

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 March 21

ACTING MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH ACTIVITY REPORT – FEBRUARY 12 TO MARCH 15, 2013

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 044-13 re “Acting Medical Officer of Health Activity Report - February 12 to March 15, 2013” be received for information.

The following report highlights activities of the Acting Medical Officer of Health from February 12 to March 15, 2013, inclusive. It is divided into activities related to the role of Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer, and activities related to the role of the Associate Medical Officer of Health / Director, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health Services.

Acting Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

In the past month, work continues on the review of administrative functions (including the possibility of shared services) being conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC). The consultants from PWC have been conducting interviews with Health Unit staff members and collecting required data (see Report No. 032-13). On February 12, the Acting Medical Officer of Health participated in an interview with PWC consultants regarding the background for this review and the Health Unit’s administrative functions.

The Acting Medical Officer of Health attended the alPHA Winter Symposium on February 14 and 15. Mr. John Millson, Director Finance and Operations; Mr. Rick Shantz, Director Information Technology; and Board Member Mr. Al Edmondson also attended this meeting.

Other activities related to this role have included attending the following community and Health Unit events/meetings:

- **Organizational Health and Vitality Strategic Achievement Group** - Facilitated discussion with the Directors to continue work on this strategic direction (February 13); With the Directors, planned and facilitated a session involving non-union staff to provide updates on this Strategic Achievement Group and organization-wide issues, and brainstorm ideas with regard to optimal organizational culture (February 27).
- **City Budget Public Participation Meeting**- Attended this meeting (February 13) to observe five staff members make presentations to the City of London Strategic Priorities and Policy Committee regarding the potential impact of the proposed budget cuts on the health of the community. The five staff members who made presentations were: Ms. Muriel Abbott, Ms. Erica Zarins and Ms. Melanie Elms, Public Health Nurses; Dr. Maria Van Harten, Dental Consultant; and Mr. Ross Graham, Manager, Special Projects. This initiative was supported by Professor Abe Oudshoorn, Western University, who is an external consultant on the Health Unit’s Health Inequities Strategic Achievement Group.
- **Meeting with members of the Canadian Latin American Association (CALA)** – With Ms. Trudy Sweetz, Communications Assistant, attended a meeting with three physician who are members of the Canadian Latin America Association to assist in planning a fall health conference for the Latin American community (February 26);

- **Meeting with Warden Richards** – With Board Chair Mr. Marcel Meyers, and Mr. John Millson, attended a meeting with County Warden Brad Richards to review the programs and services provided by the Health Unit and the Health Unit's budget (February 28).
- **London Abused Women's Centre International Women's Day Breakfast** – Attended on March 1
- **Hungry for Change Gala** – Attended this event hosted by the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry with the theme of "Refugee Health – A Critical Issue for All Canadians" (March 7)

Associate Medical Officer of Health / Director, Oral Health, Communicable Disease and Sexual Health

Activities of the Associate Medical Officer of Health included:

- **Visit to Dental Faculty** – With Dr. Maria Van Harten, Dental Consultant, and Dr. Chimere Okoronkwo, Manager Oral Health, visited the dental facilities at School of Dentistry at Western University on February 22. The purpose of the visit and tour (which was provided by Dr. Harinder Sandhu, Director, School of Dentistry) was to observe the work being undertaken to build a general anesthesia suite which will provide treatment to children on publicly-funded dental programs who need dental work done under general anesthesia. This suite is being built, in part, with funds provided through the Healthy Smiles Ontario program, in partnership with six other Southwest Ontario health units.
- **Panorama** – Attended a half day session (February 28) conducted to begin staff's orientation process to the Panorama electronic information system. This is a system that will replace the current immunization information system (IRIS) and will eventually replace the current communicable disease information system (iPHIS). The orientation session was conducted by Health Unit staff members who have been involved in the provincial work to develop this electronic system (Ms. Alison Locker, Epidemiologist; Ms. Tracy Gordon, Public Health Nurse and Ms. Christine Felker, Administrative Assistant).
- **Regional HIV/AIDS Connection (RHAC)** – Attended the annual ceremony to sign the Ontario Accord to commit to genuine and meaningful involvement of people having HIV within the RHAC organization (March 4)
- **Medical Student Teaching:**
 - Supervised the first week of a two-week placement for a third year Medical Students (March 4 to 8).
- **Presentation:**
 - Presentation to third year medical students on the role of the Medical Officer of Health (March 6)
- **Immunization Advisory Work:**
 - **Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee – Immunization (PIDAC – I)** – Attended a half –day teleconference meeting (February 13);
 - **US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices** – Attended this US immunization advisory committee meeting as the Canadian liaison representative (February 20 and 21)
 - **National Advisory Committee on Immunization** – As the Chair of this Committee, attended several teleconferences (February 19 and 25, March 1)

Note:

The Acting Medical Officer of Health was on vacation from March 8 to March 15 inclusive.



Bryna Warshawsky, MDCM, CCFP, FRCPC
Acting Medical Officer of Health