



Board of Directors Regular Board Meeting
September 28, 2022
MINUTES

Present: Beth Fairfield ©, Lorraine Gauthier Stromberg, VC; Sally Burns, Stacey O’Sullivan, Tom Hainey, Kirt Pfeifer, Jorge VanSlyke, CEO; Dr. Sara Van Der Loo, COS; Dr. Joanne Spencer, President of Medical Staff

Guest: Mike McKinnon, Atikokan Progress

Regrets: Jeremy Dickson, Jennifer Learning, Brittany Beyak-Freamo

Recorder: Bonnie Clairmont Approved: Oct. 26, 2022

	Action Req’d/Date
<p>1.1 Call to Order Beth Fairfield, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm.</p> <p>1.2 Declaration of Conflict of Interest - None declared.</p>	
<p>1.3 Agenda The agenda was reviewed and accepted as presented.</p> <p>MOTION: K. Pfeifer/L. Gauthier Stromberg “That the Board approve the agenda of September 28, 2022 as presented.” CARRIED 2022-075</p>	
<p>2. Consent Agenda The Regular Board Meeting Minutes of August 31, 2022 were reviewed and accepted as presented.</p> <p>MOTION: S. O’Sullivan/S. Burns “That the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.” CARRIED 2022-076</p>	
<p>3. Good News Story/Quality Improvement Highlight:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In-House MRSA/VRE Testing Available</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Clairmont shared that the hospital lab has received approval from the Ministry to begin testing and reporting of MRSA and VRE in-house. • Testing will be done on the Cepheid GeneXpert which was purchased by AGH Foundation for the lab. • We began testing on-site on Monday, September 12th. • This is a benefit to patients and staff as in the past any patient coming to AGH that had been in any other hospital in the last 12 months must be tested for MRSA/VRE. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This meant patients had to be isolated for up to four days while waiting for results. • This also meant that nursing staff had to don PPE to enter those patient rooms. • We can now get results (often within an hour) and patients can be off isolation much quicker and we save on PPE. 	
<p>4. Reports – Provided in September 28, 2022 agenda package.</p> <p>4.1 Report from Board Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B. Fairfield shared that there is not a lot happening externally. • She gave a shout-out to J. VanSlyke for all the work she put into the AGH/AFHT Integration plan. 	
<p>4.2 Chief Executive Officer Report by J. VanSlyke: J. VanSlyke recapped some highlights from her report including:</p> <p>Systems Integration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Atikokan Family Health Team – Merger</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The new Director of FHT started on Monday, September 26, 2022. His name is Nsikak Usua, coming to us from his health records / long-term care management role at Labrador-Grenfell Health. • <u>Kenora-Rainy River Regional Laboratory Program</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Martha Lyon will be the interim Lab Director for our region. - The KRRRLP Board is actively working on long-term succession. The board is comprised of Hospital CEOs from Atikokan, Fort Frances, Dryden, Kenora, Sioux Lookout and Red Lake. • <u>NW Digital Council</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update from September 27, 2022 – discussion of regional project scope based on needs / challenges identified. • <u>NW Regional CEO Group</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planning for Small Hospital Transformation budget. 50% of the money given is committed to regional programs. - Currently evaluating the Regional Transfer and Mental Health program. • <u>Rainy River District Ontario Health Team (RRDOHT)</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need feedback for most recent version of logo, in-person being planned for governance - Primary Care and Patient Family Caregiver Councils are starting • <u>Small Rural and Northern Provincial Leadership Council</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment and Retention was a huge topic and the council members ensured that the Ontario Hospital Association is also fully aware of the nuanced challenges that the North has when it comes to agency. 	

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<p>Pandemic Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On October 1st, the Government of Canada is lifting the mask mandate and COVID-19 related travel measures. • No change for long-term care and hospital at this time. <p>Operational Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Infrastructure / Maintenance</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - LTC HVAC project – unit has arrived, ongoing work - Sprinkler Design is now being discussed with TJC for pricing • <u>Accreditation 2023</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing preparation • <u>Electronic Scheduling</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demo being scheduled for three vendors • <u>Patient and Family Advisory Council</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Next meeting is focused on creating a workplan. - Need to evaluate how we can have patients’ voices integrated more in operations • <u>Truth and Reconciliation Day – Sept. 30</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plans for Feast for all staff on Thursday, Sept 29 with prayer offered by Phyllis Barr of Metis Nation - Orange Shirt Day for Friday, Sept. 30. • <u>Staff Christmas Party</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Save the Date: Saturday, December 3rd. Board members invited to attend. More details to follow. • <u>Rehabilitation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adding more group sessions for shoulders, lower back and stability issues through the KIN program. - Chronic pain referrals have gone down substantially with these programs. KIN is going through referrals from oldest to newest and seeing clients with help of RAs. - Currently there is no wait list for P1 and P2 (high priority clients) for the PT and OT. - We will be getting an OT student from NOSM in October. • <u>Occupational Health Wellness and Safety</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bivalent vaccine being offered to staff on Wednesday, September 28 - Flu Shot to be available to staff in October - Working on transitioning to new Risk Management Computer system. This is a better program and a cost savings to the hospital. 	

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Laboratory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can now offer same day VRE / MRSA confirmation in-house instead of sending samples out and waiting a few days to confirm whether isolation needs to continue or not. • <u>Diagnostic Imaging</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Plan to have a demo on a new ultra sound machine from Phillips next month. • <u>Mental Health and Addictions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alan Poelman-Gauthier will commence as the MHA Manager on October 17, 2022. - New Counsellor Catherine Anness and Transition House worker Kaylee Oskineegish hired - Preparing for Truth and Reconciliation Day by ordering orange t-shirts for staff - Working on Accreditation on Tuesday mornings. • <u>Atikokan Family Health Team</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integration proposal submitted - Director started on September 26, 2022 • B. Fairfield asked about the Covid 2nd booster. J. VanSlyke noted that the first three Covid vaccines were mandated by the Ministry. The 4th (2nd booster) has not been. • Dr. S. Van Der Loo shared that she has met with the regional COS group. There are a few hospitals that have dropped the vaccine barrier due to staffing issues. • No hospitals have mandated the 2nd booster. • S. Burns asked why not mandated. Dr. S. Van Der Loo shared that reason is recruitment and retention. The government mandate no longer exists, so it is more important to have the ability to recruit staff. • Dr. S. Van Der Loo highly recommends that everyone get the 2nd booster. <p><u>Chief Nursing Officer Report Prepared by J. Learning:</u></p> <p>Nursing:</p> <p>Staffing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are orientating two RPNs to help cover some of our shifts. • One of the RPNs is an agency nurse and she is doing very well. • We are covering as many shifts as we can as they come up. • J. VanSlyke noted that a lot of J. Learning's time is being spent on staffing. • We are working with immigration consultants to get foreign workers and are looking into regional support. 	

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<p>Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have the RCCR training here on Sept 29th which walks nurses and physicians through the process of using various equipment during a trauma. • It is very hands-on and helpful to the health care providers. • The following day we are offering the TNCC training course for 6 RNs which again helps them use their critical thinking skills during a trauma. <p>MRSA and VRE swabs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are now able to swab patients for MRSA and VRE and receive the results within a few hours as opposed to waiting up to a week to get the results back. • This means patients will no longer have to remain in isolation for up to a week and can now come off isolation as soon as we get the results. • In larger centers the patient often waits in the ER for the test results so they don't have to be admitted on isolation. • The nursing staff are very happy that Atikokan can now do this testing in house. <p>Coop Students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have two coop students from the high school. One is working in the lab and the other is working in health records. • It is a good opportunity to expose students to possible job opportunities that may be available in our community. <p>Pharmacy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We purchased new IV pumps that can only be used when we have a drug library in them. • We worked with the Regional Pharmacists from Thunder Bay in order to have a drug library in each of the pumps. • These pumps help to ensure that the risk of a medication error is greatly reduced by ensuring that the dosing of everything running the pump is correct. • We appreciate all the help for the Thunder Bay to set up these pumps. Baxter sent a team here to help with the training and the launch of the new pumps. <p>Medical Directives and Order Sets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee meets monthly now to review the medical directives and any new order sets that are being created. • This committee is doing a lot of work to help standardize and ensure drugs and procedures are all in line with the most recent recommendations. 	

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<p>Long-Term Care Report Prepared by S. Wood</p> <p>COVID-19 Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are currently preparing to administer the bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine to all eligible residents starting next week. The new bivalent vaccine targets both the original 2019 COVID virus as well as the Omicron variant providing an added protection and has been shown to be very effective against severe illness and outcomes. Staff will also be eligible for this vaccine as well as they work in a high-risk setting. <p>HVAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HVAC Project on ECW is underway. Stacey has been coordinating with contractors to ensure the work required to be done is done with the least amount of disruption to the residents. The air handler system is set to arrive this week and installation is scheduled for the week of October 3rd. The staff on ECW are closely monitoring the temperatures of the resident rooms and on the unit to ensure we maintain a comfortable environment throughout each phase of the project. <p>PSW Shortage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is not much of an update on the PSW shortage from the last board meeting. We are still working on recruitment and have had one interview and are planning another interview of an agency worker this week. We are hoping that things will improve for the month of November. <p><u>Chief Financial Officer Report by B. Beyak-Freamo:</u></p> <p><u>Financial Summary as at August 31, 2022</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="211 1365 1112 1690"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Revenue</td> <td>\$4,568,407</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Expenses</td> <td>\$4,637,793</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surplus/(Deficit) from Hospital Operations</td> <td>(\$69,386)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unrealized gain on investments</td> <td>(30,219)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Amortization</td> <td>(30,816)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Surplus/(Deficit) from Fund Type 1</td> <td>(\$130,421)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Surplus/(Deficit) from Other Votes</td> <td>\$0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overall Surplus/(Deficit)</td> <td>(\$130,421)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Revenue	\$4,568,407	Expenses	\$4,637,793	Surplus/(Deficit) from Hospital Operations	(\$69,386)	Unrealized gain on investments	(30,219)	Amortization	(30,816)	Total Surplus/(Deficit) from Fund Type 1	(\$130,421)	Surplus/(Deficit) from Other Votes	\$0	Overall Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$130,421)	
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August financials look much better than June's. • Our staffing costs continue to be over budget due to overtime and using an agency nurse. 										
<p>AGH Foundation Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation's summer raffle concluded mid-August and brought in revenue of \$14,675. It was very well received! • They also advertised through the paper for summer campaign which brought in over \$6,000 as well. • The Christmas Campaign will be the next project they will focus their attention on. • Megan Zacharias has stepped down as the chair and Kim Cross has decided to accept the position of the chair again. • We are hoping to gain a few new board members over the next few months. We had an expression of interest from 3 community members, so they will be invited to our next meeting in October to decide if they'd like to join the board. We are also hoping to gain a few volunteers to assist with events, etc. 										
<p><u>Chief of Staff Report by Dr. S. Van Der Loo:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The summer went well and we did not have to close the Emergency Department. • We continue to be short of physicians covering our ER. • We remain in a very fragile state with no redundancy so this could change quickly with any physician illness, cancellation etc. • We will have some additional support for ER coverage with Dr. Rodrigues returning from maternity leave later this fall and Dr. Fotheringham taking call. • Dr. Ahmad is working under the guidance of Dr. Minor and Dr. Van Der Loo under a temporary license. • Dr. Van Der Loo attending the 1st RRDOHT Primary Care Committee meeting. 										
<p>MOTION: S. Burns/T. Hainey "That the Board approve all reports as presented." CARRIED 2202-077</p>										
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<p>5. In-Camera Session</p> <p>MOTION: S. O’Sullivan/L. Gauthier Stromberg “That the Board moves to an in-camera session of the meeting at 5:34 pm.” CARRIED 2022-078</p> <p>6. Return to Open Session</p> <p>MOTION: S. Burns/T. Hainey “That the Board returns to open session of the meeting at 6:18 pm.” CARRIED 2022-079</p> <p>MOTION: L. Gauthier Stromberg/K. Pfeifer “That the In-Camera Agenda (reviewed In-Camera) of September 28, 2022 be approved as presented.” CARRIED 2022-080</p>	
<p>MOTION: S. O’Sullivan/S. Burns “That the Consent Agenda (reviewed In-Camera) including the In-Camera Minutes of August 31, 2022 and MAC Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2022 be approved as presented.” CARRIED 2022-081</p>	
<p>Credentialing (from September 21, 2022 Medical Advisory Committee meeting)</p> <p>MOTION: L. Gauthier Stromberg/K. Pfeifer “That the list of professional staff, as presented, be approved for appointment and re-appointment for the remainder of the calendar year 2022.” CARRIED 2022-082</p> <p>MOTION: S. O’Sullivan/S. Burns “That the Atikokan General Hospital board endorses Atikokan General Hospital/Atikokan Family Health Team Service Integration Plan.” CARRIED 2022-083</p>	
<p>7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held in person on Wednesday, October 26, 2022 at 5 pm.</p>	
<p>8. ADJOURNMENT</p> <p>With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm on a motion by S. O’Sullivan/K. Pfeifer. CARRIED 2022-084</p>	
<p>_____</p> <p>Beth Fairfield, Board Chair</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Jorge VanSlyke, CEO</p>	