



MINUTES of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, December 9, 2021**, 17:00 hours, via ZOOM, live streamed on YouTube.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Anthony Paniccia, Chair

Genevieve Isshak

Paul Lachance

Michael Lavoie

Penny Allen

Ian McLeod

Dan Wilson

Patricia France

Laura Copat

Mary Dawson

Cynthia Bissonnette

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)

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

STAFF VIA ZOOM:

Executive Committee

REGRETS

Dr. Laurie Freeman

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1700 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 November 4, 2021 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Ms. P. France, **SECONDED** by Ms. P. Allen and **CARRIED**

THAT the minutes of the November 4, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

The Chair provided a couple of reminders:

- The WRH Foundation Festive 50/50 Mega Money raffle draw is live and tickets can purchased on the WRH website.
- Donation of toys to pediatric unit – thank you for all the generosity however these toys would be better served to the Hiatus House or CAS. To make a donation to the pediatric unit please visit the WRH website.

Thank you to the staff for continuing to support our community during this pandemic. Thank you to our fellow partners for making this year as successful as it could be. Also, thank you to the community for their ongoing support. Please get vaccinated and/or book your booster if eligible. Have a safe and happy holiday.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:

Mr. Musyj thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting. Highlights from his report are as follows:

- i) Provincial trends of COVID+ patients: rolling 7 day average continues to increase with 1290 new cases today in Ontario. 99.9% of these cases are the Delta variant, Omicron has not taken effect as of yet.
- ii) W/E Trends - the weekly cases show that W/E is at 114 per 100,000 of our population and our positivity rate is just under 6%. Our weekly case counts have gone down a bit however this is trending back up based on today's results. W/E is in the top 4 in the Province. Mr. Musyj spoke of where we were last year at this time. Last year at this time our case counts were running at 67.3 positive cases per day and we are now running at 68.9 today, which is slightly above. Therefore, the issue becomes what is going to happen over the next few weeks with respect to our case counts and where are they going to go.
- iii) Vaccination Rates and Efficacy – 84.665% of people 5+ in Ontario have received at least one dose and 80.147% of people 5+ in Ontario are fully vaccinated. However we still have over 70% of our inpatients who are unvaccinated. The Science Table report that was just released stated that unvaccinated people have a 5-fold higher risk of symptomatic COVID-19 disease, a 13-fold higher risk of being in the hospital and a 23-fold higher risk of being in the ICU compared to those fully vaccinated. As our Public Medical Officer of Health pointed out today, unfortunately there are still unvaccinated people in our community dying from COVID-19.
- iv) Rapid antigen tests – Mr. Musyj explained the “swiss cheese” or layered approach. You need all of these things to be lined up to prevent spread and all of these factors play an important role. WRH has done most if not all of these things. This was most recently articulated today by the Science Table in their report on rapid antigen tests for voluntary screen testing and making them more widely available to the community. WRH started this for our staff back in August. There have been more than a dozen cases where a staff member had a young person in their home who at the time was not eligible for vaccination who became positive and this was discovered by the at home rapid antigen testing kit. As a result, this prevented the child from going back to school and spreading COVID-19 any further and also preventing the staff member from coming into the hospital and spreading it. Once the rapid test is positive, the staff and family members then go to the AC and get a PCR test. The rapid kits produce immediate, accurate results and are a useful tool for detecting COVID-19 early and isolating infected people before they have a chance to spread the virus. Dr. Saad explained CT values and what they mean in PCR testing. We recommend to our staff to test 2 -3 times per week. If you do this frequently you are most likely going to catch a positive.

Ms. Riddell presented local ESC statistics as of today's date:

- 22 active COVID-19 cases in house, 5 of which are in the ICU. 6 of these cases are fully vaccinated (14 days post second dose) and 3 are partially vaccinated (14 days post first dose or 0-13 days posts second dose). 13 are not vaccinated. 73% of our current cases in house are partially or unvaccinated. This data is published on a daily basis.
- Overall bed capacity has been challenging over the last couple of weeks. WRH has added 35 Med/Surg beds and 5 Mental Health beds. Capacity today is running at 90% and the majority of the COVID-19 cases are at the Met Campus. We cohort ICU cases at MET to preserve trauma, cardiac, renal, neurosurgery and vascular capacity at the Ouellette Campus.
- ED volumes are trending at approximately 120-130 daily at each site with a 20% admission rate. You can see how quickly capacity at the hospital can be impacted.
- In addition to the 22 active cases, we still have an additional 11 patients in acute care who are “no longer infectious”, 5 of which are in the ICU.

Dr. Saad provided some information on Omicron and boosters. There are still a lot of unknowns but Omicron appears to be more transmissible than Delta however it is too soon to say if it is more deadly. There is some preliminary data that suggests our current vaccinations, particularly with the mRNA vaccines, will protect against Omicron with the caveat that your immune system is boosted. Boosters

improve your immune reaction and offer more protection. Dr. Saad advised there are no confirmed local cases however there are some in the province.

Mr. Musyj announced that individuals 50+ can now book their booster on the WEVax website starting as early as Monday, December 13th. Vaccines for 5- 11 year olds are still available. Walk-ins available for 1st and 2nd doses other than children 5- 11. UK is projecting Omicron will surpass Delta over the next few weeks. Again, we appreciate the community support and the vaccination efforts. There could be changes coming with respect to vaccine passports.

Mr. Musyj wished the board members and the community a happy and safe holiday. Please adhere to public health measures and rules.

5. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs referred to his written report and provided the following highlights:

- Medical education is going well and the Windsor Campus was able to get through the first semester with no blips of COVID-19 cases.
- Received a visit from Dean Yoo on November 26th. The agenda of that meeting was to meet with faculty in Windsor to recognize the amazing work that is happening in W/E with respect to medical education. Over the last 10-15 years the faculty in Windsor has moved from a group who delivered curriculum to a group that is now developing curriculum. This is a huge win for the community and very exciting as move into the development and planning for the new acute hospital site.
- This is a challenging time for medical education and healthcare and as a result we are seeing a lot of stress and burnout. The Windsor Campus is pleased to announce the hiring of a full-time therapist to provide counseling to students. This is a combined role with the Faculty of Nursing at the University.

6. Financial Presentation & Treasurer's Report – October 31, 2021

Ms. Allen reported.

Slide 2 – Financial Results – Hospital Operations

- \$3.3 million deficit for hospital operations year to date.
- The net deficit after building amortization is \$4,282.
- COVID-19 unfunded but eligible expenses total \$1,935 to date, ineligible total \$1,740.
- Unfunded non-ministry revenues and unearned volume funding total \$7.7 million.

Slide 3 – Funding

- The Ministry has now confirmed that both Q1 and Q2 incremental expenses submitted will be funded and therefore a total of \$6.2 million of this funding has been accrued.
- For Q3 and Q4, screening cost remain eligible for funding, however incremental PPE cost are no longer funded.
- The Ministry has made PPE supplies available from the provincial stockpile at no cost to hospitals.

Revenue

- Base and one time funding is \$20.8 million favourable due to amounts that have been accrued for known COVID-19 reimbursements. These include the Q1 & Q2 incremental expenses, temporary physician payments, vaccination and assessment centre funding and nursing extern funding.

- Patient Services Revenue \$1,767,000 favourable – relates to uninsured patient revenue from the Ministry and higher diagnostic revenues which are offset by higher medical staff remuneration expense.

Slide 4 – COVID-19 Impact on Expenses

- \$1.7 million year to date in extraordinary expenses, and \$3.1 million in lost revenues for a total of \$4.8 million that is unfunded or is currently ineligible for funding.
- Hospitals are still waiting for communications regarding treatment of lost revenues.

Slide 5 – Expenses

- \$24 million year to date unfavourable variance in expenses, however, \$29 million of the total \$32 million in COVID-19 expenses are confirmed/eligible for funding.
- Drugs \$2.2 unfavourable, systemic and renal drugs are funded by Ontario Health and additional drug expenses in retail pharmacies are offset by recoveries.
- Other supplies variance includes \$3,561,000 additional e-Volve HIS project costs due to COVID-19 delays for which we have received funding confirmation.
- Utilities are favourable \$1,097,000 year to date due to the continuing electricity rebate.

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Mr. P. Lachance and **CARRIED**
THAT the report from the December 9, 2021 Financial Presentation (as of October 31, 2021) be accepted.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Mr. I. McLeod and **CARRIED**
THAT the report from the November 29, 2021 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meeting be accepted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:

- a) Media Report – FYI only.

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

None

10. NEW BUSINESS:

None

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, January 6, 2022, 1700 hrs VIA: ZOOM

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was
MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance, **SECONDED** by Ms. G. Isshak and **CARRIED**
THAT the December 9, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1745 hours.

 Anthony Paniccia, Chair
 Board of Directors
 /ds

 Dawn Sutherland
 Recording Secretary