



Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 5, 2026
7:00 p.m.

Conference Room – HPHA Seaforth Community Hospital

MINUTES

Present: John Wilkinson, Chair
Jim Battle, Franklin Famme, Dr. Chuck Gatfield (virtual), Barry Hutton (virtual),
Ron Lavoie, Dr. Kevin Lefebvre, Kathy Lewis, Lynanne Mason, Kerri Ann
O'Rourke, Greg Stewart, Bill Whetstone, Tricia Wilkerson, Andrew Williams
Mary Cardinal, Iris Michaels, Sue Davey

Regrets: Dr. Gregg Hancock, Kim Ross Jones, Steve Hearn, Dr. Heather Percival

1. Welcome & Call to Order

John Wilkinson, Board Chair called the meeting to order and quorum was confirmed.

Dr. Chuck Gatfield will step down from his role as Site Chief at St. Marys Memorial Hospital effective April 1, 2026. Dr. Kevin Lefebvre recognized Dr. Gatfield for his outstanding leadership, dedication, and commitment to the organization. Dr. Jon Schiedel will assume the role of Site Chief and will join the Board at the next meeting.

2. Land Acknowledgement

Franklin Famme shared the Land Acknowledgement.

3. Approval of Agenda

It was moved by Bill Whetstone, seconded by Ron Lavoie:

THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approve the meeting agenda as circulated.

CARRIED

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

5. Patient & Caregiver Partner Program

- A Decade in the Making

Michelle Jones, Corporate Lead Patient Experience & Privacy provided the Board with a presentation on the Patient & Caregiver Partner Program, highlighting its 10-year evolution from an informal engagement initiative to a mature, co-leadership model embedded in governance, quality, and patient care across the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA). She outlined the program's

phased development, including the Board's endorsement of patient participation, integration into committees and governance structures, and measurable cultural and organizational impact. Current program maturity, governance value, and strategic priorities for 2026–2028 were shared, emphasizing the meaningful partnerships, avoiding tokenism, and strengthening patient-centred care through lived experience.

The Board recognized Michelle for her 37 years of dedicated service and significant contributions to the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA), and extended best wishes on her retirement.

6. Minutes of Previous Meetings

6.1. February 5, 2026

It was moved by Greg Stewart, seconded by Kerri Ann O'Rourke:

THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approves the minutes from the meeting held February 5, 2026.

CARRIED

7. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

8. In-Camera Session

8.1. Motion to Move to In-Camera Session

It was moved by Franklin Famme, seconded by Barry Hutton:

THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance move in-camera at 7:38 p.m.

CARRIED

8.2. Report from In-Camera Session

The Board received an update on CUPE local negotiations and 2025 public sector salary disclosure report. The Medical Advisory and Quality & Social Accountability Committees provided reports. Updates on clinical program structure reviews and Huron Perth Regional Clinical Service Planning were received.

9. Consent Agenda

It was moved by Kathy Lewis, seconded by Kerri Ann O'Rourke:

THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approve the March 5, 2026 Consent Agenda that included the following:

- **Leadership Reports:**
 - **Chief of Staff**
 - **Chief Nursing Executive**
 - **President & Chief Executive Officer**
- **Patient Experience & Engagement Report**

CARRIED

10. Board Education/Focussed Discussion**• 2026/2027 Commitments to Our Communities**

The draft Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) Commitments to Our Communities (strategic plan) for 2026/2027 was presented to the Board. The plan aligns with the HPHA's refreshed strategic goals and commitments for 2025-2028, as well as the Quality Improvement Plan Change Plans and HPHA priorities. The finalized plan will be forward for Board consideration at the April meeting.

11. Governance**11.1. Fiscal Advisory Committee**

Barry Hutton attended the Fiscal Advisory Committee meeting on March 2, 2026 where Quarter 3 updates were provided to union leadership.

11.2. Medical Advisory Committee

Dr. Lefebvre presented the report from the Medical Advisory Committee meeting held on February 26, 2026 for information.

11.3. Quality & Social Accountability Committee

Tricia Wilkerson presented the report from the meeting held February 25, 2026, included in the agenda package. This included the 2026/2027 Quality Improvement Plan with Change Plans focussed on Access and Flow, and Safety, and the Narrative.

It was moved by Tricia Wilkerson, seconded by Greg Stewart:

THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approve the 2026/2027 Access & Flow and Safety Quality Improvement Plan Change Plans and Narrative.

CARRIED

The Committee received an update on accreditation and an overview of an initiative focused on improving the patient experience through streamlined referrals and the establishment of a single point of entry for specialized geriatric services.

12. Directors Comments/Roundtable

- Board Advance on June 19, 2026 will include participation by Community Members, Patient/Caregiver Partners, Foundation Chairs, along with physician and staff leadership.

13. Next Meeting

- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors Meeting
 - April 9, 2026 at HPHA Clinton Public Hospital

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:11 p.m.