

TO: Chair and Members of the Governance Committee

FROM: Christopher Mackie, Medical Officer of Health / Chief Executive Officer

DATE: 2019 June 20

2019 BOARD OF HEALTH SELF-ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Governance Committee receive Report No. 012-19GC re: “2019 Board of Health Self-Assessment Results” for information.

Key Points

- There was an overall 90% response rate to the survey; however, Board composition includes a number of newly appointed members, and accordingly response rates for individual items were lower.
- Valuable comments were provided, which showed that Board members are receiving the necessary information to support their governance mandate.
- Several respondents affirmed the critical need for governance to support and maintain the important work of the Health Unit throughout the provincial restructuring process.

Background

The Board of Health Self-Assessment Survey provides an opportunity for members of the Board of Health to assess their effectiveness in meeting the requirements set out in the Ontario Public Health Standards. On March 21, 2019, the Board approved the Board of Health Self-Assessment Tool and initiated the Board’s self-assessment process for 2019 (refer to [Report No. 006-19GC](#)). The survey was distributed to Board of Health members on April 9, 2019, for completion by April 19, 2019. Some additional responses were provided after the completion date and were included in the results. Participation in the survey was voluntary and all individual responses are kept confidential.

Self-Assessment Results

Nine out of ten Board of Health members (90%) completed the survey. However, given the Board onboarded several newly appointed City and County members in January, many Board members were understandably challenged in completing a number of the survey questions. Due to the low response rate to questions, and in order to maintain confidentiality, a summary of these responses is not included with this report.

Several respondents commented on the need to maintain strong governance to support the Health Unit in this time of unprecedented change. When asked, “What is the most important thing that you could recommend for discussion or action in order to improve the Board of Health’s performance?”, comments included:

- “Ensure that the MLHU mission and successes are maintained throughout the transformation and restructuring it will be undergoing in the next year.”
- “Receiving as much information as possible regarding the significant changes proposed for Public Health.”

Many respondents also affirmed the quality and usefulness of information provided to support the Board in achieving its governance mandate:

- “Board and committee packages are extensive, and staff are present and able to provide additional information if required.”
- “The primary source of this information comes from the excellent delegation reports from managers and other senior staff. Their interactions and presentations to the Board are top-notch.”
- “I have always found the presentations to be complete and informative, with attending staff able to engage in further dialogue if necessary.”

One respondent noted the challenge implicit in not being able to read in advance the agenda items for the in-camera sessions.

Next Steps

The Governance Committee may propose recommendations to support its effectiveness in the months ahead as we navigate system transformation. Any recommendations proposed by the Governance Committee would be recommended to the Board for approval.

This report was prepared by the Privacy, Risk and Governance Team, Healthy Organization Division.



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