

CONFIRMED

SCARBOROUGH LOCAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2002
SCARBOROUGH CIVIC CENTRE
MEETING ROOM M-41 – 6:30 P.M.**

Present: Brian Hyndman (Chair), Dean Maxwell, Linda Napier,
Heidi Sin, Dianne Cairney, Jane Macdonald, Ratnes Sanmuganathan,
Toronto Public Health staff:
Carol Timmings, Anne Marie Bacon (Minutes)

Regrets: Bob Alexander, Carvel Burrell, Richard De Gaetano,
Councillor Norm Kelly, Niloy Sen, Councillor David Soknacki
Bibi Zaman.

Guests: None

1. Review of the Minutes of June 18, 2002

Committee Chair, Brian Hyndman accepted a motion by Dean Maxwell, seconded by Dianne Cairney, for approval of the minutes as written. Motion carried.

2. Business Arising

Carol Timmings provided the most recent data on shelter capacity in Scarborough. Copies of a map noting the location of peer nutrition programs were also distributed.

3. Board of Health Update – July 29th meeting

Brian Hyndman

July 29th was the first meeting with the new councillors.

The 2003 budget process has commenced, and it is expected that a draft budget for Toronto Public Health will be going to the Board at either the October or November meeting.

Several environmental health issues were discussed at the Board meeting:

- the memo to the Board re Ministry of Environment Air Quality Index
- ways of assessing diesel exhaust emissions
- use of chromium copper arsenate (CCA)-treated wood on decks and playground equipment. A study has been commissioned to review this issue.

The minutes of the local health committees are now a standing item on the Board of Health agenda.

In terms of budget, public health may be forced to identify program cuts. Budget deputations will likely take place in January 2003. Brian Hyndman would like to

see representatives from the local health committee play a major role in these deputations.

**4. Volunteer opportunity: Scarborough Hospital
Community Wellness Centre, Family Advisory Committee**

Brian circulated a request for members of the Advisory Committee for the Community Wellness Centre Scarborough Hospital, along with a copy of the Terms of Reference. Deadline for interested applicants is September 27, 2002. Jane Macdonald may be interested in serving on this committee, and will follow up with the contact person.

5. LHC Education event – October 2002

The next LHC Education sessions are scheduled to take place on October 3rd and October 10th. The October 3rd event will be held at the Etobicoke Civic Centre Boardroom, 399 West Mall, and the October 10th event will be held in Committee Room 2 at the Scarborough Civic Centre. Both events will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. The topic of both events is "Foundations of Sustainability for the City of Toronto".

Action: Anne Marie will forward the list of attendees to Erinn Leckie.

**6. Review of Strategic Priorities (Cont'd from June meeting)
Inadequate Programs & Services**

Home Care for Seniors

- The Province has speculated that the demand for homecare may decrease once new long-term care facilities are completed. The committee feels that there is still a need for expanded home care for seniors. Increased provincial funding of long term care facilities will not solve the problem.

Carol Timmings spoke about the existing public health program of home visits to seniors. For the past couple of years Council has directed Public Health to continue to respond to vulnerable and frail seniors. There is a team of PHNs who work with seniors. Public health will also respond to calls within the vulnerable adult population. Carol Timmings advised the committee that the public health manager could provide a list of groups working with seniors.

Dental service for seniors & children

- Brian Hyndman noted the progress in the area of increased dental services with the recent upgrade of the TPH dental health clinic in Scarborough to full service.

Decrease gaps in TPH programs & services

- The same level of public health programs and services is not provided across all areas of Toronto. This was identified as a priority by Public Health last fall.

Waiting time at hospital emergency

- This is an ongoing problem. It was suggested that people need to be educated as to the purpose of hospital emergency departments and encouraged to go to walk-in clinics or see their own physician. It was noted that in some areas there is a shortage of doctors.

Child Health Issues

Air Pollution

- There was a discussion on air quality levels in Scarborough. Data indicates that Scarborough has the worst air quality in the City of Toronto. Morbidity related to asthma is higher in Scarborough. Public Health is working with schools around a broad awareness campaign about asthma.

Post Natal Assessments & Support

- Carol Timmings reported that all new moms are visited in hospital through the Healthy Babies/Healthy Children program. There is a "Baby's First Week Home" program. Public health is reasonably well resourced due to the funding for the Healthy Babies/Healthy Children program.

Immigrants/ Ethno-Racial Communities

- Brian Hyndman would like to see this committee as a venue for Ethno-Racial communities to come and meet with us and identify what their issues are and what they would like to see recommended to the Board of Health. This committee is the link between the community and the Board of Health. The Committee's successful efforts to support the expansion of dental services in Scarborough is an example of how it should function.

Mental Health; Violence/Neighbourhood Safety; Seniors Health

- Try to identify groups or organizations in Scarborough with an interest in these issues. Toronto District School Board has a safe schools committee involving Toronto Public Health. There is a team of mental health PHNs working within Scarborough. There is also a Critical Incident Management team providing consultation to schools and other PHNs doing home visits.

Brian Hyndman, Carol Timmings and Bob Alexander will review the ideas brought forward over the last two meetings and bring forward a proposed action plan for review at the next LHC meeting. The committee needs to be more proactive and reach out to community groups and organization within Scarborough. We need to let Scarborough residents and organizations know about the Local Health Committee. To achieve this objective, the Committee will organize a "Community Information Night". Invitations could go to people who were involved the original consultation process that led to the establishment of the LHCs. April 2003 was discussed as a possible date.

7. Other Business

None

8. Next Meeting

Thursday, November 7, 2002 (6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)

Scarborough Civic Centre – Committee Room 1

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.