



**MINUTES** of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, April 7, 2022**, 17:00 hours, via ZOOM, live streamed on YouTube.

**PRESENT VIA ZOOM:**

Anthony Paniccia, Chair

Laura Copat

Paul Lachance

Cynthia Bissonnette

Ian McLeod

Patricia France

Dan Wilson

Dr. Laurie Freeman

Genevieve Isshak

Penny Allen

Mary Dawson

Dr. Wassim Saad (ex-officio, non-voting)

David Musyj (ex-officio, non-voting)

Karen Riddell (ex-officio, non-voting)

**STAFF VIA ZOOM:**

Executive Committee

**REGRETS:**

Michael Lavoie

Dr. Larry Jacobs (ex-officio, non-voting)

Dr. Maher Salbalbal (ex-officio, non-voting)

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order at 1705 hours with Mr. Paniccia presiding as Chair and Ms. Sutherland recording the minutes.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:**

None declared.

**3. PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

The minutes of the March 3, 2022 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

**MOVED** by Mr. I. McLeod, **SECONDED** by Mr. P. Lachance and **CARRIED THAT** the minutes of the March 3, 2022 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

The Chair provided a couple of updates:

- Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> year COVID anniversary. It has been 24 months since the first board meeting following the first shut down.
- The WRH team received a letter of thanks from a patient who spent three (3) months in hospital, between the MET Campus, HDGH rehabilitation and outpatient rehabilitation recovering from COVID-19 in 2021. The Chair read an excerpt from the letter. This patient was ventilated and was not expected to survive. He expressed enormous thanks to the entire team at WRH, even wishing he could give everyone a

“humongous hug”. This is a true success story to be told. The Chair reminded everyone to please get vaccinated and boosted if eligible.

- The WRH Foundation 50/50 draw is back – please visit the website to purchase tickets.

#### **4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:**

Mr. Musyj provided a verbal report accompanied by slides. Mr. Musyj began by stating that COVID is not over and continues to create issues for operations. We are not at crisis mode but it is still concerning and we are trying our best with getting back to normal.

The following are highlights from his report:

- i) Provincial COVID-19 Wastewater stats – this is one of the main indicators we look at to get an idea of what is happening in our community and what could be coming to the hospital. Mr. Musyj then referred to Slide 3 which shows wastewater levels by region. There has been a slight uptick in the wastewater surveillance for W/E and we could be at the start of this wave and certainly not tracking in the direction we want. Mr. Musyj added there is usually a 1 – 2 week gap from the data and what is seen in the hospital. What is happening in the UK and China is another indication of what could come.
- ii) Provincial & COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates show an increase once again, however we are nowhere near where it was in Wave 5. Hospitalizations follow suit however we are hopeful the numbers will plateau with vaccination rates and other factors.
- iii) WRH COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates – the graph shows an increase at the end of December, with the peak in January and then again today another increase in hospitalizations. The good news is our ICU admissions remain lower. Mr. Musyj provided WRH’s In-Patient COVID-19 cases as of today – 41 in hospital, including the ICU and most of these patients are primarily being treated for COVID-19.

Dr. Saad added that currently there is close to 100,000 new infections in Ontario per day and this is the highest number that we have seen since the beginning of the pandemic.

Dr. Saad also provided information on the new COVID-19 XE Variant. This new variant is recombinant, meaning it’s a mix of two strains, BA.1 and BA.2. Dr. Saad explained that as viruses mutate over time, recombinant variants are likely to occur and in fact this has occurred 4 or 5 times since the start of the pandemic. What happens is people will become infected with both strains. It is too early to tell if XE is more infectious however it appears to be similar in symptoms to Omicron. Also, increased infectiousness does not mean it is more dangerous and the current treatments will likely remain effective. Another thing to consider is the relaxation of public health measures.

#### **iv) New W/E Acute Care Hospital Update**

- The Together We Build online engagement platform and town hall series launched on March 3, 2022. Mr. Musyj explained that this provides the community an opportunity for questions and meaningful input at this early planning stage. A board member provided some very positive feedback after attending several of the town hall sessions.
- Community engagement - 2500+ people have visited the site since it launched. Mr. Musyj added that 100 questions have been answered through the town halls and another 9 on the project site. The hospital appreciates the involvement to date. In

addition, there will be another round of town hall meetings to come and we continue to ask people to participate - this is your hospital.

Questions:

Are we seeing more staff infected with this wave?

Mr. Musyj responded yes, however, nowhere near the previous wave but it is still early. Our staff are no different than the community. We will know more by the May board meeting.

Any change to surgery plans?

Mr. Musyj advised when cases go up it results in pressures to the system with high med/surge bed occupancy. We are north of 100% when it comes to census and this is when we utilize the surge beds that the government supported. We are making progress with our surgery wait list however it is uncertain if we will be able to sustain it. Mr. Musyj expressed that the hospital team is doing their absolute best. Ms. Petrakos added that health human resources remain our biggest challenge especially in anesthesia. It is not just scheduling surgeries but having to cancel due to staff and physicians being off 10-14 days with COVID.

## 5. CNE REPORT

Ms. Riddell reported. Highlights from her presentation are as follows:

- Extern Program - WRH received noticed that funding for the UNE Nurse and Respiratory Therapy Employee program will be continuing through to September 20, 2022 as a part of the overall MOH plan to strengthen health and human resources.
- Assessment Centers - the Met CAC is now located in the Pediatric Outpatient Department and focuses on care of patients 3 months – 17 years. The Ouellette Campus AC remains open Monday – Friday and has seen over 140,000 patients since March 2020.
- Slide 3 outlines the criteria for testing which can also be found on the WRH website. Ms. Riddell reviewed the eligibility criteria for PCR or rapid POC molecular testing.
- COVID-19 treatment – WRH has provided 49 Mab and 19 Paxlovid treatment courses since January of this year. See slide 6 for the link to the e-referral form.
- COVID-19 vaccination locations – WRH has administered 365,171 vaccinations since December 2020, partnering with multiple community agencies to accomplish this number. Effective today, those 60 or older qualify for a fourth dose 5 months after third dose. Ms. Riddell outlined the recommended dose series for children aged 5 – 11 and individuals 12 -59.
- The last slide is a series of thank you notes left by individuals who received their vaccination at one of the centers.

## 6. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs was not in attendance. His written report was circulated for information purposes.

## 7. Financial Presentation – February 28, 2022

Ms. Allen reported.

### Slide 2 – Financial Results – Hospital Operations

- \$3.4 million deficit for hospital operations year to date.
- The net deficit after building amortization is \$4,549,000.

- On February 3, 2022 the Ministry updated the COVID-19 incremental expense guidance and will be reimbursing hospitals for the last half of the fiscal year using the same criteria as in fiscal 2020-2021.
- Previously unfunded expenses such as PPE, additional staffing, sick and isolation costs will now be reimbursed.
- COVID has resulted in non-ministry revenues being under budget by \$4.1 million
- Unearned Ministry volume funding being under budget by \$7.5 million. A year ago that number was \$14 million - a significant improvement.
- Recent communications indicate that the Ministry will require year-end reconciliations but with a plan similar to last fiscal year to make hospitals whole and not be negatively impacted by the pandemic.

### **Slide 3 – COVID-19 Impact on Expenses**

- This slide shows the breakdown of \$4.1 million in lost revenues are impacting our financial statements.
- Based on the updated guidance, the unfunded COVID-19 expenses total \$1.9 million due to the two items indicated 1) the wage differential for Nursing Externs and 2) the difference between the cost of running the Assessment Centers and the funding based on \$38 per swab.

### **Slide 4 – Revenue**

- Base and one time funding is \$37.7 million favourable due to amounts that have been accrued for known COVID-19 reimbursements. These include the now eligible incremental expenses incurred from October to February (including screening), temporary physician payments, vaccination and assessment centre funding and nursing extern funding.
- Ministry drug reimbursements (for high cost drugs) favourable \$2,657,000 but these are offset by higher drug expenses.
- Patient Services Revenue \$3,300,000 favourable – relates to uninsured patient revenue from the Ministry and higher diagnostic revenues which are offset by higher medical staff remuneration expense.
- Other Recoveries favourable \$3,056,000 – retail pharmacy revenues are offset by higher drug expenses.

### **Slide 5 - Expenses**

- \$42.5 million year to date unfavourable variance in expenses. The majority of these expenses are COVID-19-related and are confirmed or eligible for funding.
- Medical/Surgical supplies are \$3,865,000 unfavourable due to increased use of PPE, depletion of donated PPE supplies and volume increases as procedure backlogs are addressed.
- Drugs \$3.5 million unfavourable, systemic and renal drugs are funded by Ontario Health and additional drug expenses in retail pharmacies are offset by recoveries as noted previously.
- Other supplies variance of \$12 million and includes:

- \$3,449,000 in additional e-Volve HIS project costs due to COVID-19 delays, which have been funded by the Ministry.
- \$4,373,000 for referred out vaccination centre expenses (City of Windsor and County of Essex EMS) also fully funded.
- \$2,361,000 for referred out cataract procedures which are fully funded via Quality Based Procedure funding.

**MOVED** by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Mr. D. Wilson and **CARRIED**  
**THAT** the April 7, 2022 Financial Presentation (as of February 28, 2022) be accepted.

**8. CONSENT AGENDA:**

**MOVED** by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Ms. P. France and **CARRIED**  
**THAT** the report from the March 28, 2022 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meeting be accepted.

**9. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:**

- a) Media Report – FYI only.

**10. BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR NOTICES OF MOTIONS:**

None

**11. NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**12. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:**

**Thursday, May 5, 2022, 1700 hrs VIA: ZOOM**

**13. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to discuss, it was  
**MOVED** by Dr. L. Freeman, **SECONDED** by Ms. L. Copat and **CARRIED**  
**THAT** the April 7, 2022 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1755 hours.

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Anthony Paniccia, Chair  
Board of Directors  
/ds

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Dawn Sutherland  
Recording Secretary