Standards Modernization Executive Steering Committee July 2016 Highlights #3

The Executive Steering Committee for the Standards Modernization (the "ESC") continues the review of the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) with a goal to strengthen and enhance accountability and transparency within the public health system.

The ESC has met six times from December 2015 to June 2016. ESC discussions have focused on opportunities related to system integration, new and emerging issues of public health importance, approaches to revise the OPHS to ensure greater emphasis on population health assessment to inform planning of programs and services, the scope of the OPHS, and opportunities for flexibility within the OPHS to address local needs.

On June 13, 2016, ESC members had the opportunity to hear from Dr. Cory Neudorf, Chief Medical Health Officer, Saskatoon Health Region, who shared his experiences and successes in addressing health disparity in Saskatoon. ESC members were very engaged in the discussion which focused on the role that public health plays in influencing decisions and program planning in an integrated system through measurement, sharing information and data, partnerships, and collaboration.

At its last meeting on June 27, 2016, the ESC was provided with an update on the ongoing discussions with Indigenous Organizations to identify opportunities to address Indigenous Communities' needs in the OPHS. ESC members also provided input and suggestions on where further work could be undertaken in revising the Principles of the OPHS, as well as potential opportunities for culturally appropriate requirements. The ESC also discussed the mandate of the Organizational Governance Committee, which has been re-named the Accountability Committee, and was provided with a high level summary of its work to date. The afternoon focused on a detailed discussion on incorporating a greater focus on equity, taking into consideration the presentation from Dr. Cory Neudorf. ESC also reviewed decisions to date to identify outstanding issues and future discussion items.

Future meetings will focus on discussing recommendations on changes to the Standards from the Practice and Evidence Program Standards Advisory Committee (PEPSAC), value-for-money, and transparency.

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