acquired by the Health Unit as part of its dental program expansion (downtown clinic and mobile dental bus) as well as \$131,026 in depreciation costs. There were also a number of reserve funds also calculated as part of this surplus, and all but \$100,342 was targeted to specific Health Unit programs. This \$100,342 general contingency reserve for the Health Unit decreased by \$10,478 from 2010 to 2011.

## **2011 Reportable Diseases Report in Peterborough County and City**

Dr. Pellizzari presented the [2011 Reportable Disease Report](#) that showed chlamydia as the area's most frequently reported communicable disease. Of the 710 confirmed cases of all reportable diseases locally, 402 of those were chlamydia. Chlamydia is the most widespread bacterial sexually-transmitted infection in Canada. Overall, there was a 7.2% increase in the total number of reportable communicable diseases in 2011 from 2010. Approximately two-thirds (459 or 64.4%) of all the illnesses reported to the Health Unit occurred in females. Dr. Pellizzari explained this gender skew is likely caused by the higher chlamydia rates due to more prevalent screening. Influenza represents the largest local contributor of respiratory illnesses. There was a decrease in the number and relative frequency of reportable diseases caused by food and waterborne routes, largely due to a reduction in reported cases of giardiasis.

### **Trichloroethylene (TCE) Update**

Dr. Pellizzari provided an update on the indoor air quality sampling program conducted in partnership with the Health Unit and the Ministry of the Environment (MOE). This program identified 47 homes in the Romaine Street and Brioux Avenue areas for testing of [trichloroethylene \(TCE\)](#), a potentially toxic chemical that was used at the former [Outboard Marine Corporation of Canada site](#) that has leached into nearby soil. A total of 26 of the 47 homes participated in the study, and 23 of the homes had TCE levels within normal range or non-detected. Three homes showed nominal exceedances, requiring follow up monitoring and will be retested in the winter. All participating residents have received their results and none have taken the Health Unit and MOE up on the offer of a meeting to discuss them further. A [public meeting](#) has been planned for June 26 at the Canadian Canoe Museum where representatives from the MOE, Dr. Pellizzari, and an environmental lawyer will report back on the results and the implications.

### **alPHA Annual General Meeting Update**

Mr. David Watton attended the annual general meeting of the [Association of Local Public Health Agencies \(alPHA\)](#) and reported back. The Health Unit submitted a resolution to alPHA to lobby the provincial government to avoid increasing the number of alcohol outlets in favour of increasing alcohol pricing as a way to increase revenues. Research shows this approach can keep consumption levels down while meeting financial objectives. Another resolution regarding the suggestion to move the Healthy Babies Healthy Children program from the Ministry of Children and Youth Service to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care was deferred for further research. This year's AGM was attended by 31 of Ontario's 36 health units, and Mr. Watton noted that alPHA remains an important public health advocacy group in the province.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, July 26, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. at General Committee Room, City Hall 500 George Street North.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Rosana Pellizzari  
Medical Officer of Health

Deputy Mayor Andy Sharpe  
Chair, Board of Health

*Please contact Brittany Cadence, Communications Supervisor, with any questions at [bcadence@pcchu.ca](mailto:bcadence@pcchu.ca) or (705) 743-1000, ext. 391.*