

Planning Committee for Toronto Cancer Prevention Task Force

Minutes of Meeting - June 3, 1997

Minutes developed from notes taken at the meeting held at the Centre for Health Promotion, 100 College Street, Suite 207, Toronto.

Present: Paul Fleiszer, Valerie Hepburn, Brian Hyndman, Maria Lee, Sarah Miller, Irv Rootman.

Regrets: Dianne Finkle, Jeanne Jabanoski, Jack Laidlaw.

Purpose of Committee - The Planning Committee has been formed to organize a one-day forum on cancer prevention issues in metro Toronto. The objectives of this event are to:

- provide a venue for key stakeholders (inc. representatives of health, labour and environmental organizations) to discuss cancer prevention issues, using the 81 recommendations of the **Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer** as a point of reference;
- identify and discuss cancer prevention priorities in metro Toronto;
- identify and discuss key cancer prevention initiatives in metro Toronto;
- explore the possibility of establishing a Toronto-wide Task Force on Cancer Prevention in accordance with the Toronto Board of Health's directive (see attached).

Purpose of Task Force - The purpose of the Cancer Prevention Task Force is to promote the primary prevention of cancer within metro Toronto by fostering action on the recommendations outlined in the report of the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer. The work of the Task Force could include developing new cancer prevention initiatives, coordinating existing efforts, monitoring and communicating progress on cancer prevention to the public and advocating for public policies supportive of cancer prevention.

The membership of the Task Force will be intersectoral: potential members would include City of Toronto staff, representatives from labour, cancer, health and environmental organizations, other metro Toronto health units, university representatives and community-based cancer prevention advocates. Once established, the mission, process, purpose and terms of reference of the Task Force will be finalized by its members.

Resource Requirements for Task Force - The City of Toronto is contributing the following resources to support the establishment of the Task Force:

- One full-time City of Toronto staff person for six months to support the establishment of the Task Force and coordinate its activities. This position will be filled through the temporary assignment of a qualified displaced employee funded through the corporate streamlining pool;
- A budget of \$5,000 to support the planning and delivery of the one-day forum on cancer prevention.

Complementary Cancer Prevention Initiatives - The Committee discussed existing cancer prevention efforts in metro Toronto. Paul described the Scarborough Board of Health's response to the recommendations of the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer. In the fall of 1995, Tony Miller, the Chair of the Task Force, gave a presentation on the Task Force report to the Scarborough Board of Health. Following this event, the Scarborough Board of Health and Scarborough City Council endorsed the establishment of a network to implement the recommendations of the Task Force report. To establish the broad base of support needed to act on the recommendations, the Scarborough Health Department is reaching out to potential partners, including heart health networks.

Irv provided an overview of the Cancer Prevention Interest Group established by the Centre for Health Promotion. The group is comprised of a mix of cancer prevention advocates and representatives from health units, universities and environmental groups. To date, the work of the interest group has focused on educational and advocacy efforts addressing the impact of environmental carcinogens. The need to focus on cancer and the environment was identified as a key priority, given the lack of action in implementing the environmental recommendations of the Task Force.

Date, Time and Location for Forum - October 17th was identified as a potential date for the one-day forum on cancer prevention. The meeting will start in the morning (9-9:30 a.m.) and end mid-afternoon (3-4 p.m.). Alumni Hall, Victoria College, U of T, and Croft Chapter House, University College, U of T, were identified as possible locations for the forum. Brian will check on the availability of these venues.

Possible Speakers for Forum - The Committee felt that a cross-section of representatives from key sectors (e.g., health, environment) should be invited to the forum to discuss the current status of cancer prevention efforts and stimulate dialogue. The following individuals were mentioned as possible speakers:

- Ruth Grier, Visiting Environmentalist at Innis College and the former Minister of Health who initiated the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer;

Possible Speakers for Forum (Continued)

- Tony Miller, Cancer Epidemiologist and Chair of the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer;
- Graham Pollet, a former Task Force member and Medical Officer of Health for London-Middlesex, who has established a process for acting on the Task Force recommendations within his health unit;
- Richard Schabas, the Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario and former Task Force member who was given responsibility for acting on the Task Force recommendations within the public health sector;
- a representative from the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation (Jack Laidlaw or Charles Hollenberg);
- a representative from the Canadian Cancer Society (Penny Thomson or Dianne Finkle),
- Irv Rootman, a former Task Force member who could provide an overview of the Cancer Prevention Interest Group at the Centre for Health Promotion;
- a representative from the Toronto Environmental Alliance;
- a representative from the Breast Cancer Survivors Coalition (Karen DeKonig);
- a representative from the International Joint Commission on Great Lakes Water Quality (Rosalie Bertell);
- Simon Sutcliffe, the former VP of Oncology at Princess Margaret Hospital (Valerie to contact);
- Mary Hegan or Andy Gilman from the Great Lakes Health Effects Project;
- Maxine Cole or Kate Davies, who are involved in the First Nations Great Lakes Health Project;
- the federal and/or Ontario Ministers of Health and Environment;
- the parliamentary assistants of the Ontario Ministers of Health, Agriculture and Environment and Energy, who recently met with representatives of the Cancer Prevention Interest Group.

Forum Participants

The Committee felt that the forum should include representatives from each of sectors involved in addressing the risk factors covered in the report of the Ontario Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer (i.e., tobacco, diet, occupational and environmental carcinogens, etc.). In particular, individuals from the following sectors should be invited to take part in the forum.

- cancer prevention activists and concerned citizens;
- public health units in metro Toronto;
- community health centres in metro Toronto;
- the Canadian Cancer Society and the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation;
- the National Cancer Institute of Canada;
- organized labour/occupational health and safety;
- environmental research and advocacy groups.

The Committee anticipates that the forum will attract between 50-60 participants. In addition to invited representatives, the forum will be open to interested members of the public to the extent that space permits.

Additional Planning Committee Participants - The need for Committee participants from additional health units in metro Toronto was identified. Brian will contact Monica Campbell, an environmental researcher at the North York Health Unit, re. her interest and availability.

Next Steps - A draft agenda for the forum will be developed at the next meeting of the Committee.

NEXT MEETING DATE
WEDNESDAY JULY 2, 4:00 p.m.
CENTRE FOR HEALTH PROMOTION
100 COLLEGE STREET, SUITE 207, TORONTO.
(east of College and University Ave., north side, near Queen's Park subway)

RE: 1(x)

CITY OF TORONTO
PUBLIC HEALTH

March 13, 1997

To: Executive Committee

Subject: Cost of Implementation of the Cancer Prevention Strategy

Origin: Board of Health, September 6, 1997 (p:\1997\ug\cms\hld\ex970026.hld)

Recommendation:

That this report be received for information.

Background:

At its meeting of September 6, 1996, the Board of Health requested that the Medical Officer of Health report on the terms of reference, membership and resources necessary to implement a Cancer Prevention Task Force. Work on this request is in progress. Subsequently, at its meeting on March 4, 1997, the Board of Health gave consideration to the report entitled 1997 Operating Estimates, Public Health and Board of Health. The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to report directly to City Council on the cost of implementation of the cancer prevention strategy. This report anticipates the full report requested by the Board of Health in September 1996 and outlines resource needs for the development of this cancer prevention initiative in 1997.

Comments:

The Board of Health has taken considerable interest in the March 1995 report Recommendations for the Primary Prevention of Cancer produced by the provincial Task Force on the Primary Prevention of Cancer appointed by the Ontario Minister of Health. The purpose of the provincial Task Force was to prepare an action plan for cancer prevention and establish targets to reduce specific types of cancer.

On May 25, 1995, the Board of Health received a policy/contextual scan of all 81 recommendations of the Task Force Report. The scan included a description of what the Department of Public Health was currently doing and suggested additional municipal initiatives. An updated report on the same subject was presented to the Board on May 30, 1996. In relation to the Task Force recommendations, Public Health has made considerable inroads in tobacco use prevention, reduction of dietary risk factors and alcohol use, and physical activity promotion. Other agencies in the government and non-governmental sectors also engage in a variety of activities related to cancer prevention. However, there is no mechanism at the local or provincial level to plan, develop, coordinate or evaluate cancer prevention activities. Furthermore, the provincial government has taken little action to implement the recommendations of its own Task Force.

In this context, the Board of Health requested Public Health to report on the development of a local Cancer Prevention Task Force.

Cancer Prevention Task Force

Public Health staff have consulted with the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation, Ministry of Health, cancer organizations and advocates, and some voluntary funding agencies with respect to

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establishing a Cancer Prevention Task Force to promote primary cancer prevention. Most of the responses have been positive. From these preliminary discussions, the groups consulted were in favour of an independent community body with all members committed to a shared purpose of primary cancer prevention and contributing resources to this end.

The work of the Task Force could include development of new cancer prevention initiatives, coordination of existing efforts, monitoring and communicating to the public progress on cancer prevention and advocating for public policy supportive of cancer prevention.

The next step is to bring together agencies and individuals with the interest and ability to achieve the Task Force's purpose. Potential members would include City staff, representatives from labour, cancer, health and environmental organizations, other metro Toronto health units, university representatives and community cancer advocates. Once assembled, the mission, process, purpose, and terms of reference of the Task Force will be finalized by the participants.

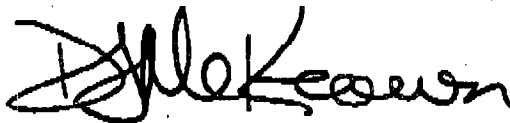
Resource Requirements

Public Health will require additional staff and other resources during the developmental phase to establish the Task Force. It is anticipated that when it is established, members of the Task Force will contribute resources, cash and/or in kind to support the ongoing work of the Task Force. In addition, the Task Force may seek external funding to continue its operation.

Anticipated developmental resource requirements in 1997 are as follows:

1. One full-time staff person for six months to support existing public health staff in working with relevant organizations and individuals to establish the Cancer Prevention Task Force. This could be accomplished through temporary assignment of an appropriately qualified displaced employee funded through the corporate streamlining pool.
2. The addition of \$5,000 to Public Health account #734-954 to support a one-day Cancer Prevention Planning Forum to bring together interested parties to plan cancer prevention strategies for Toronto including the establishment of the Cancer Prevention Task Force.

The allocation of these resources would enable the establishment of this important cancer prevention initiative in 1997.



David McKeown, MDCM, MHSc, FRCPC
Medical Officer of Health

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City of Toronto Board of Health Report No. 11
For City Council Consideration at Meeting No. 17 on September 16, 1996

Thank you for your letter regarding the City of Toronto's nomination for membership on the Metro District Health Council (MTDHC). The Ministry is committed to the continued participation of its representatives on the MTDHC.

The overall membership of District Health Councils (DHCs) is composed of 40% health service providers, 40% consumers of health services (i.e. non-health service providers) and 20% local government representatives (either municipal, district or regional government).

The twenty per cent of DHC membership that is designated for municipal members is an opportunity for collaboration between the municipalities, community members, and the provincial government, to plan the health services of the community.

As my advisors on the health needs of their communities, it is important for me to have a choice of candidates for an appointment to the MTDHC.

I continue to welcome the nomination of other candidates for membership on the MTDHC to represent the City of Toronto.

Please accept my best wishes.

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Task Force on Cancer Prevention

The Board of Health recommends that the Acting Medical Officer of Health and the Board of Management establish a parallel city staff team to work with the Task Force on Cancer Prevention established by the Board of Health.

The Board of Health advises that it has adopted the following motion from Councillor Leckie:

1. *That the Board of Health establish a Cancer Prevention Task Force.*
2. *That the basic purpose be to develop appropriate policies and programs for the City of Toronto.*
3. *That as a beginning step the Task Force establish a forum to review the state of implementation of the Provincial Primary Prevention Task Force.*
4. *That membership include both interested citizens, some health professionals as well as interested agencies and representation from the academic community.*
5. *That representation include the Environmental, Women's and Food citizens' movements;*
6. *That the Acting Medical Officer of Health report on the terms of reference membership and resources necessary for activation of the task force.*
7. *That in so doing he consult with the London Health Unit.*