



TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health
FROM: Chris Mackie, Medical Officer of Health
DATE: 2015 April 16

2015 BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- 1) *The Governance Committee receive the findings of the March 2015 Board Self-Assessment as outlined in Report No. 009-15GC re 2015 Board of Health Self-Assessment Results, and further*
- 2) *The Governance Committee develop a plan for continuous improvement of Board of Health effectiveness and engagement based on the findings of the survey and best practices.*

Key Points

- The findings indicate that in most areas of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards, a strong majority of Board members agree that the Board is achieving its outcomes.
- Survey comments indicate that respondents were pleased with Board performance or, likely in the case of new members, didn't know about performance. It was recommended that Board members review MLHU's achievement of strategic outcomes, HR & Operations policies and public health accountabilities.

The Board Self-Assessment Survey provides an opportunity for the MLHU Board of Health to assess whether they are following good governance practices and meeting outcomes as outlined in Requirement 4.3 of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards.

In March, 2015 the survey was completed by all 11 Board members. Detailed results are attached in [Appendix A](#). Generally, the findings of the 2015 survey are consistent with findings from 2014. In many areas of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards at least 70% of Board members agreed that the Board is achieving its outcomes, with the majority of others indicating that they did not have enough information to respond. A smaller proportion agreed that MLHU is meeting its strategic outcomes (55%) or is adequately responding to serious complaints (64%). Again, other respondents indicated that they did not have adequate information to answer these questions. Five of 11 Board members are new since November of 2014.

Comments on the overall effectiveness of the Board:

- Two board members specifically expressed overall satisfaction with the Board's performance.
- Three Board members (who self-identified as new members) indicated they were still observing and needed more time to assess.
- One respondent who disagreed that the Board is structured properly expressed that politicians may have vested interests in voting. The respondent further suggested the Board be should always be made up of one more public appointee than municipal/city appointees.

Comments on future suggestions for Board activities:

- One respondent was very positive about the “We’re Here for You” awareness campaign and indicated MLHU should further develop its relationship with the public.
- One respondent felt there should be more Board workshops on public health accountabilities.
- One respondent felt the Board should review Human Resources, Contracting and Procurement policies and practices.

Although not directly related to Board performance, two questions were asked about the Board members’ satisfaction with reports and presentation. The majority of respondents (91%) were satisfied but one respondent indicated that slide decks should be available for future reference.

Members of the Governance Committee have the opportunity to review the findings of the survey and propose “recommendations for improvements in board effectiveness and engagement” as stated in Requirement 4.3 of OPHOS and present to the Board as a whole.

This report was prepared by Ms. Sarah Maaten, Epidemiologist, Environmental Health and Chronic Disease Prevention Services.



Christopher Mackie, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health