



TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2023 November 16

2023 BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Governance Committee recommend to the Board of Health to receive Report No. 12-23GC re: “2023 Board of Health Self-Assessment Results” for information.

Key Points

- There was an overall 73% response rate to the Self-Assessment with results included as [Appendix A](#).
- Summarized results of the Self-Assessment are included in this report.
- Part D of the Self-Assessment pertaining to the performance of the Board Chair are provided to the Board Chair independent of this report.

Background

The Board of Health (BOH) Self-Assessment provides an opportunity for members of the Board of Health to assess their effectiveness in meeting the requirements set out in the [Ontario Public Health Standards](#). On September 21, 2023, the BOH approved the Self-Assessment Tool and initiation of the process for 2023 in [Report No. 08-23GC](#).

The Self-Assessment was distributed to Board Members on October 3, 2023, for completion by October 20, 2023. Participation in the survey is voluntary and all specific individual responses are kept confidential.

Self-Assessment Themes

Eight (8) out of eleven (11) Board Members and Ex-Officios (73%) completed the Self-Assessment. The full results are included as [Appendix A](#). The summarized results are each section are below:

Part A. How Well Has the Board Done Its Job?

There were ten (10) questions in this section. 7 out of the 10 questions had positive responses (agree and strongly agree). There is a desire to learn more about the partnerships that the Health Unit’s senior administration have with stakeholders at the Board level.

Part B. How Well Has the Board Conducted Itself?

There were ten (10) questions in this section. 6 out of the 10 questions had positive responses (agree and strongly agree). There is a desire to learn more about the relationship between the Board and the Ministry of Health. There were commented concerns of attendance/preparedness of Board Members at meetings. Overall, Board Members feel that they conduct themselves in a highly esteemed and professional manner as a governance board.

Part C. My Performance as an Individual Board Member

There were thirteen (13) questions in this section. It is apparent that Board Members are very much aware of their strengths and weaknesses as individual Board Members, such as confirming that they are actively

providing a safe space for their colleagues to share their opinion, and the recognition of needing to review governance policies and by-laws for their own knowledge.

Part D. Feedback to the Chair of the Board

Feedback to the Chair of the Board of Health has been provided separately and in confidence.

Positive themes from responses within the Self-Assessment include:

- The Board sees a strong alignment with the strategic direction/priorities of the Health Unit.
- There are good governance activities occurring through updated policies and procedures.
- The Board and Senior Leadership have a strong relationship.
- Board and Committee meetings are well structured, collaborative and receive appropriate information to make governance level decisions.
- Board members are empowered and have a safe environment to share their thoughts openly with their colleagues.

Opportunities

In reviewing the results of the Self-Assessment, the following opportunities could be considered by the Committee and Board:

1. Enhanced Board Orientation/Education

- To provide a more detailed explanation of the relationship between a Board of Health and the provincial Ministry of Health.
- To review standing committee roles/responsibilities and if they are structured and performing effectively.

2. Stakeholder Engagement

- There is an opportunity to educate the Board on key stakeholders and how the Health Unit interacts with them.
- There is an opportunity for a high-level overview of key partnerships on a regular basis to the Board.
- Guest stakeholders/partners could also attend as a delegation to the Board to provide an update on the relationship and program(s) offered.

3. Board Member Engagement

- Board Member attendance and preparedness can be addressed by the Chair of the Board when warranted.

Next Steps

The BOH may propose the above recommendations to support its effectiveness in the months ahead as it monitors the execution of the Provisional Plan. Recommendations for further development opportunities should be discussed and brought forward to the Board for approval.

This report was prepared by the Manager, Privacy, Risk and Client Relations.



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