



**Boards of Health Section Meeting  
Tuesday, June 14, 2022  
1:30 pm to 4:00 pm EST  
Agenda**

BOH Section Chair: Wess Garrod

*Note: Meeting is hosted via Zoom Webinar  
All times are Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)*

- 
- 1:30 pm **Call to Order**  
**Land Acknowledgement**  
**Welcoming Remarks**  
**Introductions**  
Chair: Wess Garrod, Chair, BOH Section
- 1:35 pm **Post-Provincial Election Analysis**  
StrategyCorp will provide meaningful insights into the provincial election results, outline the current public policy climate, highlight key political issues, and share thoughts and insights on what the implications might be for public health agencies.  
  
Speakers: John Perenack, Principal, StrategyCorp and Aidan Grove-White, Director, Municipal Affairs, StrategyCorp  
Moderator: Carmen McGregor, alPHa, Past-President
- 2:10 pm **Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Update**  
AMO works with Ontario's 444 municipalities to make municipal governments stronger and more effective. Come and hear the latest from AMO with regards to public health issues from a municipal perspective.  
  
*Speaker: Monika Turner, Director of Policy, Association of Municipalities of Ontario*  
Moderator: James LeNoury, alPHa Legal Counsel
- 2:40 pm **Opioids: An Epidemic Within the Pandemic**  
One of the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the worsening of the opioid epidemic across all ages, races, socioeconomic groups, and genders. Many communities in Ontario are reporting record numbers of opioid-related deaths, overdoses, and hospitalizations. Speakers will share perspectives and approaches taken by their local public health agency.  
  
Speakers:  
Denis Doyle, Chair, BOH, Kingston, Frontenac, Lanark & Addington Public Health  
Dr. Lisa Simon, Associate Medical Officer of Health, Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit  
Sarah Collier, Manager, Epidemiology and Data Analytics, Toronto Public Health  
Moderator: Trudy Sachowski, alPHa Vice-President

3:25 pm

**alPHa Update / Section Business/BOH Elections**

Speakers: *Wess Garrod, BOH Section Chair and Loretta Ryan, Executive Director, alPHa*

Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2022, BOH Section Meeting. *(Attached)*

**Section meeting ends at 4 pm.**

*Co-hosted by alPHa and the Eastern Ontario Health Unit, with generous support from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health*



**Dalla Lana**  
School of Public Health

*The lunchtime Community Better Challenge is sponsored by ParticipACTION and their partners – the Government of Canada and Saputo.*



Mailing Address: 480 University Avenue, Suite 300, Toronto, Ontario M5G 1V2

(416) 595-0006 | [info@alphaweb.org](mailto:info@alphaweb.org) | [www.alphaweb.org](http://www.alphaweb.org)

Follow us on Twitter @PHAgencies

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Boards of Health Fall Section Meeting**  
**Friday, February 25, 2022 – 1:30 – 4:00 pm**  
*Chair: Wess Garrod*

**1.0 Land Acknowledgement/Welcoming Remarks/Introductions**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:30 PM and provided welcoming remarks and introductions.

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

Was read by alPHa Vice-President, T. Sachowski.

**2.0 alPHa Affiliates – On the Front Lines**

W. Garrod facilitated a session on the work of alPHa's Affiliate members. The BOH Section heard from senior public health managers in key public health disciplines – nursing, inspections, nutrition, dentistry, health promotion, epidemiology and business administration about the COVID-19 response and other key public health issues from the unique perspectives of these affiliate members. The following were the Affiliate representatives from the alPHa Board who presented at the session:

Association of Supervisors of Public Health Inspectors of Ontario (ASPPIO)/Affiliate Representative on alPHa Executive	<i>Steven Rebellato</i>
Association of Ontario Public Health Business Administrators (AOPHBA)	<i>Cynthia St. John</i>
Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO)	<i>Sarah Collier</i>
Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD)	<i>Paul Sharma</i>
Health Promotion Ontario (HPO)	<i>Susan Stewart</i>
Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL)	<i>David Groulx</i>
Ontario Dietitians in Public Health (ODPH)	<i>Kerry Schubert-Mackey</i>

The Q & A session was facilitated by the moderator, W. Garrod.

**3.0 AMO UPDATE**

W. Garrod introduced Monika Turner, Director of Policy for the Association of municipalities of Ontario (AMO). M. Turner highlighted how AMO works with Ontario's 444 municipalities to make municipal governments stronger and more effective. She noted the latest from AMO with regards to public health issues from a municipal perspective. M. Turner also highlighted the need to approach and work with all four political parties and briefly touched upon an

8-point plan. The need for a population wellness lens that includes things like housing as a public health determinant was highlighted as was the need for modernization of the system post-election.

W. Garrod moderated questions from the audience for M. Turner and thanked her for speaking at the Section meeting.

#### **4.0 Fit Cities Through Improvements to Our Human-Built Physical & Social Environments**

Speakers Shanique Killingbeck, Partnership Coordinator at Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta and Jodie Stearns, Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry, University of Alberta spoke about the need for Fit Cities. It was noted that the global COVID-19 pandemic has many thinking about the need for healthier and more sustainable communities. It was outlined how the concept of Fit Cities looks can support human, environmental and economic fitness in municipalities, cities, and provinces through improvements to our human-built physical and social environments. The speakers examined how we can improve these environments, achieve cross-sectoral partnerships, and increase global collaboration. R. Lapierre moderated the Qs & As from the members and thanked the speakers.

#### **5.0 alPHa Update / Section Business**

W. Garrod called for a motion to approve the minutes from November 19, 2021, Boards of Health Section Meeting. The motion was approved by D. Doyle, seconded and carried.

##### **Chair/ED Report**

W. Garrod and L. Ryan highlighted alPHa's recent work and noted the key accomplishments over the past three months. The challenges of the response to the Omicron variant, administering third and fourth, and PH staff fatigue were noted.

W. Garrod spoke about how the pandemic is entering its third year, controversies about public health measures are increasingly dominant and it is discouraging to hear that those who are responsible for implementing these as well as following the measures have become the subject of more frequent harassment and abuse. He noted that we must continue to support our colleagues on Boards of Health, medical officers of health and public health staff, as well as reinforce the messages to our communities that we all need to remain both vigilant and kind as Ontario leaves the emergency phase behind. W. Garrod emphasized that this also means that we must move forward and resume our important and necessary public health programming that was put on hold while we focused on the pandemic. He noted that alPHa's Boards of Health Executive was pleased to be able to participate in the development of the alPHa report, *Public Health Resilience in Ontario: Clearing the Backlog, Resuming Routine Programs, and Maintaining An Effective Covid-19 Response*, which was presented this morning at the alPHa Symposium on February 25, 2022. The report outlines where we are and where we need to go and as noted has already been used as the foundation of alPHa's pre-budget submissions and will be the foundation for the alPHa election material. The contributions of the BOH Executive to the recently were noted and thanked for all of their efforts by the Chair.

W. Garrod highlighted how the Boards of Health Section Executive members play an important role on alPHa's Board and as leaders in the public health sector. Board of

Health Executive members were thanked for their hard work and efforts and noted as being the following:

- **BOH Chair**, Wess Garrod, representing East Region
- **alPHa Vice-President** Trudy Sachowski from North West Region
- **BOH Vice Chair**, René Lapierre from North East Region
- Maureen Wilson from Central West Region
- Andy Mitchell from Central East Region
- Stephanie Donaldson from Toronto Public

W. Garrod noted that Boards of Health Section Executive members continue to play an important role on alPHa's Board and are key in the association's success. Areas of focus and activities were highlighted including Ontario's COVID-19 public health response, public health policy, public health funding and budgets and many other key issues. The Boards of Health Section Executive has contributed extensively to alPHa's submissions and public health policy positions.

W. Garrod noted that the Boards of Health Executive Committee has met several times since the last Section meeting and that they stay connected on key regional and provincial initiatives and issues.

W. Garrod introduced L. Ryan and asked her to provide an update on alPHa BOH Section and alPHa Communications. She was thanked for her dedicated service over the past few months and throughout the pandemic. L. Ryan thanked Wess for serving as BOH Chair.

L. Ryan highlighted the Information Break - alPHa's monthly newsletter, emails, the alPHa website, and social media as effective tools that keep the alPHa membership apprised of the latest news in public health including provincial announcements, legislative changes, alPHa activities, consultation opportunities, correspondence, and upcoming events. Board-delegated administrative contacts who disseminate information through their contact lists were thanked for helping to keep alPHa members informed. It was noted that the Boards of Health Section communications follow the alPHa Constitution, by-laws, and policies to support all board of health members in their leadership and legislated governance roles.

It was noted by L. Ryan that alPHa representatives at both the staff and volunteer level, including members of the BOH Executive continue to represent the public health sector at meetings with key stakeholders.

#### **Other Business**

Staff members L. Ryan and G. Fleming were thanked for their valuable work. A. Ganguly was thanked for her support. Members were thanked for their dedication to local public health and all that they have done as part of the COVID-19 response.

Members were encouraged to fill out the evaluation form and it was noted there is a draw prize available.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was moved, seconded and carried at 4:00 PM.



## ELECTION TO THE alpha BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2022-2024

### ACCLAIMED:

#### For the **East** Region:

- **Wess Garrod** (BOH, KFL&A)

Wess Garrod the Chair of alpha's Boards of Health Section and a community representative on the KFL&A Board of Health, appointed by Order-in-Council. Wess completed his Bachelor of Science (Hon) and the University of Guelph and his Bachelor of Education at Queen's University, where he also completed his principal's designation. Wess retired from the Limestone District School Board in 2006. He is a former secondary school principal, supervising principal, and member of LDSB's senior staff. He was recognized for his contributions to the field of education and physical activity with an Outstanding Service Award, and the establishment of the "Wess Garrod Healthy Active Living Award", which is presented annually to a LDSB staff member who has worked to improve student and staff health and well-being in their school. Some of Wess' current leadership activities include the following: Vice-Chair - KFL&A Board of Health, Board of Directors - Limestone Learning Foundation, Liaison, City of Kingston Track and Field Facility with LDSB and Algonquin Lakeshore Catholic District School Board & the City of Kingston, and President - Kingston Track and Field Club. Mr. Garrod has been a great supporter of KFL&A Public Health and has worked in the past with this agency on a variety of projects to promote physical activity in schools. Mr. Garrod coached basketball, football, and soccer. He currently lives on a hobby farm near Yarker and enjoys horseback riding, downhill skiing, water skiing, golf, and general fitness activities.

#### For the **South West** Region:

- **Carmen McGregor** (BOH, Chatham-Kent )

Carmen McGregor is the part-time Office Manager at J. Thomas McGregor Law, a [Chatham-Kent Municipal Councillor](#), representing the community of Wallaceburg, and a successful Mixed Media Artist. Carmen has served on the Board of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alpha) representing the South West region since 2015. In that time she held the Executive positions as Treasurer, Vice-President, and two terms as President. In these leadership positions Carmen McGregor has effectively advocated for public health on key provincial files including contributing to the public health sector's response to the 'Recommendations from the Expert Panel on Public Health', numerous pre-budget submissions to the Standing Committees of the Ontario Legislature, and she has been instrumental in alpha's position papers and policy documents. Carmen has a very well-rounded background and experience that is a good fit to support the changing needs of the alpha Board. Carmen feels fortunate to have had many wonderful opportunities within her community and province and looks forward to continuing as the South Western Regional Boards of Health representative on the alpha Board of Directors.

**For the Central West Region:**

Maureen Wilson is the Councillor for Ward 1 in the City of Hamilton. Maureen also serves as the Vice Chair of Hamilton's Board of Health for the 2019-2022 term. A strong advocate for maternal health and women's reproductive rights, Maureen also seeks to advance the goals of public health into all city building practices and outcomes. Maureen is a board member of the Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion (HCCI) and Hamilton City Council's appointee to the LGBTQ and Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Committees. She holds a Master's degree in both urban planning and political studies.

<https://www.maureenwilson.ca>