



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Chris Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

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2014 BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) The Governance Committee receive the findings of the March 2014 Board Self-Assessment as outlined in Report No. 02-14GC re 2014 Board of Health Self-Assessment Results, and further*
- 2) The Governance Committee develop a plan for continuous improvement of Board of Health effectiveness and engagement, including Board training and implementation of best practices for Board meeting processes, based on the findings of the survey and best practices.*

Key Points

- The findings indicate that a strong majority of Board Members agree that the Board has good governance practices and is meeting its outcomes (70-100% depending on the question).
- Comments indicate a range of opinions on Board functioning and future activities. It is recommended that future opportunities for Board training be explored.
- It is recommended that the Governance Committee review the findings and propose recommendations for continued strong Board effectiveness and engagement at a future Board of Health meeting.

The Board Self-Assessment Survey provides an opportunity for the MLHU Board of Health to assess whether they are following good governance practices and meeting outcomes as outlined in [Requirement 4.3](#) of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards (OPHOS - page 16). In March, 2014 the survey was completed by 10 of 11 Board members. Detailed results are attached in [Appendix A](#). The findings indicate that the majority of Board Members agree that the Board has good governance practices and is meeting its outcomes. In the few cases where Board members did not indicate agreement with the statements, the response “don’t know” was as likely as disagreement.

Comments on the overall effectiveness of the Board include:

- Two board members specifically expressed satisfaction with the Board’s performance.
- One respondent indicated that the Board is more focused on its responsibilities and big-picture goals than it was a year ago. The interaction between senior staff and the Board continues to be positive and has taken on a more business-like approach.
- One respondent indicated the PWC report has been and will continue to be very useful.
- One respondent expressed concern that political aspirations affect Board decisions, despite available information on topics.

Comments on future suggestions for Board activities include:

- Three Board members suggested specific education opportunities, such as the retreat in November 2013, to learn more about how to be an effective Board member.
- One respondent felt that a Board work plan would assist in more effective management of discussions. It would give an opportunity to measure progress against the strategic plan.
- One respondent felt that MLHU needs to do a marketing campaign to engage stakeholders. This campaign would promote the health unit and identify who we are, what we do, and how effectively we do it.

While several suggestions were made, only the suggestion about future training was identified by more than one Board Member.

Although not directly related to Board performance, two questions were asked about the Board members' satisfaction with reports and presentation. The majority of respondents were satisfied but one respondent indicated that more background research and stats, including best practices in other cities, were needed on important issues and should be done prior to Board meetings.

Members of the newly formed Governance Committee have the opportunity to review the findings of the survey and propose "recommendations for improvements in board effectiveness and engagement" as stated in [Requirement 4.3 of OPHOS](#) and present to the Board as a whole.

This report was prepared by Ms. Sarah Maaten, Epidemiologist, Environmental Health and Chronic Disease Prevention Services.



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