

Board of Health Briefing Report

To: Chair and Members of the Board of Health

Date: January 27, 2021

Topic: **Community Safety and Wellbeing (CSWB) Planning: Public Health Involvement**

Submitted by: Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health/CEO

Prepared by: Kerry Schubert-Mackey, Director of Community Health

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Timiskaming Board of Health:

- **Receive “Community Safety and Well-Being: Public Health Involvement” for information;**

Overview

On January 1, 2019, amendments to the Police Services Act (PSA) came into force which mandate every municipality in Ontario to prepare and adopt a community safety and well-being (CSWB) plan, working in partnership with police services/boards and various other sectors, including health/mental health, education, community/social services, and children/youth services. The CSWB’s stated goal is to achieve sustainable communities where everyone is safe, has a sense of belonging, opportunities to participate, and where individuals and families are able to meet their needs for education, health care, food, housing, income, and social and cultural expression.

Municipalities originally had two years from the in-force date to prepare and adopt their first CSWB plan (i.e., by January 1, 2021).

In January 2020, a [Board of Health Briefing Note](#) outlined how Community Safety and Wellbeing Plan objectives aligned with public health. The Briefing Note also conveyed that Timiskaming Health Unit is ideally positioned to actively support and/or participate in the development and implementation of CSWB(s) in Timiskaming. In early 2020, the District of Timiskaming Social Services Administration Board (DTSSAB) was approached to assume a lead role in developing a Community Safety and Well-Being Plan for municipalities in the District of Timiskaming. The January 2020 Briefing Note shared that THU senior management reached out to the DTSSAB CAO to indicate interest and readiness to actively participate and support.

With the unprecedented challenges for communities related to the COVID-19 pandemic and in an effort to support municipal, policing and community partners during the emergency, on April 14, 2020, the government passed the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Support and Protection Act, 2020, which amended the PSA to allow the Solicitor General to prescribe a new deadline for the completion and adoption of CSWB plans. The new deadline for municipalities to prepare and adopt a CSWB plan was recently set to July 1, 2021.

Local Action

With the recent information regarding the new CSWB plan deadline the DTSSAB CAO, has connected with THU regarding potential next steps. THU has reaffirmed commitment to actively support and participate in the development of a local CSWB plan. Early work underway lead by THU to explore the feasibility of developing a comprehensive community drug strategy will align with a CSWB plan.