



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Bryna Warshawsky, Acting Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2013 April 18

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## STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM

### **Recommendation**

*It is recommended that Report No. 059-13 re “Student Education Program” be received for information.*

### **Key Points**

- The Health Unit continues to provide a variety of educational experiences for a large number of post-secondary students enrolled in programs that could lead to careers in public health.
- These activities enable staff to develop leadership and mentorship skills as well as contribute to their profession. At the same time, the Health Unit fulfills its obligations under the Organizational Standards 5.2 and 6.15 related to training and recruitment of future public health workers.

### **Background**

For over thirty years, the Health Unit has participated in the education of post-secondary students. The student education program involves responding to requests from post-secondary educational institutions, coordinating placements and requests for presentations, providing orientation to students, and liaising with staff, faculty and students throughout their placements. The Student Education program promotes both the practice and science of public health.

### **Student Education Activities 2012**

In 2012, staff members provided 46 lectures and classes at Fanshawe College and Western University, reaching 1,558 students. As well, Health Unit staff provided 449 student placements from a variety of disciplines including nursing, medicine, nutrition, emergency preparedness, environmental health, and Masters programs. Of the 449, 122 were year 3 nursing students from the Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, who participated in the Health Unit’s influenza vaccination clinics. Several medical residents and students also benefited from individual placements with Dr. Bryna Warshawsky and Dr. David Colby, and with physicians working in The Sexual Health Clinic. In addition, third-year Medical Students in their Family Medicine rotation are given an overview of public health and the services that the Health Unit provides to the community at one of 16 Community Medicine Seminars.

### **Student Education Activities for 2012**

<b>Student Activity</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
Number of student placements	449
Number of lectures and classes	46
Number of students who attended classes and lectures	1558

A detailed description of the student placements can be found in [Appendix A](#).

A large number of requests are received each year from students seeking a variety of experiences. Not all requests can be met due to limited resources or because requests are received on short notice.

Following the resignation of the part-time Student Coordinator, Ms. Karen Jenkins, in August of 2012, staff members in Human Resources have undertaken a review of the student program while continuing to administer the program. Ms. Jenkins has also continued to support the program as a casual Public Health Nurse at the Health Unit.

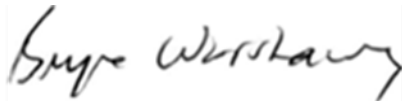
## Conclusion

The student education program meets the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standard to foster an interest in public health practice for future health professionals by supporting student placements (Organizational Standard 6.15 - Staff Development). It is also a professional obligation to support learners in order to recruit the next generation of workers and to invest in the future of public health.

*Comments from a student . . .*

*"I thought the placement was great! I really enjoyed working at the health unit and can see myself one day working in this kind of setting. I thought it was great to see how the different disciplines and teams collaborate together on so many different projects. I do not have any recommendations – just keep up the great work!"*

This report was prepared by Ms. Louise Tyler, Director, Human Resources and Labour Relations Services and Ms. Cynthia Bos, Human Resources /Acting Student Placement Coordinator.



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

### **This report addresses**

Administration Policy # 5-160 - Placements/Field Experiences For Post-Secondary Students  
Ontario Public Health Standards – Foundational Standard re knowledge exchange and relationships with academic partners  
Organizational Standard 5.2 re establishing relationships with schools of public health and/or other related academic programs to promote the development of qualified workers for public health; and Organizational Standard 6.15 Staff Development re student placements