

Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session)

MINUTES OF MEETING

June 27, 2023

St. Catharines Site

	Sept 27/2022	Nov 29/2022	Jan 31/2023	Mar 28/2023	May 30/2023	Jun 27/2023	
Bunny Alexander, Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Ray Archer	✓	✓	✓	✓	R	✓	
Gervan Fearon	✓	✓*	✓*	R	R	✓*	
Susanne Flett	-	-	-	-	✓*	✓	
Lynn Guerriero (ex-officio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Marti Jurmain	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Alison MacTavish (ex-officio)	-	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓*	
Shane Malcolm	✓*	✓	✓*	✓	R	✓	
Stephen Murdoch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	
Catherine Novick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓*	✓	
Marylee O'Neill	✓	✓*	✓	R	✓	✓	
Heather Paterson (ex-officio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Murray Paton	R	✓*	✓	✓	R	R	
Carmen Rossiter	R	✓	✓*	✓	✓	✓	
Cathy Sutherland	R	✓	R	✓*	✓	✓	
Robert Tiffin	✓	✓	✓	R	✓	✓	
Johan Viljoen (ex-officio)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Barry Wright	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Elisabeth Zimmermann	✓	✓	R	R	✓	✓	
Staff and Guests in Attendance:							
Simon Akinsulie	-	-	-	-	-	✓	
Harpreet Bassi	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Linda Boich	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sonali Kohli	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Fiona Peacefull	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Angela Zangari	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

*Virtual Attendance

Guests:

Heather Kelley – Delegate Addressing the Board

Andrea Scott – Niagara Health Foundation

Albert Iannatuono – Niagara Health Foundation

1. **DELEGATIONS/PERSONS ADDRESSING THE BOARD**

Heather Kelley attended the meeting to present views on behalf of Fort Erie Healthcare SOS with respect to the changes to the Urgent Care Centres within the Fort Erie Community. The Board thanked Ms. Kelley for her time and presentation, noting that her presentation will be taken under advisement.

2. **CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Bunny Alexander welcomed fellow Directors, staff and guests and called the meeting to order at 12:16p.m. In person attendees were reminded of the housekeeping matters related to the hybrid meeting environment.

2.1 **Quorum**

There was quorum and the meeting was properly constituted for the transaction of business.

2.2 **Approval of the Agenda**

MOTION B23-038:

It was MOVED by C. Sutherland and SECONDED by R. Archer that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Open Session Agenda for the June 27, 2023 Meeting as presented. CARRIED.

2.3 **Declaration of Conflicts**

There were no conflicts declared with the subject matter contained within the agenda.

2.4 **Chair's Comments**

The Chair thanked the Board for their contributions and support and noted that this will be her last meeting as not only the Chair, but also an NH Board Member. Thanks were extended to M. O'Neill for hosting the Niagara Health Board and Niagara Health Foundation Board gathering at her home.

3. **EDUCATION**

3.1 The education was deferred.

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION B23-039:

It was MOVED by R. Tiffin and SECONDED by S. Malcolm that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda for the June 27, 2023 Open Session meeting as presented, including the motions listed below:

- **That the Minutes of the May 30, 2023 Open Session Meeting of the Niagara Health System Board of Directors be approved as presented.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Quality and Patient Experience, Governance and People, Finance and Audit and Capital Planning Committees Terms of Reference as amended, and the Quality and Patient Experience, Governance and People and Finance and Audit Committee workplans as presented.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory and Governance Committees, having considered the information provided in accordance with the processes set out in the Niagara Health System By-Law Number 2, Professional Staff By-Law and the Public Hospitals Act, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the appointment of Dr. Victor Uwaifo, Chief of Mental Health and Addictions, effective July 1, 2023.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the dissolution of the Executive Committee of the Board, effective June 27, 2023.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory and Governance Committees, having considered the information provided in accordance with the processes set out in the Niagara Health System By-Law Number 2, Professional Staff By-Law and the**

Public Hospitals Act, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the appointment of Dr. Helen Caetano as Interim Chief of Surgery, effective September 1st, 2023.

- **That, on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors, approve the appointment of Dr. Asim Hasany as the Head of Service, Respiriology for the department of Medicine effective July 1st, 2023.**
 - **That the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approve the Broader Public Sector Accountability Act (BPSAA) Attestation for April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.**
 - **That, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors authorize by resolution the MSAA Schedule F – Declaration of Compliance for the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023.**
 - **That the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approve the 2022-23 Child and Youth Mental Health Operating Annual Reconciliation for the year ending March 31, 2023.**
- CARRIED.**

5. REPORTS

5.1 Report of the President and CEO

Lynn Guerriero provided highlights from the June 2023 President and CEO's report with a focus on correcting mis-information related to Urgent Care Centres. A response to inaccuracies within the Delegation Letter to the Board of Directors is included in Appendix 1.

5.1.1 Strategic Plan Dashboard

In keeping with the commitment to providing regular updates, the Board was provided with the most recent dashboard related to the year 1 Strategic Plan initiatives. The Standing Committees will participate in fulsome discussions of the initiatives throughout the upcoming year, with the full dashboard to be provided to the Board on a quarterly basis.

5.2 Report of the Niagara Health Foundation

Albert Iannatuono and Andrea Scott provided highlights from the June 2023 Foundation report with a focus on the fiscal year end results and fundraising activities. The Foundation Board will be welcoming a cohort of new Directors for the upcoming Board Year and will be transitioning to a new Chair. A. Iannatuono provided reflections on his time as Foundation Board Chair and M. O'Neill was thanked on behalf of the Foundation for hosting the joint Board gathering in June.

6. BUSINESS ARISING

6.1 There were no business arising items for discussion.

7. MATTERS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION

7.1 Report of the Quality Committee

Elisabeth Zimmermann, Quality Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's June meeting as outlined in the Committee report to the Board. The Committee discussions concentrated on the Care for the Elder Person Strategy, falls data, insurance and legal claims update and relevant scorecards. Staff was commended for the rich information prepared and presented to the Committee.

7.2 Report of the Governance Committee

Barry Wright, Governance Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's June meeting contained in the Committee report to the Board as outlined below.

7.2.1 Appointment of Staff Representative for the Quality and Patient Experience Committee

In keeping with the Excellent Care for All Act, the Governance Committee received an update on the process undertaken to recommend a staff member that is not a nurse or physician to join the Committee. There were a number of individuals interested and following an interview process, the Panel was unanimous in recommending Krista Unruh, Charge Medical Laboratory Technologist at the Welland Site, for appointment. Vicki Lanigan was thanked for her outstanding contributions as the outgoing staff Committee Member.

MOTION B23-040:

It was MOVED by B. Wright and SECONDED by E. Zimmermann that on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the appointment of Krista Unruh to the Quality and Patient Experience Committee effective June 27, 2023 for a maximum three year term, subject to annual re-appointment. CARRIED.

7.3 Report of the Medical Advisory Committee

Dr. Johan Viljoen, Chief of Staff, provided highlights from the Committee's June meeting as outlined in the report to the Board. Congratulations were extended on behalf of the Board to the class of 2023 McMaster medical faculty award winners.

8. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

8.1 Report of the Quality Committee

The June report was provided to the Board for information.

8.2 Report of the Governance Committee

The June report was provided to the Board for information.

9. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

There being no further business, the Open Session adjourned at 12:45p.m.

MOTION B23-041:

It was MOVED by M. O'Neill and SECONDED by E. Zimmermann that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors Open Session Meeting of June 27, 2023 be adjourned, and moved to a Closed Session Meeting. CARRIED.

Recording Secretary: D. Dube

Bunny Alexander, Chair

APPENDIX 1

PAGE	INACCURATE	ACCURATE
1	I am truly devastated by the decision of this Board to shut down our urgent care in Fort Erie and Port Colborne.	UCCs are not being closed down at this time, the hours are being reduced to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
1	Not only are you placing an undue burden on your already overwhelmed hospitals and Emergency rooms but you are now placing all of the people that live in our towns at a deadly disadvantage to obtain healthcare.	Given the low volume and acuity of patients seen at UCCs, EDs are not expected to feel a significant impact. Also, UCCs are not EDs and people in need of emergency care should never be going to UCCs for care.
1	A woman was brought into DMH (Douglas Memorial) Saturday June 3 at 12:03 am without vital signs - should she have been turned away she would surely have not survived and yet she is alive today because of the heroic efforts of our healthcare team in Fort Erie.	Unconfirmed that this happened. The clinical protocol at the UCC if someone arrives with an emergency is to call 911 as staff are not equipped to deal with emergencies.
2	People have been turned away but thankfully someone was there to stabilize the patient before sending them elsewhere.	Unconfirmed and unlikely.
2	Apparently though we should just wait until daylight and go to your own family Doctor if you have one or go take up space in an Emergency Room?	People who have conditions that can be dealt with by a family doctor should not go to an Emergency Department afterhours. They should go to a pharmacy, use virtual urgent care, or wait until the UCC reopens at 10 a.m.
3	At least with our Urgent Care some of those immediate services could be made available and our Physicians could get the immediate support they need; like x-rays, ultra sound, and other diagnostic test – lab tests, ECG, EKG all the things that assist our Doctors in making sound decisions about our health care.	Changes to the hours of operation of the UCCs doesn't impact access to diagnostic imaging in those facilities.
3	Why are you not appealing for funding to provide for a healthcare team in all of our small communities.	This is not a funding issue, this is a Health Human Resources issue.
3	The wait times are outrageous because you have taken away the services that once would have been provided locally.	ED wait times are complex and dictated by a number of factors including HHR staffing shortages and inappropriate use of the EDs for ailments best treated in a primary care setting.
4	We have operating rooms sitting idle and we have doctors that are available but due to policy cannot perform operations.	Operating rooms are used to capacity taking into account factors such as surgeon schedules, access to staff and anesthesiologists and patient attendance.