

MIDDLESEX-LONDON BOARD OF HEALTH

REPORT NO. 42-24

TO: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

FROM: Emily Williams, Chief Executive Officer
Dr. Alexander Summers, Medical Officer of Health

DATE: 2024 June 20

2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND ATTESTATION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Health:

- 1) Receive Report No. 42-24 re: "2023 Annual Report and Attestation" for information; and
 - 2) Approve the Middlesex-London Health Unit 2023 Annual Report and Attestation.
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Report Highlights

- The Ontario Ministry of Health requires public health units to submit an Annual Report and Attestation.
- The report provides a year-end summary of the achievements of all programs governed under the Accountability Agreement. It includes a narrative on the delivery of programs; fiduciary requirements; good governance and management; public health practice and a Board of Health attestation.
- Insufficient resources, as well as continued recovery from COVID-19, prevented the MLHU from fully operationalizing and meeting all the program and service delivery requirements of the OPHS in 2023. The agency did fulfil its fiduciary, good governance and management, and public health practice requirements.
- [Appendix A](#) includes the 2023 Annual Report and Attestation that is due to the Ministry of Health on June 28, 2024.

Background

The Annual Report and Attestation is a funding and accountability reporting tool that Boards of Health are required to submit as per the Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services, and Accountability, and the Public Health Funding and Accountability Agreement. This report is required annually and is due to the Ministry by June 28, 2024.

The 2023 Annual Report and Attestation was completed by the MLHU leaders to demonstrate compliance with programmatic and financial requirements during 2023. Key activities and program achievements for 2023 are summarized for Foundational Standards and Program Standards in the narrative tabs. Activities and outcomes achieved are also described for one-

time projects funded by the ministry for the periods of January 1 to December 31, 2023, as well as April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Reporting on program process and outcome indicators are no longer required to be reported on the Annual Report and Attestation. These indicators have been integrated into the Q3 and Q4 Standard Activity Reports (SAR).

2023 Annual Report and Attestation

Insufficient resources, as well as continued recovery from COVID-19, prevented the MLHU from fully operationalizing and meeting all the requirements of the OPHS in 2023. Specifically, with regards to the delivery of public health programs and services, resources were insufficient to comprehensively fulfill the following:

- Undertaking fulsome population health assessment, including the identification of priority populations, social determinants of health and health inequities
- Collecting and analysis of relevant data to monitor trends over time, emerging trends, priorities, and health inequities, and report and disseminate the data and information
- Having a strategic plan that included input from staff, clients, and community partners
- Developing and implementing a program of public health interventions in accordance with the Chronic Disease Prevention and Well-Being Program Standard
- Developing and implementing a program of public health interventions that promoted healthy built and natural environments in accordance with the Healthy Environments Program Standard
- Developing and implementing a program of public health interventions in accordance with the Healthy Growth and Development Program Standard
- Developing and implementing a program of public health interventions in accordance with the School Health Program Standard
- Developing and implementing a program of public health interventions in accordance with the Substance Use and Harm Reduction Guideline
- Developing and implementing a program of public health interventions in accordance with the Injury Prevention Guideline

The agency did fulfil its fiduciary, good governance and management, and public health practice requirements. The financial information is aligned with the 2023 audited results. Expenditures related specifically to COVID-19 amounted to \$6.2 million. The “base funding” shows a surplus of \$665,404 which was the result of underspending in Seniors Dental – all other shared funded programs balanced to zero with no surplus and no deficit. One-time funding was utilized throughout the year with the report showing a carry-over for the capital expansion of Seniors Dental at Citi Plaza.

Summary and Next Steps

The MLHU’s inability to comprehensively fulfill the program and service delivery requirements of the OPHS reflects insufficient resources. This ongoing challenging was the primary driver of the organizational re-structuring at the end of 2023. The MLHU will continue to prioritize work based on need and impact, and modify services to reflect any future changes to the OPHS once they are known. The agency will also continue implementation of a robust Management Operating System to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

Upon approval from the Board of Health, the 2023 Annual Report and Attestation ([Appendix A](#)) will be submitted to the Ministry of Health by the deadline of June 28, 2024.

This report was prepared from a collaboration of the Strategy, Planning & Performance and Finance teams.



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Chief Executive Officer



Alexander Summers, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

This report refers to the following principle(s) set out in Policy G-490, Appendix A:

- The Organizational Requirements as outlined in the [Ontario Public Health Standards: Requirements for Programs, Services and Accountability](#).
- The following goal or direction from the [Middlesex-London Health Unit's Strategic Plan](#):
 - Define what we do and do it well (Direction under the Program Excellence Priority area)

This topic has been reviewed to be in alignment with goals under the Middlesex-London Health Unit's [Anti-Black Racism Plan](#) and [Taking Action for Reconciliation](#), specifically the Foundational Standards section in the Annual Report and Attestation describes activities to coordinate the implementation of both plans.