



## Boards of Health Section Meeting Friday, February 14, 2025 - **Draft as of February 6, 2025**

Note: Meeting is hosted via Zoom Webinar  
1 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. - All times are Eastern Standard Time (EST)

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| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Call to Order</b><br/><b>Land Acknowledgement</b><br/><b>Welcoming Remarks</b><br/><b>Introductions</b><br/><b>Section Business/ Approval of Minutes</b><br/>Speakers: Tammy DeGiovanni, Vice Chair, BOH Section and<br/>Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>alPHa Update</b><br/>Trudy Sachowski, Chair, alPHa and Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, with<br/>Adam Malek, Partner, Allen &amp; Malek LLP</p> <p>Session includes important alPHa updates for BOH Section members and information regarding changes to the BOH Section's elections process as part of compliance with Ontario's Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.</p> | <p>1:00 p.m. -<br/>1:45 p.m.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mergers – Meet the New Chairs!</b><br/>Speakers: Jan O'Neill, Chair, Board of Health, South East Health Unit<br/>Michelle Boileau, Chair, Board of Health, Northeastern Public Health<br/>Ron Black, Chair, Board of Health, Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit<br/>John Bell, Vice Chair, Board of Health, Grand Erie Public Health<br/>Moderator: Carolyn Doris, Affiliate Representative, Board of Directors, alPHa</p> <p>Come and hear from the Chairs of the newly merged public health agencies.</p>                                                                                                                                                     | <p>1:45 p.m. -<br/>2:15 p.m.</p> |

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| <p align="center"><b>Boards of Health - Roles &amp; Responsibilities</b></p> <p>Speaker: James LeNoury, Principal, LeNoury Law and Legal Counsel, alPHa,<br/>Doug Lawrance, Chair, Northwestern Health Unit, and Ann-Marie Kungl, Chair, Board of Health,<br/>Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit</p> <p align="center">Moderator: Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa</p> <p>alPHa is committed to helping those who sit on boards of health to better understand their roles and responsibilities as public health officials and to keep them updated on the latest public health initiatives. The board, acting in its governance role, sets the desired goals for an organization and establishes the systems and processes to support the achievement of those goals. It is an important and, at times, challenging role. Whether you are a new Board member or an experienced one, you will find this session from alPHa's legal counsel to be of interest.</p> | <p>2:15 p.m. -<br/>3:15 p.m.</p> |
| <p align="center"><b>Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) Update</b></p> <p>Speakers: Alicia Neufeld, Senior Manager, Policy, and Daniela Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, AMO<br/>Moderator: Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa</p> <p>Ontario is at a tipping point in its homelessness crisis. A new study reveals the unprecedented and growing costs to individuals, families, communities, and governments. It also charts a collective path forward. AMO has partnered with the Ontario Municipal Social Services Association (OMSSA), the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) and HelpSeeker Technologies on the most ambitious study of homelessness conducted across Ontario. Come and hear about this important initiative.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>3:15 p.m. -<br/>3:55 p.m.</p> |
| <p align="center"><b>Wrap Up &amp; Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Speaker: Loretta Ryan, Chief Executive Officer, alPHa</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>3:55 p.m. -<br/>4:00 p.m.</p> |

**This event is co-hosted by alPHa and the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.**



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**REVISED DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Boards of Health Section Meeting**  
**Friday, November 8, 2024 – 1 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**  
*Chair: René Lapierre*

**1.0 CALL TO ORDER/LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT/WELCOMING REMARKS/INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair, R. Lapierre, called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. He then provided welcoming remarks and introductions to Boards of Health (BOH) Section members, Affiliates, speakers, and moderators.

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

The Land Acknowledgement was read by R. Lapierre.

**2.0 ALPHA UPDATE AND ORIENTATION/SECTION BUSINESS/APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Approval of Minutes**

R. Lapierre called for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 4, 2024, Boards of Health Section Meeting. The motion to accept the minutes as presented was approved and carried.

**Section Business**

R. Lapierre and L. Ryan conducted the business meeting. R. Lapierre introduced the BOH Section Executive members, saying they provide strong and effective leadership for the BOH Section. He noted the most important issue is the province's *Strengthening Public Health* initiative. This includes voluntary mergers, review of the Ontario Public Health Standards, and funding. L. Ryan noted that alPHa will continue to strongly represent the local public health sector's interests and will continue to represent the membership.

**ALPHA ORIENTATION**

L. Ryan provided BOH Section meetings with an overview of alPHa, saying the association is the voice for Ontario's local public health system and that it represents all 34 public health agencies. L. Ryan noted alPHa's unique position to inform and influence decision makers, and to work with partners to further strengthen local public health. L. Ryan gave an overview of alPHa's strategic partnerships. These include the Ministry of Health, the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Public Health Ontario, Ontario Health, alPHa Affiliates, Association of Municipalities of Ontario, Ontario Medical Association, other public health associations, and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

L. Ryan provided BOH Section members with key resources including foundational documents, alPHa Correspondence and communications. She also highlighted the BOH Shared Resources page. L. Ryan then thanked G. Fleming and M. Turner for updating the *BOH Orientation Manual*. Additionally, she encouraged BOH Section members to read *InfoBreak*, alPHa's monthly newsletter, and thanked M. Dziengo for her work on it. She also thanked the boards of health who include it in their board meeting packages.

L. Ryan also discussed the resources pages on the alPHa website, saying it covers topics such as climate change, artificial intelligence, workplace health and wellness, and risk management. L. Ryan also thanked M. Dziengo and G. Fleming for their work on managing the website and L. Russell for her work on alPHa's Strategic Plan.

Lastly, L. Ryan made note of the upcoming Winter Symposium – February 12-14, 2025 – and encouraged all BOH Section members to hold the dates for the event.

R. Lapierre moderated questions from the audience for L. Ryan and a question-and-answer session took place. R. Lapierre thanked L. Ryan for providing the alPHa Orientation.

### **3.0 MEET THE BOH SECTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

R. Lapierre introduced the BOH Section Executive Committee from the alPHa Board of Directors. He noted that he is the BOH Section Chair and the representative for the North East Region; T. Sachowski is the alPHa Chair and is the representative for the North West Region; A. Chandrabalan is the alPHa Treasurer and is the representative for Toronto; J. Erb is the representative for Central West Region; B. Martin is the representative for South West Region; E. Roy is the representative for Central East Region, and T. DeGiovanni is the representative for East Region.

R. Lapierre noted the BOH Section Executive plays an important leadership role in all of alPHa's work and that they participate in meetings and contribute to correspondence and reports. They also augment their work through regular meetings, e-mails, and volunteer hours. R. Lapierre then turned the meeting over to the members of the Boards of Health Section Executive Committee to introduce themselves to BOH Section members.

L. Ryan moderated questions from the audience and a question-and-answer session took place and then thanked participants. She then turned the meeting back over to R. Lapierre.

### **4.0 PUBLIC HEALTH CEO REFLECTIONS**

R. Lapierre introduced C. St. John, CEO, Southwestern Public Health (SWPH), M. Herbacz, CEO, Northwestern Health Unit, and K. Blanchette, CEO, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit to BOH Section members. He noted they will discuss their work in their local public health agencies and includes what they do to support boards of health in their work overseeing local public health. He then turned the meeting over to C. St. John.

Following presentations, C. St. John then moderated questions. L. Ryan thanked them for their presentation and thanked C. St. John for moderating.

### **5.0 SPOKESPERSONS – WHAT TO DO WHEN THE MICROPHONE IS IN FRONT OF YOU**

L. Ryan noted this session would provide BOH Section members with tips and techniques to help them when speaking at a meeting, an interview, or at the podium. She also explained the Boards of Health Section Executive Committee members would participate and act as interviewees. She expressed that this is an important leadership role. L. Ryan explained that BOH Section members should think of the spokesperson opportunity as an important means of furthering the organization's goals and objectives.

L. Ryan then moderated questions for the BOH Section Executive Committee. She then turned the meeting back to R. Lapierre.

#### **6.0 ALPHA LEGAL COUNSEL UPDATE FOR BOARDS OF HEALTH *RISK MANAGEMENT FOR A GOVERNANCE BOARD – A BALANCING ACT***

R. Lapierre introduced J. LeNoury, alPha's legal counsel, saying he will provide BOH Section members with a legal update. He then turned the meeting over to him. J. LeNoury gave an overview of his presentation, saying it will cover governance, risk management, case studies, and questions. He noted he will speak about issues directors should be informed of, including risk management, saying the presentation is an overview to inform and refresh the responsibilities of a director for a health unit. He explained he wants to get them thinking of risk management, so they go back to their boards and make it an issue they need to be aware of and scrutinize.

A. Chandrabalan then moderated the questions for J. LeNoury. She then turned the meeting back over to R. Lapierre.

#### **7.0 ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPALITIES OF ONTARIO (AMO) UPDATE**

R. Lapierre introduced A. Neufeld, Senior Manager, Policy, and D. Spagnuolo, Policy Advisor, from AMO. He noted AMO works with Ontario's 444 municipalities to make municipal governments stronger and more effective. He explained they will be speaking about the latest from AMO regarding public health issues from a municipal perspective. R. Lapierre then turned the meeting over to them.

R. Lapierre then moderated the questions. He then thanked them both for attending the meeting.

#### **8.0 WRAP UP & NEXT MEETING**

R. Lapierre thanked P. Roumeliotis, K. Hébert, and A. Morrisson from the Eastern Ontario Health Unit and O. George from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health for their technical support. He also thanked the alPha staff, L. Ryan, G. Fleming, M. Dziengo, and L. Russell for their work on the events.

R. Lapierre reminded BOH Section members to fill out their after-event surveys. He then reminded them of the Winter Symposium, which is being held February 12-14, 2025. He also reminded BOH Section members about the alPha AGM and Conference, which is being held in-person June 18-20, 2025, at the Pantages Hotel in Toronto. R. Lapierre noted more information about the AGM and conference will be given next year.

L. Ryan thanked R. Lapierre for chairing the meeting. She then gave a shoutout to T. Sachowski for chairing the Fall Symposium.

R. Lapierre adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.