



MINUTES of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, May 06, 2021**, 17:00 hours, via ZOOM, live streamed on YouTube.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Anthony Paniccia, Chair

Genevieve Isshak

Paul Lachance

Michael Lavoie

Penny Allen

Cynthia Bissonnette

Dr. Laurie Freeman

Arvind Arya

Dan Wilson

Patricia France

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

David Musyj (ex-officio, non-voting)

Karen Riddell (ex-officio, non-voting)

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

STAFF VIA ZOOM:

Executive Committee

REGRETS:

Dr. Anil Dhar (ex-officio, non-voting)

Pam Skillings

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1700 hours with Mr. Paniccia presiding as Chair, and Ms. Clark recording the minutes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 01, 2021 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Mr. A. Arya, **SECONDED** by Ms. C. Bissonnette and **CARRIED THAT** the minutes of the April 01, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

Nursing week starts week of May 10. We have outstanding staff, who work tirelessly, even beyond our Windsor/Essex County borders. From the Board and all of the W/E residents, thank you.

Given all the stress all of our employees are under during these difficult times, do not hesitate to call our employee Assistance Program for help. The number is on WRH website.

Two events that will be occurring in the near future:

- i) Sail into Summer- June 23-27, hosted by Carol Parent and the Windsor Yacht Club.
All funds support purchase of an ultrasound machine for the Urology Department.

- ii) Bridge 2 Bridge Marathon of Health. Supporting WRH, HDGH and Canadian Mental Health Association of Windsor.
- iii) Thanks to Noah Gascogne and Windsor Facts Finders. He and his volunteers are trying to ensure that no vaccination appointments go unfilled.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:

Mr. Musyj reported.

- i) Status of HIS implementation: it is going well. It will be a process that will never stop. As we continue to change our processes for the better, the underlying process will change with us. Many staff and professional staff were involved and helped our staff get used to the new system. Thanks to our partners in Erie St Clair and Transform for their assistance.

- ii) Update on COVID in our region and what the future looks like:
The positivity rate for Ontario last week was 9.34%. Windsor/Essex remained stable unlike some other areas in Ontario. As discussed at the last Board meeting, the science table indicated we were going to get to the pinnacle time around May 08 and we would go in one of two directions – either almost double our current number (that is where the stay at home number arose). Once the stay at home was in place, the number plateaued. It was predicted that as of May 6, we should have 925-937 COVID positive patients in ICU beds. Today the number is 868 patients in ICU's across the province. Reviewed weekly positivity for COVID in the 34 public health units in Ontario. Our moderate number will continue to drop. We will be at this number for a period of time though and it will drop slightly. We cannot afford as a province to have 868 patients in ICU beds if we come out of wave 3 too quickly and then get into wave 4. That number has to get down to 200 patients or less.

Hospitalizations are flattening. ICU occupancy will continue to rise. 20-30% of the patients hospitalized with COVID will find their way into ICU's. We have not seen ramifications of that yet. We are not out of the woods yet provincially.

Concern raised by science table is as occupancy continues to rise, it will take some time for the re-start of surgeries. The beds are for COVID positive patients in the GTA and ICU beds are needed for surgeries. We have a limited amount of ICU beds and a limited amount of critical care staff.

Over the next 4-5 years, there will not be a lot of new hospital construction coming on line.

We have staff who have been working non-stop for 13-16 months and will need to re-charge their batteries. It will not be easy for any of us to come out of this pandemic. We will have to get ready for a world where COVID positive patients come into the hospital and who will eventually need the ICU. We will not have 100% vaccination rates.

Since we started taking patients from the GTA two weeks ago, we have taken 16 ICU patients and 54 ward patients, a total of 70 patients from the GTA or London. On a positive note, 28 of them have already been discharged home. We currently have 48

COVID positive patients in hospital; 8 from our region, 40 from outside our region. There will be more patients coming to WRH

The West region has accepted 450 patients from outside our region.

Karen Riddell added that the individuals around the operations table meet daily, 7 days a week and twice on Wednesdays. They talk about the capacity in our region to help the province. They generate a report from that meeting and they are all aware of the plan going ahead for the next 24 hours.

We met with Trillium to facilitate the transfer into Erie/St Clair. Hospitals in Toronto were transferring out many patients a day to several hospitals. It was tabled to the province that we would partner one hospital with one hospital. Trillium chose WRH for the first group of patients. We meet with Trillium and EMS partners daily. We identify our capacity for transfers and patients to be transferred and we book EMS. Windsor/Essex and Wallaceburg EMS send trucks to Toronto as soon as the patients are identified. We plan for the next 24 hours, confirm who will be coming, our physicians speak with their physicians, and we do the nurse to nurse hand off. We debrief as well daily on the previous day's activities. We liaise with the families every day, as it is stressful for the patient being so far from their home base. We have had great success and have discharged many back home; we pay for that transport. Thanks to our staff, HDGH and Erie Shores for their part in this.

Names can change for the patients who were supposed to come here because if they are not stable enough, another patient could be put on the list at the last minute.

Dr. Jacobs complimented the WRH team for making this happen. It is working quite well.

Mr. Musyj added that people in our area are concerned we are increasing our positivity rate in our community with these transfers from Toronto or London. That is not correct. We have an obligation to take care of our Ontario residents. We have capacity and ethically and morally, we need to help.

We stop replications/mutations/variants by following public health measures and through vaccinations as quickly as possible. If we can get 70-85% of our population vaccinated, we can get to herd immunity. The way to stop wave 4 is to get vaccinated.

One week ago, we were at 33.8% of our overall W/E population who had at least one dose. Yesterday that number was 38% of the total population. The population 18 and over age group is about 300,000 people. If we have 300,000 people, we are above 50% by vaccinating with one dose. We are getting there as a region. How did we avoid the wave 3 that hit GTA? We had access to Pfizer, Moderna and Astra Zeneca, so we were aggressive in getting a large number of the population vaccinated. We did it quickly. We avoided wave 3 because of that aggressive nature with respect to vaccinating people. Overall, our community has done a good job following public health measures, plus we followed the stay at home order. Otherwise, we could not have helped out the rest of the province like we have done.

Dr. Saad stated that in the early part of the pandemic, patients presenting at hospital were in 60-80 age range. That demographic disappeared from the hospital once we began vaccinations in that age group. Recent Ministry data shows that someone getting COVID after two doses is very low. Only 4% of people got COVID after two doses. Vaccinations are working. If we can get to herd immunity, the number of patients in ICU's with COVID will drop dramatically.

Last week two reports were issued from the Auditor General and the other from the Long Term Care Commission.

They highlighted the positive relationships among hospitals and retirement homes across the province. They also identified the work in creating the field hospital at St. Clair College.

The Commission suggested Ministries should look to WRH's field hospital as a model for how alternative health care space can be created quickly in a crisis.

The Chair thanked Mr. Musyj and the staff for everything they have done during the pandemic.

5. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Larry Jacobs had not submitted a written report. Highlights of his verbal report are below:

- **4th year Match** occurred on April 20, which was match day (first round of the match) for 4th year students. The overall rate for Schulich was a 90% successful match. About 10% of the students will move into the 2nd round on May 20. The Windsor campus had a similar rate of 90% as well. 60% of our students selected Family Medicine residencies. Locally, we have two post grad programs here; Family Medicine and Psychiatry. Psychiatry filled both of their spots. Family Medicine filled 9 out of 10 spots.
- **SWARP research grants:** This is a collaborative grant we run with the University of Windsor and Schulich. It is intended for our students to work with local faculty either at the University of Windsor, St. Clair College or where there is professional staff. All 10 were granted, 9 of those being related to Windsor Regional Hospital. Several professional staff at WRH and the University received grants supporting students with these research endeavours.

6. Financial Presentation

There was no financial presentation for the May 06 Board meeting.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Dr. L. Freeman and **CARRIED**

THAT the report from the April 26, 2021 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meeting be accepted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:

a) Media Report

9. BOARD MEMBER QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR NOTICES OF MOTIONS:

None

10. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, June 03, 2021, 1700 hrs VIA: ZOOM

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was

MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance, **SECONDED** by Ms. P. France and **CARRIED**
THAT the May 06, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1758 hours.

Anthony Paniccia, Chair
Board of Directors
/cc

Cheryle Clark
Recording Secretary