

INFORMATION REPORT

TO:	Mayor and Members Board of Health
COMMITTEE DATE:	February 19, 2021
SUBJECT/REPORT NO:	2020 Board of Health Self-Evaluation Survey Results (BOH20021(a)) (City Wide)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	City Wide
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SIGNATURE:	

COUNCIL DIRECTION

Not Applicable.

INFORMATION

The purpose of this report is to summarize the results from the Board of Health Self-Evaluation conducted in November 2020 via online survey. As outlined in Report BOH20021, the Board of Health has engaged in a self-evaluation process every other year since 2014 to promote and foster a culture of continuous improvement. In addition to being best practice in good governance, self-evaluation is also an organizational requirement under the Ontario Public Health Standards.

In completing the self-evaluation, Board of Health members were asked to reflect on:

- Board of Health roles and responsibilities;
- Information sharing and decision making;
- Board of Health relations;
- Planning; and,
- Board of Health strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement.

OUR Vision: To be the best place to raise a child and age successfully.

OUR Mission: To provide high quality cost conscious public services that contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous community, in a sustainable manner.

OUR Culture: Collective Ownership, Steadfast Integrity, Courageous Change, Sensational Service, Engaged Empowered Employees.

A total of seven out of sixteen (44%) Board of Health members completed the self-evaluation. Two out of seven (29%) identified as first term Board of Health members. Overall, Board of Health respondents agreed that the Board functions effectively and that members have enough information for decision-making. In addition, Board of Health members expressed a high degree of respect, trust and appreciation for Public Health Services (PHS) staff. The survey results are summarized below.

Roles and Responsibilities

All Board of Health respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they have a clear understanding of their roles and responsibilities. The majority of respondents (71% or more) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that the Board of Health:

- Distinguishes roles and responsibilities as an elected official and Board of Health member;
- Has adequate process for handling urgent matters between meetings;
- Has appropriate committee structure;
- Stays up to date with major developments in governance and public health best practices; and,
- Is adequately prepared to oversee an emergency.

Information Sharing and Decision-Making

All Board of Health respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they understand the role data has in making informed decisions. The majority of respondents (71% or more) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that:

- Information PHS staff provides is useful for informed decision-making;
- Adequate data is provided to make informed decisions related to public health program and service delivery; and,
- Any material notice of wrongdoing or irregularities is responded to in a timely manner.

Just over half of respondents (57%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they receive adequate information to approve the PHS budget.

The majority of Board of Health respondents (71%) “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that they are satisfied with the continuing education they receive in order to fulfill their responsibilities and keep abreast of relevant trends and emerging public health issues. Two Board of Health respondents suggested that more information on population health could support Board members.

Board of Health Relations

All Board of Health respondents “agreed” or “strongly agreed” that there is a climate of mutual trust and respect between the Board of Health and the Medical Officer of Health. The majority (86%) agreed or strongly agreed that there is enough time allocated for the full discussion of issues at Board of Health meetings. Just over half (57%) “agreed” or

“strongly agreed” that they would feel comfortable raising an unpopular or controversial issue.

Planning

All Board of Health respondents agreed or strongly agreed that they were familiar with the Annual Service Plan & Budget. The majority (71% or more) agreed or strongly agreed that the Board of Health:

- Contributes to development of healthy public policy relevant to the Ontario Public Health Standards;
- Has a clear strategic plan for next three to five years; and,
- Considers organizational capacity when reviewing the Annual Service Plan & Budget.

Board of Health Strengths

The Board of Health respondents identified several strengths of the committee, including: the contributions of the staff who inform/present/report to the committee and the ability to get more information when needed. They also highlighted the emergency response efforts and ability to mobilize during a crisis as a Board of Health strength, which is important feedback during the current pandemic.

In summary, there was a high degree of agreement among Board of Health respondents (44% of the board membership) that the board functions effectively and there is a high degree of respect and appreciation for PHS staff. There were no areas where the majority of respondents indicated a need for improvement.

In future, higher levels of engagement in the self-evaluation will help inform the development of specific recommendations regarding quality improvement initiatives for the Board of Health. At this time, PHS will continue implementing the quality improvement initiatives that were identified through the 2018 Board of Health self-evaluation, including:

- An experiential learning approach to Board of Health orientation for board members including an overview of population health data; and,
- Continued use of Board of Health reports to highlight and clarify legislated roles and responsibilities of board members.

APPENDICES AND SCHEDULES ATTACHED

Not Applicable.