

**Draft Minutes**  
**Council of Medical Officers of Health**  
**Maintenance of Certification Committee Teleconference**  
**Tuesday July 8 2008**  
**10:30 AM to 12:00 AM**

**Present:** Fran Scott (Chair); Gordon Fleming (alPHa Staff / Recorder); Kathleen Dooling; Julie Emili; Chuck Gardner; Monika Turner

**Regrets:** Allison Chris; Vera Etches; John Hoey; Isra Levy; Megan Ward; Erica Weir

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**1.1 Appointment of minute taker**

G. Fleming agreed to act as recorder.

**1.2 Approval of the Agenda**

Agenda approved as circulated.

**2. Approval of Draft Minutes March 20, 2008**

Approved

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**3.1 *Maincert Accreditation Agreements***

F. Scott reported that two events (March 2008 Ministry Day and June 2008 alPHa AGM) have been accredited through U of T,. She indicated that UoT was not an easy process either, with a number of .questions UoT expects clear needs assessments

The issuing of Certificates following completion was much faster and much appreciated by participants.

F. Scott indicated that she and Linda Stewart are planning to meet again with U of T to assess its willingness to accredit the October 2008 alPHa-OPHA Public Health Summit, and that the accreditation for the October COMOHO Retreat is being taken care of by the facilitators (PMI).

J. Emili indicated that McMaster remains willing to support the accreditation process and that she's willing to facilitate this if there is a desire to return. Acknowledging that cost (charging fees for all participants, not just those seeking credit) was the primary reason for exploring other options, she indicated that once McMaster was familiar with the

process, they were quick. F. Scott agreed, but added that the issuing of credit certificates following events was not preferred.

F. Scott agreed that she will work with Linda Stewart to explore the best options for cost, timing, and workload for accreditation, to include McMaster, U of T, Queen's, Western and others as appropriate (M. Turner suggested that the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion might be a possibility for accreditation services in the future). K. Dooling suggested that an updated "pros and cons" spreadsheet should be circulated among Committee members prior to the next teleconference, and F. Scott agreed to update the one that she has.

M. Turner stated that the draft agreement for Ministry funding for this process is currently under the approvals process and based on the U of T costing model.

### ***3.2 Funding for Residents***

M. Turner reported that this is also part of the draft agreement with alPHa, which includes funding up to \$50K for accreditation and CMR participation in alPHa and Ministry-sponsored public health events. She indicated that she was able to distinguish this from general requests for conference funding to secure approval, and stated that it will be a year-to-year arrangement.

F. Scott suggested that the best evidence that the money is well spent is CMR attendance, which C. Gardner estimated was at least twice what it was prior to the arrangement. K. Dooling thanked Monika for facilitating this, assuring that the opportunity is of enormous value to CMRs, and would almost certainly improve recruitment and retention down the line.

### ***3.3 alPHa AGM Evaluation***

A previously-circulated summary of evaluations from the June 2008 alPHa AGM was referred to, and overall comments were very positive. Though 49 evaluations were received (approximately 40% of participants), only 6 were filled in by A/MOHs.

Discussion followed about how to improve this, including suggestions about making evaluations a requirement for securing professional credit for such events. It was agreed that this is essential to ongoing planning, though the challenges presented by the fact that most participants in alPHa conferences are not doing so for credit, and the planning committees focus on requirements beyond accreditation.

C. Gardner suggested that the MainCert Committee should consider contacting the planners for the October Public Health Summit as a means to ensure that accreditation issues are worked out early in the process and to make any other contributions that might be valuable. He added that the Committee could consider a more conscious coordination

of current and emerging themes, and ensure that evaluations invite suggestions for topics for future events are also an important part of the long-term plan.

F. Scott agreed to connect with Linda Stewart and J. Emili agreed to connect with Andrea Feller (AMOH, Niagara) to ensure that accreditation is included in the planning discussions for the October Summit.

### ***3.4 MOH – PHD face-to-face meetings 2008/2009***

M. Turner indicated that she will be following up on this with Linda Stewart. She stated that although “piggybacking” reduces costs, there was not much desire to connect such a meeting with the October Summit. Preliminary thought has been given to a stand-alone gathering for a rollout of the new Ontario Public Health Standards, to include PHU senior management.

C Gardner indicated that incoming Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion CEO Vivek Goel is interested in connecting with COMOHO for strategic planning, and suggested that MainCert should be part of that. He has provided the workplan to Dr. Goel, but has not heard back. He also indicated that he would put this on the list for the alpha plan for the next year.

### ***3.5 alpha/OPHA joint meeting October 2008***

See item 3.3 above.

### ***3.6 Public Health Physician Renewal – COMOHO Retreat***

C. Gardner indicated that the registration notices have been sent out, and F. Scott reported that she is having ongoing conversations with Megan Ward about format, content and participation.

The issue of participation beyond COMOHO was raised, with C. Gardner indicating that a discussion of who is invited to participate in the retreat occurred during the last COMOHO general meeting, with additional consultation through the list without a firm and final decision.

Both perspectives were expressed about limiting participation to COMOHO members only or extending invitations to public health physicians working at the Ministry. M. Turner pointed out that the Ministry funding for the event implied Ministry participation, especially as it is framed under a Public Health Physician Renewal strategy, and as the idea originated in MainCert, which includes Ministry, Academic and CMR representation.

F. Scott suggested that the COMOH Executive is the appropriate body to decide this question, and that M. Turner, Lynn Noseworthy (COMOH Chair) and Megan Ward should have a discussion in context of the above in order to make a decision. Fran agreed to contact Megan following this meeting

### ***3.7 Further opportunities for COMOH – APHEO collaboration***

F. Scott gave a brief history of this, indicating that this is a standing item because there is significant common ground for the two groups to discuss topics of mutual interest. M. Turner added that there is a great deal of current interest in surveillance and monitoring in public health in general, so this will be important to explore.

### ***3.8 Journal Club follow-up***

J. Emili indicated that this CWMOH Journal Club is working quite well, and is happy to continue providing materials and will remind group of intention to continue this into the future.

## **4. Education Needs and Opportunities Planning for 2009**

Committee members were encouraged to review the MainCert Work Plan and submit ideas for further educational opportunities.

[http://www.alphaweb.org/files/MainCert\\_Work\\_Plan\\_June\\_22\\_2007.pdf](http://www.alphaweb.org/files/MainCert_Work_Plan_June_22_2007.pdf)

F. Scott will update the plan for next meeting in September, to include completed activities for 08 and planning for 09.

## **5. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 11:51. Next meeting TBA, likely in September.