



## Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, March 4, 2021  
7:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom

### MINUTES

Present: Ron Lavoie, Chair  
Jack Alblas, Gary Austin, Dick Burgess, Dr. Chuck Gatfield, Joani Gerber, Barry Hutton, Dr. Kevin Lefebvre, Joe Looby, Kerri Ann O'Rourke, Dr. Nadine Potvin, Kim Ross Jones, Rena Spevack, Andrew Williams, Deborah Wiseman, John Wolfe  
Mary Cardinal, Ken Haworth  
Sue Davey, Recorder

Regrets: Steve Hearn, Dr. Candi Flynn, Dr. Tyler Rouse

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**1. Welcome & Call to Order**

Board Chair Ron Lavoie called the meeting to order and quorum was confirmed.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Dick Burgess, seconded by Kim Ross Jones:

**THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approves the meeting agenda circulated.**

**CARRIED**

**3. Patient Story**

Andrew Williams shared a note of gratitude received from Alicia Houston, Senior Manager at Optimism Place in regards to how appreciative they are for the high quality professional care experienced by their clients and families by the Nurse Practitioner Program from Jody Brooks, Pharmacist and Liz Callaghan, Nurse Practitioner. The support provided to these individuals includes helping them with immigration issues, assisting with navigating their health care options, connecting them to specialist referrals and making sure that every woman and child knows that they are important and deserve this care. The shelter is extremely grateful for this program and the difference it has made for their clients and families.

**4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

There was no conflict of interest declared by any members.

**5. Approval of Minutes****5.1 February 4, 2021**

It was moved by Rena Spevack, seconded by Jack Alblas:

**THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approves the minutes from the meeting held February 4, 2021.**

**CARRIED**

**6. COVID-19 Update**

Andrew Williams provided an update noting the expansion of vaccine availability across Huron Perth to include clinics being held for adults 80 and older as well as indigenous adults 55 and older. Vaccinations for healthcare providers continue in priority sequence, and Huron Perth Public Health is coming into the hospitals to vaccinate individuals that are designated ALC (alternate level of care). Vaccination of all inpatients 80 years and older is also being considered. Healthcare providers have been publically sharing communications to address vaccine hesitancy and dispel the myths and misinformation. With the spread of variants of concern, enhanced guidelines for quarantine and isolation protocols have been introduced and have impacted staffing and employers. As vaccines roll out, following public health measures need to continue such as handwashing, masking and avoiding close contact with those outside your household. Delay of the timing for second dose of vaccine was discussed. The positive impact of older individuals at least having received their first dose seems to be evident in reducing spread in congregate settings. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization is recommending to increase timelines between doses and focus on getting at least one dose to more people to reduce spread of COVID-19 and the variants of concern. Some Canadian provinces are doing this and Ontario may follow their lead.

Andrew reported lower numbers of patients admitted with COVID-19 across the region, although Windsor and Waterloo areas continue to experience higher numbers of admitted patients. It was noted that the Assessment Centres and physician clinics are seeing higher numbers of lower age groups testing positive.

The Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance continues to monitor and review the safe reintroduction of volunteers back into our organization and there is no reduction of healthcare services at our sites. Regional review and recommendations are being considered for pre-operative swabbing and timing of vaccine and potential side effects for surgical patients.

**7. Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Barry Hutton, seconded by Joe Looby:

**THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors approves the March 4, 2021 Consent Agenda that included reports from the:**

- **Chief Nursing Executive**
- **President & Chief Executive Officer**

**CARRIED**

## **8. Governance**

### **8.1 Board Committee Reports**

#### **8.1.1 Local Advisory Committees**

##### Clinton Public Hospital

Barry Hutton presented the report from the meeting held on February 17<sup>th</sup> for informational purposes. Highlights included that the Committee welcomed their two new members, activity at the site is down mainly due to the renovations being completed and the Foundation continues to do remarkably well with good support from the community towards equipment. The virtual session held to provide an update to the community regarding the ongoing reduced hours of operation of the Emergency Department was well received and appreciated.

##### St. Marys Memorial Hospital

The St. Marys Local Advisory Committee met on February 16<sup>th</sup> and the report was presented by Kim Ross Jones for informational purposes. The Inpatient Unit outbreak has been declared over and everyone involved was commended for their management of the situation.

##### Seaforth Community Hospital

The Seaforth Local Advisory Committee met on February 16<sup>th</sup> and the report was received for informational purposes.

##### Stratford General Hospital

Jack Alblas presented the detailed report from the meeting held February 18<sup>th</sup> for informational purposes. He noted that the Stratford General Hospital Foundation has launched a 50/50 draw and other Foundations are doing these draws as well.

The Facilities Management Team was commended for their work with the number of projects across all Huron Perth Health Care Alliance (HPHA) sites and balancing the challenges with availability of materials and keeping on schedule and on budget. It was noted that the Ministry has recognized the impact of the pandemic on projects and has notified HPHA that Health Infrastructure Renewal Funding received for 2020/2021 can carry over into 2021/2022.

#### **8.1.2 Medical Advisory Committee**

The Medical Advisory Committee met on February 25<sup>th</sup> and Dr. Lefebvre presented the meeting highlights that were pre-circulated for informational purposes. He reported that a process has been established for midwifery staff reappointment of privileges and the expected standards, policies, procedures and protocols to be met. The same-day joint initiative is being piloted from Ontario Health West for patients that fit specific criteria who are discharged home after surgery. The program is focused on quality patient care and has many benefits and future program expansion is planned.

#### **8.1.3 Quality Committee**

Rena Spevack presented the report of the Quality Committee meeting held February 22<sup>nd</sup>. No guidance has been received from Health Quality Ontario for the 2021/2022 Quality Improvement Plan. It was noted that a collaborative Quality Improvement Plan is an Ontario Health Team deliverable for 2021/2022. New infusion pumps are being introduced across the Alliance to improve patient safety and they have wireless technology that allows seamless updates. Maternal Child nursing staff have been trained as circulating nurses and scrub nurses for Caesarean sections, an initiative that has demonstrated benefits and provides improved quality patient care.

**9. Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board Advance**

Andrew Williams shared a summary from the two Board Advance sessions held in February to provide input into the refresh of the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance (HPHA) Commitments to Our Communities. Highlights from those sessions and areas of focus for the next three to five years were noted and the Board discussed some long term planning considerations. Next steps include discussions with members of the HPHA Management Team, Medical Leadership, Patient Partners and the Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team partners to provide input. An engagement opportunity with the community will also be undertaken. All feedback and input will be incorporated in the final draft refreshed document that will come back to the HPHA Board of Directors for endorsement.

**10. Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team Update**

Andrew Williams provided an update on the activities of the Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team (HPA-OHT).

- A submission has been made to the Ministry to carry over some of the implementation funding received from the Ministry for 2020/2021 into 2021/2022 and partner contributions will provide extra funding as needed or should ongoing funding not be confirmed.
- An Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) consultant has been hired to review IPAC practices and develop a plan for standardization across all sectors.
- Other staff to be hired include a Project Lead for Digital Health Initiatives, Data Analytics Position and Administrative support.
- HPA-OHT partner agreement and various Committee Terms of Reference are being finalized, along with plans to populate committees and advance the team.
- Branding and website design are being undertaken.

The HPA-OHT is holding a virtual Year-End Celebration Event on March 30<sup>th</sup> and Board members received an invitation.

**11. In-Camera Session****11.1 Motion to Move to In-Camera Session**

It was moved by Gary Austin, seconded by Rena Spevack:

**THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance move in-camera at 8:32 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**11.2 Motion to Move out of In-Camera Session**

It was moved by John Wolfe, seconded by Barry Hutton:

**THAT the Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance move out of the in-camera session at 9:10 p.m.**

**CARRIED**

**11.3 Report from In-Camera Session**

During the In-Camera Session, the Board received Committee updates and held a general operational discussion.

**12. Directors Comments/Roundtable**

The Rotary Club & City of Stratford Staff are helping with Vaccination Clinics at the Rotary Complex.

**13. Next Meetings**

The next Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance Board of Directors' Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 1, 2021.

**14. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on a MOTION by Jack Alblas at 9:15 p.m.