

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2014 October 16

RESEARCH AND EVALUATION POLICY – PROPOSED REVISIONS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health endorse the revisions to Policy 2-040 Research and Evaluation (formally named Policy 1-080 Research) including changing the approval body from Board of Health to Senior Leadership Team.

Key Points

- The Research Advisory Committee, the body implementing the Research and Evaluation Policy 2-040, has been piloting an updated version of the Research and Evaluation Policy and recommends that the changes to the policy and procedure be endorsed by the Board of Health.

In November 2011, senior leaders asked a working group including the AMOH, the Privacy Officer, an Epidemiologist and a Program Evaluator to update the Research Policy 1-080 ([Appendix A](#)) and reinvigorate the Research Advisory Committee (RAC). In April 2013 that working group recommended an updated policy and procedure entitled Research and Evaluation 2-040 ([Appendix B](#)) and asked senior leaders to pilot the new process. Over the past 16 months the RAC has been reviewing research and evaluation undertaken by or on MLHU according to the policy by ensuring that it meets recognized scientific, methodological, ethical and protection of privacy standards.

Changes to the policy included removal of reference to the Public Health Research, Education and Development (PHRED) unit which is no longer in existence at MLHU. The policy updates also reflect best practices in privacy and ethical guidelines.

It is recommended that the Board of Health endorse the changes to the Research and Evaluation Policy 2-040 including changing the approval body for the policy from the Board of Health to the Senior Leadership Team.

This report was prepared by Ms. Sarah Maaten, Epidemiologist and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee.



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