

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

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

October 7, 2025

Marotta Family Hospital

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

\*Virtual Attendance

**Guests:**

- Andrea Scott
- Kevin Wilson
- Rachel Stuchberry
- Kate Bellon
- Shyann Jenkins

**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**

Linda Boich led the Board in a Land Acknowledgement.

## 1.2 Quorum

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

## 1.3 Approval of the Agenda

### **MOTION B25-050:**

**It was MOVED by A. Reitboeck and SECONDED by M. Maida that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Open Session Agenda for the October 7, 2025 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 Rachel Stuchberry, newly appointed Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, and acknowledged the contributions of Dr. Alison MacTavish whose term as President of the Medical Staff Association is concluding at the end of October. The Chair also shared the story of two physicians, who have shown leadership and demonstrated philanthropy by spearheading and supporting the project to acquire the latest CT scanner technology.

## 1.6 Patient Story

Kate Belon, supported by Shyanne Jenkins, outlined the journey of wildfire evacuees from northern Ontario and Manitoba First Nations communities. Niagara Health worked closely with the community to support the evacuees to wrap services around displaced families. The story demonstrated the positive impact that the Indigenous Health Services and Reconciliation (IHSR) Team had providing support to navigate this stressful time. Although the evacuation order has been lifted, the Team continues to have a connection with the many of the families that were supported.

## 2. EDUCATION

There were no education items presented.

## 3. CONSENT AGENDA

### **MOTION B25-051:**

**It was MOVED by J. Li and SECONDED by R. Archer that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Consent Agenda for the October 7, 2025 Open Session meeting as presented, including the motions listed below:**

- **That the Minutes of the June 24, 2025 Open Session Meeting and June 24, 2025 Post Annual Meeting of the Niagara Health System Board of Directors be approved as presented.**
- **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 the Selection Committees as set out below for the recruitment of the Chiefs of Emergency Medicine and Diagnostic Imaging:**

#### **Chief of Emergency Medicine**

**Dr. Kevin Chan (Chair), Ms. Lynn Guerriero (Or Delegate), Ms. Susanne Flett, Ms. Heather Paterson (or Delegate), President MSA (or Delegate), Dr. Lorraine Jensen (Or Delegate), Ms. Tara Coffin-Simpson, Ms. Lydia Collins, Dr. Chris Riddle, Dr. Jacintha James, Dr. Kayleigh Hagerman, Dr. David Heywood, Dr. Helen Caetano and Dr. Amanda Bell.**

**Chief of Diagnostic Imaging**

**Dr. Kevin Chan (Chair), Ms. Lynn Guerriero (Or Delegate), Ms. Jennifer Li, Mr. Simon Akinsulie (or Delegate), Dr. President MSA (or Delegate), Dr. Helen Caetano, Ms. Janice Feather, Ms. Lydia Collins, Dr. Ali Sabri, Dr. Josh Halperin, Dr. Nasim Hemmati, Dr. Matthew Lubanovic, Dr. Lily Fan, Dr. Michael Connolly, Dr. Rafi Setrak and Dr. Amanda Bell.**

- **That, on the recommendation of the Governance and People Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the following policies as amended: Principles of Governance; Roles and Responsibilities of the Board; Community Engagement; Board Quality; Confidentiality; Board and Committee Meeting Attendance and Leaves of Absence; Consent Agenda; Role of the Board Secretary; and Committee Principles Rules and Regulations.**
- **That, on the recommendation of the Finance and Audit and Capital Planning Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the Hospital Parking Attestation for the period of September 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025. CARRIED.**

**4. LEADERSHIP REPORTS**

**4.1 Report of the President and CEO**

Lynn Guerriero provided highlights from the October 2025 President and CEO report with a focus on the campaign recently launched to bolster recruitment and the myriad of accreditation processes Niagara Health undergoes to evaluate quality and safety including stroke, laboratory and radiation safety. The Board was also provided an update on the remediation efforts to restore operations following the floods at the Niagara Falls and Welland Sites. Thanks were extended to the Board for their participation in the Strategic Plan review session.

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

Dr. Kevin Chan provided highlights from the October 2025 Chief of Staff and Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) report with a focus on the campaign to recruit physicians, including those from outside of Canada as well as the work underway to streamline and improve ED operations and flow. The data driven National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (NSQIP) which reviews risk based outcomes for surgical care, such as surgical site infections was also highlighted. A new improvement project has been initiated each year Niagara Health has participated in the Program.

**4.2.1 Head of Service – Orthopedics**

Consistent with Niagara Health’s Professional Staff By-Law, the Medical Advisory Committee has endorsed appointment of the Head of Service Orthopedics.

**MOTION B25-052:**

**It was MOVED by R. Ellis and SECONDED by C. McGrath that on the recommendation of the Medical Advisory Committee, the Niagara Health System Board of Directors approves the appointment of Dr. Luke Bristow Head of Service Orthopedics effective October 8, 2025. CARRIED.**

**4.3 Niagara Health Foundation**

The Chair acknowledged Kevin Wilson for his contributions and leadership while Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors and introduced Rachel Stuchberry, incoming Foundation Board of Directors Chair.

Andrea Scott and Kevin Wilson provided the Board with an update focused on the Foundation Strategic Plan, recruitment for Foundation Board Directors and recent major gifts and leadership gifts. An update on the recruitment efforts for the South Niagara Hospital was also provided.

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

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

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

The Quality and Patient Experience Committee received a detailed report from the Women's, Babies and Children's health program leadership. The report highlighted several quality improvement and safety initiatives such as the proactive Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Prevention program within Children's Health and the collaboration with the Ronald McDonald House to install a family room and interactive mural in the Children's unit. The team also provided an example of how the Hospital Information System is being leveraged to generate reports to aid in clinical decision making.

The Committee also reviewed the scorecard outlining the performance of the priority indicators selected by the Committee last year. There continues to be a strong focus on improving wait time metrics, specifically in the Emergency Department and within Diagnostics. The optimization of the Hospital Information System to improve patient safety was also discussed.

### **5.2 GOVERNANCE OVERSIGHT**

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

The Governance and People Committee received confirmation that the required follow up related to the legislative compliance review conducted in June has been completed. An update on the results of the most recent employee and physician engagement survey, including examples of initiatives that will be implemented to bolster engagement was also provided.

The Board was provided with the list of potential education topics for the 2025/26 Board year. In addition to these topics, Directors will also be provided access to Indigenous and Cultural Safety training module that staff and physicians have also been asked to complete.

## **7. MOTION TO ADJOURN OPEN SESSION**

There being no further business, the Open Session adjourned at 5:08p.m.

### **MOTION B25-053:**

**It was MOVED by C. Rossiter that the Niagara Health System Board of Directors Open Session Meeting of October 7, 2025 be adjourned. CARRIED.**

Recording Secretary: D. Dube

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Marylee O'Neill, Chair