



Hôpital général de Nipissing Ouest

West Nipissing General Hospital

725, chemin Coursol Road, Sturgeon Falls, ON P2B 2Y6  
TEL: (705) 753-3110 • FAX: (705) 753-0210

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 18:30 p.m. (Zoom)

- MINUTES -

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Present:

Janet Parsons  
Jamie Restoule  
Cynthia Desormiers\*  
Arlene Lesenke\*  
Fern Crepeau  
Leo Malette  
Neil Fox  
Renée Ragnitz  
Linda Lacroix  
Dr. Ben Lalonde  
Daniel Richard  
Chris Wielusiewicz

Regrets:

Julie St. Jacques  
Dr. Klère Bourgault  
Dr. Yves Vaillancourt  
Eric Stevens

Daniel St. Georges, guest\*

### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 18:37 hours.

A warm welcome was extended to new board member, Chris Wielusiewicz. Janet Parsons led the group through a round table of introductions.

### 2. Education Session – Plant Maintenance

Danny Putman provided the group with a detailed overview of completed and ongoing plant maintenance projects between 2015 and 2021.

### 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest / Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No conflicts of interest or pecuniary interest were declared.

### 4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by Daniel Richard and seconded by Chris Wielusiewicz

«THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, INCLUDING MINUTES, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED,

**WITH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

- .1 PRESIDENT & CEO NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2021
- .2 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 8, 2021
- .3 FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING – OCTOBER 26, 2021
- .4 HEALTH CARE QUALITY MINUTES – October 18, 2021
- .5 ETHICS COMMITTEE MINUTES **-NONE-**
- .6 ALLIANCE CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES – JUNE 1, 2021
- .7 WNGH FOUNDATION BOARD MINUTES – OCTOBER 19, 2021
- .8 BOARD MEETING EVALUATION RESULTS – NOVEMBER8, 2021. »

Carried M-21-132



## 5. Approval of Regular Agenda

Moved by Linda Lacroix and seconded by Jamie Restoule

«THAT REGULAR AGENDA FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-132**

## 6. Regular Agenda

### .1 President & CEO Update

Cynthia Desormiers provided the group with an overview of ongoing hospital business.

She discussed the number of employees who have been placed on unpaid leave as a result of not being fully vaccinated, it was noted that some are in process of being vaccinated and will be back on the schedule before Christmas. It was noted that CBC is writing an article about the number of hospitals in northeastern Ontario that have policies requiring workers to disclose their vaccination status. The North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit held an urgent meeting on Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup> regarding the omicron variant of concern. We are currently reporting an average of 1,600 COVID-19 cases per day, and it is estimated that we will reach 7,000 cases by January. Travel restrictions have been implemented for travellers from South Africa. Preliminary data is showing that the new variant is highly transmissible, but individuals are presenting with mild symptoms or are asymptomatic.

Cynthia Desormiers noted that we have signed an MOU with Near North District School Board to engage in the delivery of a personal support worker (PSW) training and certification program onsite at WNGH.

It was noted that we have received funding to complete the sprinkler project. This project is mandated to be completed by 2025 for our LTC unit.

Cynthia Desormiers noted that the OHA held a meeting with the Small, Rural Hospitals committee to discuss healthcare issues, including ALC pressures and ongoing health human resources. It was noted that OHA feels as though these issues aren't being recognized by our current government. As a result, they will increase their lobbying on behalf of hospitals before the next election.

### .2 Chief of Staff Report

Dr. Ben Lalonde informed the group that we continue to have scheduling issues as a result of not having enough medical staff. It was noted that holiday coverage has been difficult to secure. However, these issues are being felt across the healthcare sector.

Dr. Ben Lalonde announced that a local physician is closing their practice in March 2022, letters have been sent to their patients to confirm the closure. As a result, we will look to work with the FHT to recruit new physicians to the community.



We are currently recruiting a new Lab Director. Interviews are underway, and a candidate will be chosen shortly.

.3 Credentials Committee Minutes – October 21, 2021

Moved by Fern Crepeau and seconded by Leo Malette

«THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 21, 2021 CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETINGS BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-133**

.4 Medical Advisory Committee Minutes – October 21, 2021

Moved by Neil Fox and seconded by Renée Ragnitz

«THAT THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 21, 2021 MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-134**

.5 Medical Advisory Committee Recommendations – November 18, 2021

Moved by Chris Wielusiewicz and seconded by Daniel Richard

«THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS ARISING FROM THE MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-133**

.6 COVID-19 Update

Cynthia Desormiers noted that the Assessment Centre is currently being overwhelmed, and as a result, we will likely stop offering testing for travel.

A conversation occurred on the Omicron variant of concern. Dr. Ben Lalonde noted that there are different narratives being discussed about the variant. But preliminary data is showing that the virus may finally be down-mutating, the new variant appears to be highly transmissible, but less virulent, with cases presenting with mild symptoms or being asymptomatic. It is clear that COVID-19 is not going away anytime, and it now seems to be endemic.

.7 Accreditation Standards (3.0-6.9)

The group reviewed Governance Standards 3, 4, 5 and 6. Cynthia Desormiers highlighted ways we are currently meeting these standards, and any gaps that may need to be addressed prior to the on-site survey.

.8 Accreditation Postponement

Cynthia Desormiers informed members that we requested a postponement of our accreditation survey, which was originally scheduled for October 2022. A letter from the Accreditation Decision Committee was included in members' packages for review. It was noted that the postponement of the survey will be permitted. During this time WNGH will remain an accredited client. Cynthia Desormiers noted that our accreditation is tied to additional funding for our LTC beds.

.9 Board of Directors Goals & Objectives Update

Cynthia Desormiers provided an update on the Board of Directors' Goals and Objectives.



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.10 Meditech Expanse MA & MSA

A briefing note from Cynthia Desormiers was included in members' packages to detail the ongoing progress with Meditech Expanse and the Membership Agreement and Master Services Agreement. Daniel St. Georges provided the group with an analysis of capital and operating costs associated with the Meditech Expanse Total Cost of Ownership.

Moved by Neil Fox and seconded by Leo Malette

«WHEREAS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS APPROVED THE MOU BETWEEN WNGH AND ONE AND THE AGREEMENTS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT NEWCO SHARED SERVICES ORGANIZATION APRIL 1, 2021; AND

WHEREAS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS COMMITTED TO MOVING AHEAD WITH A REGIONAL ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD; AND

WHEREAS THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HAVE REVIEWED THE TOTAL COST OF OWNERSHIP (TCO);

LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUTHORIZES THE DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER TO APPROVE AND SIGN OFF ON THE MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT AND MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT BY DECEMBER 24, 2021 OR REQUIRED DEADLINE. »

**Carrie M-21-134**

.11 OHT Hub Model

A briefing noted from Cynthia Desormiers was included in members' packages regarding the proposal to create regional health hubs within the Nipissing Wellness OHT. This would result in our local hub being clinically and fiscally responsible for the patients in our community, putting decision making back to the local level. There would be clinical and fiscal accountability within the networks and eventually, the OHT will need to have a decision making framework on how to distribute money within the hubs.

Moved by Leo Malette and seconded by Linda Lacroix

«THE WEST NIPISSING GENERAL HOSPITAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS AGREES TO MOVE FORWARD WITH THE PLANNING OF INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY HUBS WITHIN THE OHT AS PROPOSED; AND

PRIOR TO SIGNING OFF ON AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY HUB MODEL, WNGH WILL REVIEW THE FINAL VERSION OF THE CLINICAL DECISION MAKING AGREEMENT. »

**Carried M-21-135**

.12 Notice of Hospital Accountability Planning Submission

A letter from Ontario Health North was included in members' packages for review advising that a Hospital Accountability Planning Submission will need to be submitted on or before January 31, 2022.

.13 Notice of Community Accountability Planning Submission

A letter from Ontario Health North was included in members' packages for review



advising that a Community Accountability Planning Submission will need to be submitted on or before January 31, 2022.

## 7. Policy Review

.1 Annual Director Declaration & Consent #730-61

Moved by Jamie Restoule and seconded by Neil Fox

«THAT THE ANNUAL DIRECTOR DECLARATION & CONSENT POLICY #730-61 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-136**

.2 Board Chair Selection #730-79

Moved by Renée Ragnitz and seconded by Chris Wielusiewicz

«THAT THE BOARD CHAIR SELECTION POLICY #730-79 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-137**

.3 Virtual Meeting #730-80

Moved by Daniel Richard and seconded by Jamie Restoule

«THAT THE VIRTUAL MEETING POLICY #730-80 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-138**

.4 Cybersecurity #100-35

Moved by Fern Crepeau and seconded by Leo Malette

«THAT THE CYBERSECURITY POLICY #100-35 BE ACCEPTED AS PRESENTED. »

**Carried M-21-139**

## 8. Correspondence

.1 NNDSB & WNGH PSW Partnership

.2 Thank You Email: L. St. Jean

.3 Level of Care Incremental Increase

.4 OHA Chair's Report

## 9. Closed Session

Moved by Linda Lacroix and seconded by Jamie Restoule

«THAT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ADJOURN THE OPEN SESSION FOR DECEMBER 13, 2021 AND MOVE INTO A CLOSED SESSION AT 20:40 HOURS. »

**Carried M-21-140**

## 10. Adjournment

The Meeting Effectiveness Survey will be provided to members via Survey Monkey.

Moved by Neil and seconded by Chris

«THAT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 BE ADJOURNED AT 22:14 PM HOURS.»

**Carried M-21-144**

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Janet Parsons, Chair

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Amylee Laforest, Recorder