



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 April 18

OVERVIEW OF 'MAKE NO LITTLE PLANS – ONTARIO'S PUBLIC HEALTH SECTOR STRATEGIC PLAN'

Recommendation

It is recommended that Report No. 056-13 re “Overview of ‘Make No Little Plans – Ontario’s Public Health Sector Strategic Plan’ ” be received for information.

Key Points

- The Strategic Plan for the Ontario Public Health Sector was released on April 4, 2013.
- The plan outlines the 15 to 20 year vision, mission, values and strategic goals for the public health sector, as well as collective areas of focus for the next three to five years.
- The plan is consistent with the Health Unit’s Strategic Plan and/or ongoing programs and services.

Background

On April 4, 2013, the [Strategic Plan for the Ontario Public Health Sector](#) was released. The Board of Health previously received an introduction to this plan as part of Board of Health [Report No. 024-13](#) “Overview of Five Provincial Initiatives”.

Purpose

The Public Health Sector is defined as the Provincial Government, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario and local public health units. The collaboratively developed strategic plan outlines the 15 to 20 year vision, mission, values and strategic goals for the public health sector, as well as collective areas of focus for the next three to five years.

Overview

The [Plan](#) centers around five strategic goals, with eight collective areas of focus, for the next three to five years. The five strategic goals are outlined in the [Ministry of Health and Long Term Care media release](#) as follows:

1. **Optimize healthy human development** by identifying and implementing evidence-based strategies that support child development and wellness, and building on current government initiatives that promote healthy starts for children.
2. **Improve the prevention and control of infectious diseases** through redoubling efforts to boost immunization -- one of the most cost-effective methods of disease prevention. The next steps will be guided by the results of an expert review on immunization currently underway.

3. ***Improve health by reducing preventable diseases and injuries.*** *Public health will continue to provide leadership in efforts to reduce overweight and obesity, tobacco and alcohol use. To achieve the goals set out in Ontario's Action Plan for Health Care and the report of the Healthy Kids Panel, the public health sector will have to build strategic working relationships with others in the health sector and partners in the non-health sector, including health care providers, schools, retailers, media, government and the food industry.*
4. ***Promote healthy environments -- both natural and built -- by encouraging the growth and viability of active transportation options in communities.*** *Because of their relationship to municipalities, local public health units are particularly well-positioned to reinforce the connection between community planning and health outcomes in municipal planning and policy. At the provincial level, public health authorities are contributing to growth-planning and cycling strategies.*
5. ***Strengthen the public health sector's capacity, infrastructure and emergency preparedness.*** *Effective mobilization around infectious disease outbreaks depends on quick and efficient information-sharing, mechanisms that promote co-operation between and within sectors, and a skilled workforce equipped to respond. The public health sector has made significant progress in sector-wide co-ordination, and the next steps will involve investing in information technology and developing capacity for collaboration.*

Consistency with Health Unit Work

The [Strategic Plan for the Public Health Sector](#) is very consistent with the work being done at the Middlesex-London Health Unit. One major area of work in the Health Unit's Strategic Plan is related to Healthy Eating and Physical Activity, consistent with Goal 3 above. As well, considerable work has been done locally on alcohol and tobacco policy (Goals 3). Initiatives in child growth and development (Goal 1), immunization (Goal 2), built environment (Goal 4), and emergency preparedness, outbreak response, information systems and partnerships (Goal 5) have also been areas of considerable effort and strength within the Health Unit.



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