

**Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session)**

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

March 24, 2026

Marotta Family Hospital

	Oct 7/2025	Dec 2/2025	Feb 3/2026	Mar 24/2026		
Simon Akinsulie (ex-officio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Ray Archer	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Kevin Chan (ex-officio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Richard Ellis	✓	R	✓	✓		
Susanne Flett	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jennifer Frendo (ex-officio)	-	✓	✓	✓		
Lynn Guerriero (ex-officio)	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Jennifer Li	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Mary Maida	✓	✓	R	✓		
Chris McGrath	✓	R	✓	✓		
John McKinley	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Marylee O’Neill, Chair	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Charlie Rate	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Anthony Reitboeck	✓	R	✓	✓		
Carmen Rossiter	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Shelley Tapp	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Janice Thomson	✓	✓	R	✓		
<b>Staff and Guests in Attendance:</b>						
Harpreet Bassi	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Linda Boich	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Anthony DiCaita	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Sonali Kohli	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Heather Paterson	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Fiona Peacefull	✓	✓	✓	✓		

**Guests:**

- Andrea Scott
- Rachel Stuchberry
- Carmine Posteraro
- Dr. Julian Dobranowski

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Marylee O’Neill welcomed fellow Directors, staff and guests and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**1.1 Land Acknowledgement**

Anthony Reitboeck led the Board in a Land Acknowledgement, including a personal reflection.

## 1.2 Quorum

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

## 1.3 Approval of the Agenda

### **MOTION B26-14:**

**It was MOVED by S. Flett and SECONDED by C. McGrath that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Open Session Agenda for the March 24, 2026 Meeting as presented. CARRIED.**

## 1.4 Declaration of Conflicts

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

## 1.5 Chair's Comments

The Chair extended congratulations to the Foundation on the success of the recent Gala and thanked Directors who were able to participate in the South Niagara Site beam signing event. The chair also noted that National Volunteer Week will be celebrated the week of April 19<sup>th</sup> and encouraged Directors to participate in the education sessions being hosted by the Ontario Hospital Association in April.

## 1.6 Patient Story

Carmine Posteraro shared his journey as a patient at the Marotta Family Hospital during the pandemic. The story demonstrated that in addition to medical care, human factors are equally impactful to the patient and family experience. Staff and physicians have also been provided the opportunity to hear this story as part of the Critical Care Survivorship Program.

## 2. EDUCATION

2.1 There were no education items presented.

## 3. CONSENT AGENDA

### **MOTION B26-15:**

**It was MOVED by R. Ellis and SECONDED by C. McGrath that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda for the March 24, 2026 Open Session meeting as presented, including the motions listed below:**

- **That the Minutes of the February 3, 2026 Open Session Meeting be approved as presented.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory and Governance and People 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 Selection Committee for the recruitment of the Chief of Oncology as set out below:**
  - Dr. Kevin Chan (Chair), Ms. Lynn Guerriero (Or Delegate), Ms. Shelley Tapp, Ms. Heather Paterson (or Delegate), Dr. Jennifer Frendo (or Delegate), Dr. Lorraine Jensen, Ms. Tracy Fazzari, Ms. Lydia Collins, Dr. Robert Dinniwell, Dr. Katrin Conen, Dr. Blair Leonard, Dr. Satish Chawla and Dr. Amanda Bell (or Delegate).**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance and People Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Executive Goal-Setting and Performance Evaluation policy as amended.**

- **That, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit and Capital Planning Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the 2026/27 Service Accountability Agreements (SAA) Extension for Hospital (HSAA), Long Term Care (LSAA) and Multi- Sector/Mental Health and Addictions vote programs (MSAA).**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit and Capital Planning Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves changes to the Auditor Independence Policy.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit and Capital Planning Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors authorizes the 2026 LSAA Schedule E Declaration of Compliance for signature. CARRIED.**

#### **4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

##### **4.1 Report of the President and CEO**

Lynn Guerriero provided highlights from the March 2026 President and CEO report with a focus on Emergency Department performance metrics. Notable improvements have been observed in the area of Physician Initial Assessment time and length of stay for admitted patients.

##### **4.2 Report of the Chief of Staff and Chair of MAC**

Dr. Kevin Chan provided highlights from the March 2026 Chief of Staff and Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) report with a focus on flu season activity and response, recruitment activities and the success of the recent Canadian Resident Matching Service Match Day.

##### **4.2.1 Head of Service Extension – Emergency Medicine**

An extension to Dr. Timothy St. Amand’s first term as the Marotta Family Hospital Site Head of Service in Emergency Medicine has been recommended by the Medical Advisory Committee.

##### **MOTION B26-16:**

**It was MOVED by R. Archer and SECONDED by J. Li that on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approve the extension of Dr. Timothy St. Amand’s first Term as Head of Service, Marotta Family Hospital Emergency Medicine to June 30, 2026. CARRIED.**

##### **4.3 Niagara Health Foundation**

Andrea Scott and Rachel Stuchberry provided the Board with an update focused on the success of recent fundraising events, such as the Gala and the Annual Giving Program. The Board was provided with a list of equipment that has been funded as a result of these events.

#### **4. STANDING ITEMS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION**

##### **5.1 SAFE AND QUALITY CARE**

##### **5.1.1 Report of the Quality and Patient Experience Committee**

##### **i. 2026/27 Quality Improvement Plan Submission**

The indicators and targets approved by the Board in January have been translated into the Ontario Health narrative, workplan and progress report templates. The Board was reminded that NH was identified as a “Selected Hospital” to submit the draft QIP to Ontario Health for review in February. The feedback received has been incorporated into the final drafts.

**MOTION B26-17:**

**It was MOVED by J. McKinley and SECONDED by M. Maida that on the recommendation of the Quality and Patient Experience Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Niagara Health 2026/27 Quality Improvement Plan and 2025/26 Progress Report for submission to Ontario Health. CARRIED.**

The Board was provided with highlights of the Medical Imaging program report received by the Committee. Dr. Julian Dobranowski attended this portion of the meeting and provided further context of the successful initiatives contributing to the significant reduction of CT and MRI wait times. The program remains focused on operational efficiencies to manage increasing volumes and sustain the improvements observed.

**5.2 GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT**

**5.2.1 Report of the Governance and People Committee**

**i. Professional Staff By-Law and Rules**

The Professional Staff By Law Review Committee was established to support the review process. In keeping with best practice, the Ontario Hospital Association prototype By-Law was used as a basis for the review, with Niagara Health specific nuances incorporated where appropriate. As contemplated in the By-Law, professional staff were afforded the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments. The feedback received has been incorporated. The By-Law and Rules have also been endorsed by the Medical Advisory Committee.

**MOTION B26-18:**

**It was MOVED by J. Thomson and SECONDED by C. Rate that, on the recommendation of the Governance and People Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Professional Staff By-Law and Rules as amended and re-stated in their entirety in the forms presented to the meeting and directs that they be submitted to the members of the Corporation for confirmation. CARRIED.**

**ii. Chief of Medicine Second Term Appointment**

The current Chief of Medicine has completed her first five year term and is eligible for reappointment to a second five year term. Dr. Jensen has participated in the robust review/reappointment process implemented by the Chief of Staff, which included the establishment of a Second Term Consideration Committee. This Committee agreed that Dr. Jensen has demonstrated commitment and leadership and supported her reappointment. This recommendation was also endorsed by the Medical Advisory Committee.

**MOTION B26-19:**

**It was MOVED by J. Thomson and SECONDED by S. Tapp that, on the recommendation of the Governance and People and Medical Advisory 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 a second term of five years for Dr. Lorraine Jensen, Chief of Medicine, effective April 1, 2026. CARRIED.**

iii. **Chief of Diagnostic Imaging Extension**

The recruitment process for a new Chief of Diagnostic Imaging is underway, however is not anticipated to be completed until the Fall. The Medical Advisory Committee has recommended an extension to Dr. Dobranowski's term to accommodate the recruitment and onboarding process.

**MOTION B26-20:**

**It was MOVED by J. Thomson and SECONDED by M. Maida that, on the recommendation of the Governance and People and Medical Advisory Committees, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the extension of Dr. Julian Dobranowski's second term as Chief of Diagnostic Imaging to October 31, 2026 or sooner should a successor be appointed. CARRIED.**

The Governance and People Committee also received an update on Board recruitment activities, including the anticipation that a candidate will be brought forward for endorsement in May. The Committee also had the opportunity to review results of the recent skills matrix summary refresh. In addition to experience, Director were also afforded the opportunity to share diversity profiles. The Board continues to progress towards achieving the commitment to the Government of Canada's 50/30 Challenge.

7. **MOTION TO ADJOURN OPEN SESSION**

There being no further business, the Open Session adjourned at 5:10p.m.

**MOTION B26-21:**

**It was MOVED by A. Reitboeck that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors Open Session Meeting of March 24, 2026 be adjourned. CARRIED.**

Recording Secretary: D. Dube

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Marylee O'Neill, Chair