



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

Mary Dawson

Ian McLeod

Dr. Laurie Freeman

Cynthia Bissonnette

Dan Wilson

Patricia France

Laura Copat

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

David Musyj (ex-officio, non-voting)

Karen Riddell (ex-officio, non-voting)

REGRETS:

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

STAFF VIA ZOOM:

Executive Committee

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.

Going forward, a video will be recorded of Mr. Paniccia reciting the land acknowledgment and this will be played at the start of every board meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 3, 2021 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance, **SECONDED** by Dr. L. Freeman and **CARRIED THAT** the minutes of the June 3, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:

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

- i) Update on COVID in our region – Windsor-Essex entered Wave 4 with high numbers. Mr. Musyj presented the metrics for the week of August 29 to September 4, 2021. The weekly positivity rate was 9.29%. WE has the highest positivity rate in the Province.

Mr. Musyj spoke about the infection rates per age group and recent trends. The age group 0-39 is driving the current COVID positive rates. We are below the provincial average for age group.

The risk of COVID-19 infection among those individuals unvaccinated is 5.84 higher than it is for those fully vaccinated.

We are seeing the impact with the return to school with a couple of outbreaks already.

Dr. Saad explained the “layered” approach for protection as we face Wave 4. Vaccines remain the main tool to prevent spread. Dr. Saad addressed hospitalizations by vaccination status. The hospital must be able to protect critical care capacity to avoid further lockdowns. With respect to fully vaccinated patients in hospital, Dr. Saad explained that these patients have other comorbidities and the resolved cases still put a burden on the hospital system.

Ms. Riddell provided an update on the Ouellette Assessment Centre and the Met Paediatric Urgent Medical Assessment Clinic (PUMA). The PUMA clinic opened on August 31st and is intended for urgent medical COVID-19 assessments of children 17 years of age and under. At the end of today the clinic will have seen approximately 500 children. Ms. Riddell added that there is a large cohort in our population at risk – children 12 and under who cannot get the vaccine as of yet. The Ouellette AC and the PUMA clinic are both appointment based and we always ensure we have appointments available within 24 hours. The AC hours can be expanded if needed as well. There is also community-based free COVID-19 symptomatic testing available in the community and this information is available on the WRH website.

Mr. Musyj advised that ventilation and air exchange are now recognized as important tools for mitigating COVID-19 indoors. WRH has purchased, calibrated and installed CO2 monitors throughout the hospital in areas such as lunchrooms.

- (ii) Update on staff vaccinations and timelines – today WRH, along with ESHC and HDGH, announced the new vaccine policy effective September 22, 2021. All hospital staff that have not received their first dose by October 7, 2021 will have their employment terminated or their privileges suspended or not allowed into WRH as a student/affiliate/volunteer.

The staff vaccination rate was 85% back on August 3rd and has increased to north of 94%. We will continue to work with the staff and some have reached out to get some clinical support. Dr. Saad has also volunteered to walk them through any issues they may have in order to support vaccinations.

5. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs was unable to attend the meeting. His written report was circulated for information purposes.

6. Financial Presentation & Treasurer's Report

Ms. Allen reported.

Slide 2 – Funding:

- Funding letters for 2021-2022 were received in June.
- Base increase awarded was 1.4% approximately, or \$4.9 million.
- Funding for 2021-2022 closely approximates the Optimization Review recommendations.
- \$4.1 million confirmed for 32 acute medicine/surgical beds and 5 acute mental health beds for the 1st quarter of fiscal year.
- COVID-19 expense reimbursement for Q1 is consistent with last fiscal year but for the remaining months only prescribed expenses will be funded, although that may be subject to change.

Slide 3 – Financial Results – Hospital Operations:

- \$8 million operating deficit year to date.
- Largest variance is in salaries and wages – mainly COVID-19 expenses, for screening staff/visitors, operation of the Assessment Centre and the Vaccine Centres.
- Medical staff remuneration in a deficit but this is funded through COVID-19 temporary physician funding which has now been confirmed to the end on September 2022.
- Other supplies deficit due to referred out expenses for cataract procedures and the City of Windsor expenses for the vaccination centres.

Slide 4 – COVID-19 Impact:

- \$6.1 million year to date in extraordinary expenses for which funding has not been received or confirmed that it will be received.
- We have confirmation of the amounts funded for the vaccination centres, nursing extern program, the COVID-19 Assessment Centre (which is funded on a per swab basis) and temporary physician payments & these revenues have been accrued to date.
- Lost revenues including volume-based funding totals \$5.3 million to date.
- Hospitals have not received communication as to how or if these revenue losses will be funded in fiscal 2021-2022.

Slide 5 – Revenue:

- Base and one-time favourable \$9.5 million due to amounts accrued as detailed – these are known items related to COVID-19.
- Preferred Accommodation and other recoveries are unfavourable year to date, we cannot charge for private and semi-private rooms if patients required them for infection control and prevention reasons.
- Patient services are favourable due to the Ministry covering uninsured patient services at the interprovincial rate. In the past, many of these accounts would have been uncollectible.
- Diagnostic revenues have increased but are offset by a corresponding increase in medical staff fees.

Slide 6 – Expenses:

- Salaries & Wages are \$6.1 million unfavourable due to additional COVID-19 expenses.
- Employee benefits in line with wages.
- Additional Med Fees are either funded as they are COVID related or offset by diagnostic revenues.
- Med/Surg deficit due to increased PPE costs which average about \$25 higher per patient day than the pre-COVID cost.
- Drugs favourable.
- Other supplies unfavourable – referred out expense as outlined in the slide.

Slide 7 – Organizational Health Metrics:

- Sick and overtime at both campuses over the median benchmarks.
- FTEs over at the Met campus by 39.9 FTEs
 - 9.7 FTEs for Additional Cerner training hours
 - 15.6 FTEs in critical care – no funding letter for additional beds which are in operation
 - 8.5 additional housekeeping
- FTEs over at the Ouellette campus by 61.6 FTEs
 - 34.6 FTEs for medical inpatient services
 - 6.9 FTEs in the emergency department
 - 7.2 FTEs in critical care
 - 12.7 housekeeping

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Mr. P. Lachance and **CARRIED** **THAT** the reports from the June 21, 2021 and August 23, 2021 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meeting be accepted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:

- a) Media Report – FYI only.
- b) June 10, 2021 letter to ProsperUs – FYI only.

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

None

10. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 1700 hrs VIA: ZOOM

11. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was

MOVED by Mr. D. Wilson, **SECONDED** by Ms. M. Dawson and **CARRIED**
THAT the September 9, 2021 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1740 hours.

Anthony Paniccia, Chair
Board of Directors
/ds

Dawn Sutherland
Recording Secretary