
Meeting of the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) and Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN PUBLIC HEALTH UNITS AND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARDS

January 12, 2018 - Chair: Dr. Rosana Salvaterra

Meeting Highlights

1. Committee Regroup – Rosana Salvaterra
 - a. Terms of Reference/Next Steps for the Committee – the committee’s work has evolved over time and there was an interest in reviewing the terms of reference – Ken Bain (CODE-COMOH Coordinator) to work with John Crocco and Dr. Salvaterra (CODE-COMOH Co-chairs) to bring revised draft Terms of Reference to the Spring 2018 meeting.
 - b. Communications with Member Organizations – agreed that timely communication back to the two respective organizations will enhance the profile and value of the work undertaken by CODE-COMOH. Meeting highlights will be produced and shared, as will draft minutes for the benefit of member follow-up. – Dr. Gemmill and Larry Hope will check on the implementation of the Memorandum of Agreement template and report back.
 - c. Future Meeting Dates – this will be done annually to enhance attendance.
 - Spring 2018 – to be confirmed
 - Fall 2018 – to be confirmed and subject to funding
 - Winter 2019 – to be confirmed and subject to funding
 - Spring 2019 – to be confirmed and subject to funding
2. Modernized Public Health Standards – The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care provincial staff presented the new standards and focussed on the implementation dates and board of health requirements related to the School Health Standard. The goal of this standard is “achieving optimal health of school-aged children and youth through partnership and collaboration with school boards and schools.” The plan is for protocols and guidelines to be released throughout January and February.
3. Legalization of Recreational Cannabis – The Ministry of Education shared an update on the process to legalize cannabis and the impact on schools. The presentation concluded with an outline of the ministry’s next steps and a commitment to examine more closely both the employer and educator roles relating to the use of cannabis (medical and recreational) on school property.
4. Student Well-Being – What We Heard – The Ministry of Education shared an update on the ministry’s engagements regarding student well-being. The presentation addressed how the ministry undertook its engagement process, what the participants said about understanding well-being, how school boards currently promote and support well-being and offered suggestions on how to

monitor progress. The ministry heard that achievement, equity and well-being must be closely interwoven in the development of the whole child in day-to-day interactions. More information can be found by visiting www.ontario.ca/studentwellbeing

5. Collaboration for the Improvement of Children's Oral Health – Dr. Ian Gemmill delivered a presentation on Promoting Oral Health in Schools. The presentation covered the value of good oral health, the consequences of poor oral health, ways in which families can promote good oral health and how schools can help in the promotion of children's good oral health. More information can be found by visiting www.ontario.ca/healthysmiles

6. School-Based Immunization in Ontario – Dr. Sarah Wilson from Public Health Ontario presented on the current school-based delivery of three publicly funded immunizations: Hepatitis B, Quadrivalent Meningococcal and Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccines. Trends on incidence rates, as well as coverage rates were shared. A future presentation on vaccine safety was requested for a future meeting. A good discussion on the challenges of obtaining parental consent took place. One CODE member shared the practice of having stickers made in multiple languages, that can be attached to important information sent home to parents whose first language may not be English or French (e.g., for immunization information). These stickers highlight that the documentation is important, and encourages parents to have the information explained to them.

7. Update on the Windsor-Essex Health Unit LDCP Pilot on child and youth surveillance data – Nicole Dupuis and Sophie Wenzel, Thunder Bay District Health Unit delivered a presentation to update CODE-COMOH on the follow-up to establish a provincial task force aimed at creating a coordinated provincial surveillance system for children and youth. A 2-year pilot is being planned and three additional board of education/local public health agency pairings are being sought. More information can be found by visiting www.YouthAssessmentLDCP@wechu.org

8. Student Transportation – The Ministry of Education presented an update on an engagement regarding the future of student transportation (beyond funding). March 28, 2018 is the closing date for the engagement period with a summary report expected by Fall 2018. More information can be found and submissions made online by visiting: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/consultation-new-vision-student-transportation>
Green Communities Canada has received a grant from the ministry to establish the Ontario Active School Travel Fund. The intent is that community-level stakeholders can apply for funding to support their local projects. Round One submissions are due by March 2018. There will be a second round in the Fall. A webinar has been scheduled for January 30th for those interested in better understanding the application process.