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May 1, 2024 • 50 tweets • adamadonaldson/status/1785728221671039017

Coming to you live, in-person at the Public Health office on Chancellors Way, it's this month's Board of Health meeting! Stand by for coverage, for now, here's the agenda:

MEETING PREVIEW: Board of Health Meeting for May 1, 2024
The first day of May falls on a Wednesday, and since the monthly Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Board of Health meeting is held on the first Wednesday of the month, we're getting this one done ea…

https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/04/29/meeting-preview-board-of-health-meeting-for-may…

Chair Bridge has called the meeting to order.

Disclosure(s) of Pecuniary Interest? None.

We begin with the MOH Update(s). Dr. Mercer says that she thought measles "was done" but there were 2 new cases in Halton, and they're still following. The situation can change quickly if it gets into a community w/o high levels immunity.

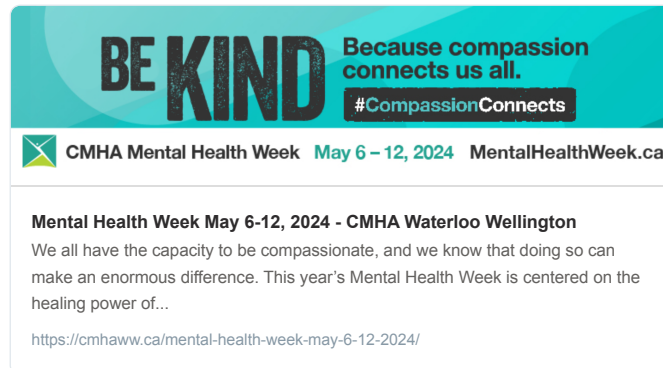Mercer plugs the parent info session on May 15 about cannabis and other drugs. The deets:

Join Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum for a virtual parent information session o…
Join us May 15 from 7-8 p.m. for an online information session where Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health's Associate Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Matthew Tenenbaum, will share valuable i…

https://wdgpublichealth.ca/news/join-dr-matthew-tenenbaum-virtual-parent-information…

Next week is Mental Health Week, and Mercer notes that we all know someone that's been affected. 1 in 5 will personally a mental health issue in their lifetime, so we will strive to keep that in mind next week. The topic: The Healing Power of Compassion.

CMHA has got some stuff planned.

BE KIND Because compassion connects us all. #CompassionConnects

CMHA Mental Health Week   May 6 – 12, 2024   MentalHealthWeek.ca

Mental Health Week May 6-12, 2024 - CMHA Waterloo Wellington
We all have the capacity to be compassionate, and we know that doing so can make an enormous difference. This year's Mental Health Week is centered on the healing power of...

https://cmhaww.ca/mental-health-week-may-6-12-2024/

One consent item, Health Protection 2024 First Quarter Performance Indicator Summary. Approved!

First Board Report: Data & Analytics Innovation in Public Health. Mercer says this is about how WDG is trying to be different in the public health space, especially around info collecting and data.

Julian Martalog, Manager of Data Analytics, and Dr. Justin Angevaare, Data Scientist, are presenting. Martalog says that they're trying to look at the way technology evolves and impacts their core work, transforming data to information to knowledge.

He says that it's not always about creating things from scratch but even just doing things in a new way. There are 5 initiatives in this plan that we're reviewing here today.

First, strengthening data governance. Martalog says they've made some good progress here, connect KPI's to info inventories and the dashboards you see on the PH website. Also, they're trying to move to shared data governance in the community, which is trickier.

Second, the notification of school immunisations. Angevaare says that the tool they previously used offered very little customisation, and they sent over 12k notifications thru the year, while reducing workload. Mercer says this was very revolutionary.

Third, open source initiatives. This includes the Wastewater-based epidemiology, Well water test data retrieval, and Vaccination history visualizer.

Four and five are based around the use of AI and the chatbot. This was driven by the high data needs that were seen during the pandemic, and now they're looking at expanding chatbot to go beyond current function, analysing convos to identify future PH concerns.

Cllr Caton asks if the chatbot is available in multiple languages. It seems like presently it's only available in English, but the next phase will be able to interact with an auto translate function.

Chatbot starting with 20 questions, but now it's up to 100. Much of the interactivity with the bot is after regular office hours, 60%, so it increases the availability of PH information to the

community.

What other orgs they sharing data with? Ontario Health Teams, school boards and hospitals and a few others.

Bridge says that he likes the idea of a chatbot because of the after hours access, may not get exact answer to Q but you may get close to an answer and find some piece of mind.

Mercer says she's excited to see if there's any impact on the Hep B or HPV vax rates, those are two that they sent new notices for but you can't be suspended from school if you don't have them.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, Special Event Digital Inspection Pilot. PH was using new mobile tech last year for the inspection of food vendors at special events. Used to use a clipboard and pen and they believed going digital would approve data collection. They were right!

One of the notes that the phones were too small for some of the inspectors, so they are stepping up to using a tablet. It's now SOP at Public Health.

Time saving? Paul Medeiros, Manager of Environmental Health, says there haven't been that much in the actual workload, but the big improvement is getting data in real time, and they have better data through which to analyse. Also, # of special events is going up in the region.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, Corporate Communications Annual Report 2023. Chuck Ferguson, Communications Manager, will speak to this one.

Ferguson says he's been here 10 years, and there's always a lot of interesting things to communicate. He says the story of 2023 is that we weren't in a pandemic so could they hold on to the audience? Turns out they could.

Pandemic comms survey. It was sent to about 50 different partners, including members of the media, and 96 per cent noted that pandemic comms at PH were good.

In 2023, WDGPH was mentioned nearly 500 times, and Ferguson credits that to a proactive media strategy. Pre-pandemic, mentioned were less than half. The number of social media posts was done, but engagement rates were still high, and better than Public Health Canada itself.
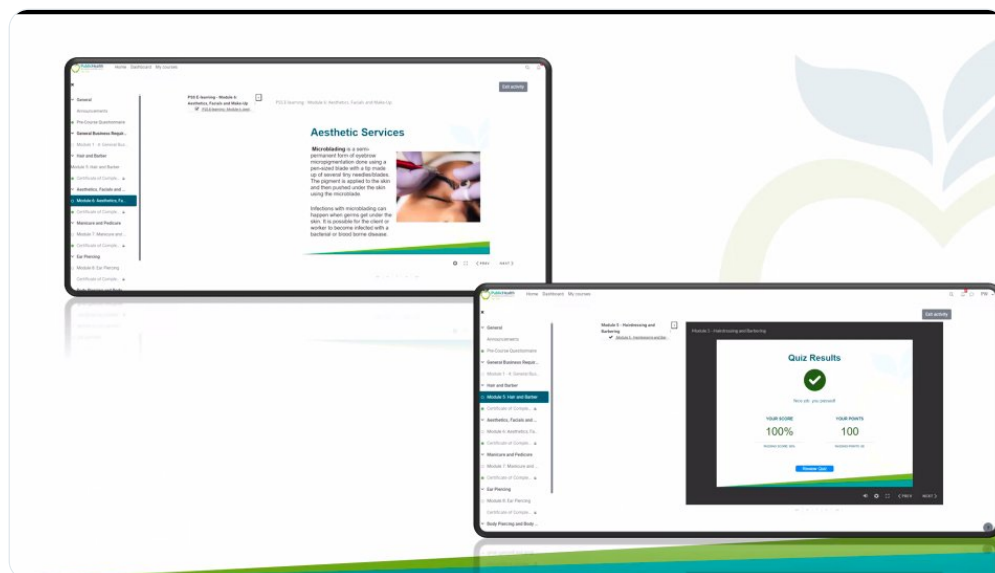
39k people last year looked at outbreak bulletins. 37k to the COVID/RSV fall announcements, 33k for the confirmed case dashboard. Plus, lots of interest in pages about weed and drugs.

Motion to receive the report approved.

Next, Empowering Health for All: Launching an e-Learning Environment. Phil Wong, Operations Director for Health Protection will present.

This has been a couple of months in the making. The learning platform will be mobile friendly. You will be able to access it at . The goal is to increase access to the training and workshops PH offers. And it's free!learn.wdgpublichealth.ca

First two courses are designed for operators of recreational pools and spas, and operators of personal service settings like nail salons, hairdressers and tattoo parlours.

There are quizzes embedded throughout the courses, and you get a certificate of competition at the end. PH will be tracking the results to see if the ease of action in this training will result in a reduction of infractions.

Next steps:
-Operator needs survey
-Promotion
-Developing new modules.

Cllr Goller wonders what the next modules might be, food safety? Wong says they do have some online course for that already, but they are working on a a diversion course for vaping and smoking. Sky's the limit though.

Motion to receive the report for info approved.

Next, STI Trends Reported in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph: 2023. Mercer says communicable diseases is a big part of what PH does, whether they're STIs or other.

Rita Isley, chief nursing officer, notes that this focuses on four STIs in particular. The good news is that gonorrhea and infectious syphilis rates went down in 2023 when compared to 2022, but rates of chlamydia and latent syphilis increased, as they have every year since 2021.

These are pretty much inline with the provincial averages. Not a lot of changes in incidents of HIV/AIDS, and as for Mpox there were no new infections last year versus the 6 there were in 2022. Isley says that might be due to vax promotion.

Isley notes that public health offers access to drugs to treat STIs as well as compassionate access to contraception. She notes that this all about disease prevention and she hopes that 2024 will provide a more fulsome picture of what the community needs.

Motion to receive the report for info approved!

Next, Finance + Audit Committee (Verbal) Report. Mayor White takes over as the chair of that committee.

Recommendations

1. That the Finance + Audit Committee makes recommendation to the Board of Health to receive and approve the 2023 Draft Audited Financial Statements, as presented in "Appendix 1", for information.

That motion is approved.

Compliance report, this is something that hs to be passed annually.
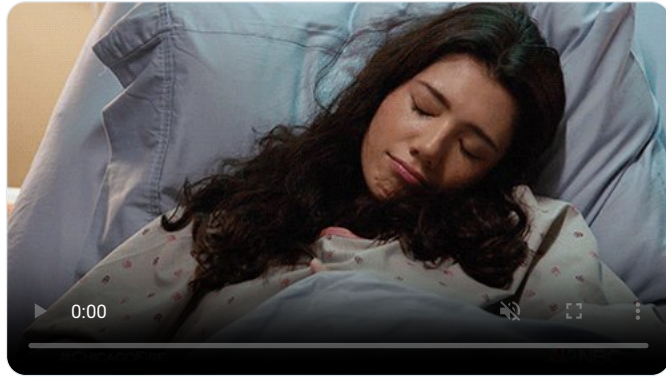
Recommendations

1. That the Finance + Audit Committee makes recommendation to the Board of Health to receive this report, as presented, for information.

Background

That motion is approved too.

That brings us to an an end of the open session. BoH will now move into closed so the Finance + Audit Committee and the Medical Officer of Health will present additional reports, both of which involve "personal matters about an identifiable individual."

That's a wrap!

@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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