



MINUTES of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, November 4, 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

Dr. Laurie Freeman

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

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 October 7, 2021 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance, **SECONDED** by Ms. P. France and **CARRIED**

THAT the minutes of the October 7, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

The Chair provided information on the following fundraising campaigns:

- Grow On Windsor, a local fundraising campaign created by the Windsor Cancer Centre Foundation in 2015. The campaign takes place every November in support of cancer awareness, research and treatment for men living in our region. Funds stay local and helps support patients within the WRCC. You can donate directly on the website: <https://windsorcancerfoundation.org/grow-on>
- The WRH Mega Monthly 50/50 raffle continues for the month of November. Again, tickets can be purchased online.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:

Mr. Musyj reported. Highlights from his report are as follows:

- i) Provincial trends of COVID+ patients: in the middle of October we had 500 cases per day. The 7 day average has started to increase slightly and as indicated by the Province Chief Medical Officer of Health, we anticipate cases will rise as we move indoors with the colder weather. As cases in the community go up, trailing indicators will be hospitalizations, ICU cases and unfortunately deaths.

- ii) As it stands right now in hospitals across the Province, 60% of COVID+ patients are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. 85% of COVID+ patients in Ontario ICUs are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated. Mr. Musyj explained that we really need to continue to look at these numbers. This means 26% of the total population is not fully vaccinated. As vaccination rates go up the more these numbers will start moving.
- iii) Since June 29, 2021 WR has admitted 184 COVID-19+ patients, 73% have not been fully vaccinated. Of the 184, 42 patients have been admitted to the ICU. The trend, both provincially and internationally, is those not vaccinated are the ones being admitted to ICUs.

Another hot topic is infection-induced versus vaccine-induced immunity and Dr. Saad provided some information. People feel that if they have had COVID they have a natural immunity to the disease, however this is not enough to exempt them from being vaccinated. Emerging evidence coming from the US and other centres continues to strengthen the recommendation from the WRO, Health Canada and CDC, and that is vaccination after a natural infection is required to protect yourself in the long-term. Dr. Saad explained that antibody levels do not give a complete picture of whether someone is immune or not. Also, immune responses in individuals vary from person to person. Also studies show that if you have been infected and then get vaccinated you will have a more robust immune response than someone with just the vaccine.

Ms. Riddell provided an update on the Ouellette COVID AC and the MET PUMA AC:

- The Ouellette Assessment Centre focuses on 18 years of age and above (children are also seen when necessary) and is open 7 days a week from 0700-1500. Symptomatic testing only and by appointment.
- Met PUMA Assessment Centre focuses on 17 years of age and under, symptomatic testing only by appointment. Hours are 1200-2000 7 days a week. As of November 2, 2021 we have seen over 3500 children.
- There continues to be other community based free COVID-19 symptomatic testing in the community.
- Third doses are now available to an expanded group – individuals 70 and over, health care workers and designated essential caregivers in congregate settings, indigenous populations and those who received the series of AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson. These individuals would have had to receive their 2nd dose at least six (6) months ago. Third doses are available at the mass vaccination site at Devonshire mall, by appointment only and also at participating pharmacies, healthcare providers and pop up vaccination clinics in Windsor-Essex. We are encouraging people to book their third doses. Mr. Musyj advised that we do not have a date yet for 5 – 11 year old vaccinations. We are waiting on Health Canada approval and following that a process will be provided with respect to distribution. The 5 – 11 year olds will get priority just like first and second doses. We will have a limited availability at that time and if you are eligible now you should book your third dose while you have the opportunity.

Mr. J. Foster outlined the new partnership between the RAAMP Clinic and the Erie St. Clair Regional Cancer Program. This is a cancer screening partnership for unattached patients or for those individuals who are having difficulty accessing screening. Many patients missed their 2020 screenings. Patients can book their own appointments through the RAAMP website or by calling the clinic. Cervical, Colorectal and OBSP cancer screenings have all fallen from due to the pandemic. This will assist primary care in getting caught up and doing more face to face visits. Mr. Foster explained the screening pathway that includes follow up and communication to the primary care provider. Mr. Musyj added that we are trying to help with early detection.

5. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs provided the following highlights:

- The Medical School is back to full in person learning and things are going well. Western has a 99% vaccination rate on campus. There is still some work to do to catch up in some areas of the curriculum that could not get done as well as they could over the last 18 months. Confident with some strategies that this will be completed this academic year.
- Thank you to the hospital for finding capacity to accept increased medical learners on campus as some could not travel due to the pandemic.

6. Financial Presentation & Treasurer's Report – September 30, 2021

Ms. Allen reported.

Slide 2 – Financial Results – Hospital Operations

- \$2.3 million deficit for hospital operations year to date.
- The net deficit after building amortization is \$3,158,000.
- COVID-19 unfunded expenses total \$4,258,000 to date.
- Unfunded non-ministry revenues and unearned volume funding total \$6.8 million.

Slide 3 – Funding

- In September we received a one-time funding letter for \$709,800 for three (3) additional acute med/Surg beds to be operational from October 1st to March 31st.
- The Ministry has confirmed that Q1 incremental expenses submitted will be funded and therefore \$3 million of this funding has been accrued.

Revenue

- Base and one time funding is \$15.6 million favourable due to amounts that have been accrued for known COVID-19 reimbursements. These include the Q1 incremental expenses, temporary physician payments, vaccination and assessment centre funding and nursing extern funding.

Slide 4 – COVID-19 Impact on Expenses

- 4.3 million year to date in extraordinary expenses for which funding has not yet been received or confirmed – these are for the Q2 incremental expenses.

Slide 5 – Expenses

- Salaries and Benefits combined are unfavourable \$4.7 million due to additional staffing for screening, the assessment and vaccination centre.
- Additional Med Fees (\$4.8 million over budget)
 - \$3.8 million are physician fees related to COVID and are fully funded
 - Remaining variance in diagnostic services as the cost of earning additional patient services revenues
- Med/Surg supply deficit is \$1.6 million to date due to higher than budgeted Personal Protection Equipment costs (PPE – masks, gowns and gloves). To date additional PPE costs are \$2.5 million.
- Drugs are unfavourable \$828,000 to date but are offset by higher favourable retail pharmacy revenues.
- Other supplies are unfavourable by \$3.3 million mainly due to referred out expenses.
- Note the surplus of \$964,000 in utilities due to the continuation of the electricity rebate that we have mentioned before.

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Ms. P. France and **CARRIED**
THAT the report from the November 4, 2021 Financial Presentation (as of September 30, 2021) be accepted.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Dr. L. Freeman and **CARRIED**
THAT the report from the October 25, 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, December 9, 2021, 1700 hrs VIA: ZOOM

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was

MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance by Ms. C. Bissonnette and **CARRIED**
THAT the November 4, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1750 hours.

Anthony Paniccia, Chair
Board of Directors
/ds

Dawn Sutherland
Recording Secretary