

Board of Directors Meeting (Open Session)

MINUTES OF MEETING

September 28, 2021

Virtual

	Sept 28/2021						
Bunny Alexander, Chair	✓						
Ray Archer	✓						
Bernd Christmas	✓						
Gervan Fearon	R						
Lynn Guerriero (ex-officio)	✓						
Marti Jurmain	✓						
Maynard Luterman (ex-officio)	✓						
Shane Malcolm	✓						
Stephen Murdoch	✓						
Catherine Novick	✓						
Marylee O'Neill	R						
Heather Paterson (ex-officio)	✓						
Murray Paton	✓						
Carmen Rossiter	✓						
Cathy Sutherland	R						
Robert Tiffin	✓						
Johan Viljoen (ex-officio)	✓						
Barry Wright	✓						
Elisabeth Zimmermann	✓						
Staff and Guests in Attendance:							
Harpreet Bassi	✓						
Linda Boich	✓						
Sonali Kohli	✓						
Flo Paladino	✓						
Caroline Bourque-Wiley	✓						
Angela Zangari	✓						

Guests:

Jaelynne Sonke – Regional Program Director, Complex Care and Site Director, Welland and Port Colborne

Mary Wiley – Knowledge Mobilization Lead, Niagara Connects

Andrea Scott – Niagara Health Foundation

Albert Iannatuono – Niagara Health Foundation

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Bunny Alexander welcomed fellow Directors, staff and guests and called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Land Acknowledgement

Elisabeth Zimmerman acknowledged the lands that the Board was gathered on.

1.2 Quorum

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

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

MOTION B21-076:

It was MOVED by M. Paton and SECONDED by S. Murdoch that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Open Session Agenda for the September 28, 2021 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 welcomed fellow Directors and Staff to the first formal meeting of the 2021/22 Board year and acknowledged Marylee O'Neill as the new Board Vice-Chair. The Chair thanked everyone for their participation in the retreat held the previous week and also expressed appreciation to the Executive Team on behalf of the Board for their continuous commitment to Niagara Health, particularly given the increased workloads throughout the pandemic.

1.6 Patient Story

Jaelynn Sonke provided the Board with the story of a patient's journey from the inpatient surgical unit at the St. Catharines site, to the complex care unit at the Port Colborne site, to a safe discharge home.

2. EDUCATION

2.1 Living in Niagara Report

Mary Wiley, Knowledge Mobilization Lead for Niagara Connects, provided the Board with an overview of the Living In Niagara Report for 2020, which combines data, information, and front-line community expert opinions. The Niagara Knowledge Exchange is another tool that supports focused evidence-informed planning and decision making for a stronger future. It was noted that there has been an increase in Niagara wide collaborations between sectors observed over the last number of years. A framework to provide updated evidence annually in each of the sectors is being developed, with an anticipated launch in 2022.

The Board acknowledged the positive contribution Niagara Connects makes to the community and thanked Ms. Wiley for her presentation. The information contained in the reports will be an important tool which will provide context to support Niagara Health's Strategic Planning refresh process.

3. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION B21-077:

It was MOVED by B. Wright and SECONDED by R. Archer that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda for the September 28, 2021 Open Session meeting as presented, including the motions listed below:

- **That the Minutes of the June 29, 2021 Open Session Meeting and June 29, 2021 Post Annual General 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 appointment of Elizabeth (Liz) Froese and David Yip to the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee as the Niagara Health Engagement Network Patient Partner representatives.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves Albert Iannantuono, Niagara Health Foundation Board Chair, be appointed as a non-voting member of the Capital Planning Committee.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves that the Corporate By-law be amended and restated in its entirety, making only the changes highlighted and presented to the Board.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Professional Staff By-law Number 3, and that the Professional Staff Rules and Regulations be amended and restated in their entirety, making only the changes highlighted on the version presented to the Board.**
- **That on the recommendation of the Resources and Audit Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approve the Hospital Parking Directive Attestation for the period of August 31, 2020 to August 31, 2021.**
- **That, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee, having considered the information provided in accordance with the process set out in the Niagara Health System By-Law Number 2 Professional Staff By-Law and the Public Hospital Act, approve the appointment of Dr. Neel Malhotra as Head of Gastroenterology effective October 1st, 2021.**
- **That, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee, having considered the information provided in accordance with the process set out in the Niagara Health System By-Law Number 2 Professional Staff By-Law and the Public Hospital Act, approve the appointment of Dr. Terence Chan as Interim Head of Service, Medicine GNG Site, effective November 1st, 2021. CARRIED.**

4. REPORTS

4.1 Report of the President and CEO

Lynn Guerriero provided highlights from the September 2021 President and CEO's report as outlined below:

- A number of proposals have been submitted in the area of virtual care and digital health. NH is also investigating innovative care models, particularly for the southern tier.
- Nursing shortages are being observed both nationally and locally. Leadership continues to focus on innovative models of care and recruitment strategies.
- As part of the refocus on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion underway, the leadership team is reviewing the findings of the survey conducted by the Ryerson Diversity Institute. Recommendations will be implemented as appropriate.
- Advocacy to address the structural operating deficit is ongoing.
- The mandatory vaccination program was implemented in early September. Progress has been made toward reaching the goal of 100% vaccination status for staff and physicians.
- There are a number of COVID-19 admissions, however the hospital has remained stable during the fourth wave of the pandemic. The vast majority of patients admitted for COVID-19 are unvaccinated.

4.2 Report of the Niagara Health Foundation

Andrea Scott provided an update on Foundation activities including the most recent fundraising events and ongoing work related to the local share campaign for the South Niagara Site. Thanks were extended to L. Guerriero for her participation in a number of meetings with potential donors. It was also noted that the main entrance of the St. Catharines Site was named for the Rankin Family as recognition for the significant philanthropic activities, including Niagara's Rankin Cancer Run and MRI campaign.

Albert Iannatuono provided an update on Foundation Board activities, including the members leaving and new members joining the Foundation Board at the AGM this week. B. Alexander expressed appreciation on behalf of the NH Board for the contributions the Foundation Board Members with terms of office that are ending.

5. BUSINESS ARISING

There was no business arising to discuss.

6. MATTERS FOR DECISION/DISCUSSION

6.1 Report of the Quality Committee

Elisabeth Zimmermann, Quality Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's September meeting as outlined in the Committee report to the Board. The Board was provided with a copy of the level setting presentation the Committee received related to the history of data inputs that inform Quality and Safety. The presentation also provided a reminder of the Board's governance role as it relates to oversight.

6.2 Governance Committee

Barry Wright, Governance Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's September meeting as outlined in the Committee report to the Board, as follows:

6.2.1 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Governance Recommendations

The Committee reviewed a summary of the report prepared by the Ryerson Diversity Institute, which included two governance recommendations: Participate in the Government of Canada's 50-30 50/30 Challenge; and Update the Board's Director Selection Policy to strengthen the commitment to reaching gender and diversity targets. Participating in the Challenge sends an important signal to the organization around the commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. The changes to the policy will be helpful while recruiting Board Directors in future years.

MOTION B21-078:

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 recommend changes to the Director Selection Policy and Niagara Health's participation in the Canadian Government's 50 – 30 challenge. CARRIED.

6.3 Report of the Resources and Audit Committee

Rob Tiffin, Resources and Audit Committee Chair, provided highlights from the Committee's September meeting as outlined in the Committee reports to the Board, as follows:

6.3.1 CFO Report

The Committee continues to review the overall financial picture, including the positive developments with respect to one time funding adjustments received and the impacts of such things as increased sick and overtime rates on the overall budget. It was noted that the budgeting discussions typically begin in November, however the process for 2022/23 has yet to be confirmed by government. The Committee plans to review the financial statements as well as further discuss the desired level of detail and frequency for financial reporting.

6.4 Report of the Medical Advisory Committee

Dr. Johan Viljoen, Chief of Staff, provided highlights from the Committee's September meeting as outlined in the report to the Board as follows:

- The Medical Advisory Committee and Medical Leadership have functioned well during the pandemic however, it is important to be mindful that it has been a difficult work environment. Physicians and nursing staff deserve to be treated with kindness.
- The current pandemic planning focus is on treating paediatric patients should there be a spike in cases observed.
- Niagara is seeing the benefits of high vaccination rates in the region.
- Several physician recognitions were highlighted.
- Recruitment of professional staff is continuing with several positions recently filled.
- The Medical Advisory Committee is in the process of reviewing the annual performance review process for active staff.
- The current state of research efforts at NH were highlighted. Thanks was expressed to the Foundation for their ongoing support of funding projects. A more detailed update is planned for the November Board meeting.

7. MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

7.1 Report of the Quality Committee

The September report was provided to the Board for information.

7.2 Report of the Governance Committee

The September report was provided to the Board for information.

7.3 Report of the Resources and Audit Committee

The September report was provided to the Board for information.

7.4 Report of the Strategic Planning Committee

The September report was provided to the Board for information.

8. MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CLOSED SESSION

There being no further business, the Open Session adjourned at 5:43p.m.

MOTION B21-079:

It was MOVED by C. Rossiter and SECONDED by R. Tiffin That the Niagara Health System Board of Directors Open Session Meeting of September 28, 2021 be adjourned, and moved to a Members Meeting. CARRIED.

Bunny Alexander, Chair

Recording Secretary: D. Dube