



TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Laura Di Cesare, Acting Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 2017 March 16

2017 BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Governance Committee:

- 1) Recommend that the Board of Health receive Report No. 004-17GC re: Board of Health Self-Assessment Results for information; and*
- 2) Consider the survey results and incorporate the feedback into Board development planning for 2017.*

Key Points

- The overall affirmative response rate to the Board of Health Self-Assessment was 86%. This rate refers to Board members who answered “yes” to the questions, rather than “No” or “Don’t know.”
- Only two questions had a higher proportion of “No” and “Don’t know” responses.
- This year’s Self-Assessment asked members for qualitative feedback on each of the self-assessment components, which resulted in a higher number of comments being received.

Background

The Board of Health Self-Assessment Survey provides an opportunity for members of the 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.

Distribution of the tool was discussed at the January 19 Governance Committee meeting, and the survey was distributed to Board of Health members on February 10 for completion before the February 16 meeting. Members who had not completed the survey prior to the Board meeting had the opportunity to complete the survey in paper form.

Self-Assessment Results

Eight out of nine Board members (89%) completed the survey. Detailed results are attached in [Appendix A](#). Generally, the 2017 survey findings are consistent those from 2016. In nearly all areas, the vast majority of Board members answered affirmatively. The overall positive response on the Board Self-Assessment was 86%. Board members answered 14% of the questions with “No” or “Don’t know” responses.

The questions with a higher proportion of “No” or “Don’t know” responses were as follows:

- “Is the Board of Health structured properly?” Several respondents indicated “No,” with comments expressing concern regarding delays in the provincial appointment process.
- “In the past year, has the Board of Health adequately responded to complaints of wrongdoing or irregularities?” Half of the respondents answered “Don’t know.” The comments expressed the

feeling that Board members believe, to the best of their knowledge, that they are responding well, but some uncertainty remains about which complaints they see and which they don't.

Other comments on overall Board effectiveness were noted for each of the questions, in contrast with previous surveys, which offered only a single, open-ended question.

Comments regarding the most important things for Board discussion and action were diverse and included:

- How to reach and communicate effectively with the community we serve;
- Providing a strong rationale for all decisions made, and being engaged with the well-being of Middlesex-London residents;
- Setting aside some dedicated time for education at each Board meeting (e.g., a reminder about the Strategic Plan, a best practice, or some other current public health issue);
- Board education about challenges and how to put our Strategic Plan into action; and
- Attracting new Board of Health members to solicit new perspectives, seek help on committees and ensure proper oversight and Board compliance.

Priorities for 2017

The 2017 Board of Health Self-Assessment included a priority question that asked Board members to rank the most important things that the Board should focus on to improve performance. The top three areas were:

- Getting sufficient information to make informed decisions;
- Ensuring all relevant information is taken into consideration when making decisions; and
- Accomplishing our strategic priorities.

Next Steps

Members of the Governance Committee have the opportunity to review the survey findings and propose “recommendations for improvements in board effectiveness and engagement,” as stated in Requirement 4.3 of the Ontario Public Health Organizational Standards. Any recommendations proposed by the Governance Committee would be presented to the Board as a whole.

This report was prepared by the Strategic Projects Team, Corporate Services Division.



Laura Di Cesare
Acting Chief Executive Officer