



MINUTES of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, May 5, 2022**, 17:00 hours, via ZOOM, live streamed on YouTube.

PRESENT VIA ZOOM:

Anthony Paniccia, Chair

Laura Copat

Paul Lachance

Cynthia Bissonnette

Ian McLeod

Patricia France

Dan Wilson

Dr. Laurie Freeman

Genevieve Isshak

Penny Allen

Mary Dawson

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

David Musyj (ex-officio, non-voting)

Karen Riddell (ex-officio, non-voting)

STAFF VIA ZOOM:

Executive Committee

REGRETS:

Michael Lavoie

Dr. Maher Salbalbal

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

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.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 7, 2022 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Ms. P. France, **SECONDED** by Mr. P. Lachance and **CARRIED THAT** the minutes of the April 7, 2022 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

The Chair provided a couple of updates:

- Nurses week May 9 – 15th. From the Board and all of the W/E residents thank you to the outstanding staff at WRH who work tirelessly.
- Sail into Summer – June 25, 2022 at the Windsor Yacht Club, hosted by the WRH Foundation. Tickets can be purchased through the Foundation website. Funds will support the purchase of a new Endoscopic Ultrasound Machine.
- The WRH Golf Tournament will take place on May 26, 2022.
- 50/50 draw takes place on May 13th, the jackpot is now at \$90,000.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:

Mr. Musyj provided a verbal report accompanied by slides.

The following are highlights from his report:

- i) Provincial COVID-19 Wastewater stats – there is usually a 1 – 2 week gap from the data and what is seen in the hospital. Mr. Musyj explained that testing numbers are very limited and we are flying blind now with respect to COVID mutations and variants. Coming into May, we are starting to see a decline in the wastewater across the Province. Mr. Musyj referred to slide 2 which shows the wastewater stats by region. W/E started the decline earlier than other areas. The 5th wave was identified in the January increase and the 6th wave went almost as high. The bottom line is we are not out of Wave 6 just yet and there is still significant community spread with patients still ending up in hospital to be treated.
- ii) Provincial & COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates – seeing some plateauing happening now. Slide 4 shows the Provincial hospitalization rates as of May 4, 2022. Mr. Musyj added that we are getting prepared for what is to come in the fall along with the normal respiratory illnesses. The hospital continues to examine our practices with respect to screening and PPE. At this time, WRH will not be removing masks or screening. We are still mandated to have everything in place. Even if we are able to remove some of these measures, we must be ready to reinstitute them if necessary.
- iii) WRH COVID-19 Hospitalization Rates – the graph shows a drop in hospitalizations around the 2nd last week of April. We are hoping this trend continues. ICU admissions continue to be low, with only 4 COVID positive patients currently in the ICU.

Dr. Saad spoke to anti-virals, eligibility and how they can be accessed. Paxlovid is an oral antiviral treatment for mild to moderate COVID-19 positive patients who are at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19, including hospitalization or death. Treatment of Paxlovid must begin within 5 days of symptom onset to be effective. Paxlovid can now be accessed through a primary care physician, specialty care practitioner or the WRH Assessment Centre. Dr. Saad advised that not all primary care physicians are comfortable prescribing Paxlovid however there is still the avenue of referring patients to the WRH AC. One drawback is there are many drug interactions with this medication.

Remdesivir is another treatment for certain high risk COVID-19 patients. This medication is given by injection. WRH has been using this treatment for patients in hospital for some time now. It is only available only through the WRH Assessment Centre although future doses can be provided through CCAC at home.

Dr. Saad stated that both treatments have been very effective in keeping people out of the hospital (88 – 92% effective). To date, we have administered just under 100 doses of Remdesivir and just under 130 doses of Paxlovid.

- iv) New W/E Acute Care Hospital update – the timeline was announced this week. After multiple mentions in the Ontario 2022 budget, specific details were released as part of the Infrastructure Ontario update. The tendering process is to start in early 2025 and construction to begin in the spring of 2027. Mr. Paul Landry will be coming to the

June board meeting to outline some of the work that needs to be done. Mr. Musyj added that this is a very exciting time for Windsor-Essex with all of the upcoming infrastructure developments. COVID-19 certainly proved the need for a new hospital.

5. CNE REPORT

Ms. Riddell's report this month focused on staff recognition and employee wellness. Our goals for this year were to expand on these programs. Highlights from her presentation are as follows:

- there are two formal recognition programs at WRH: the Above & Beyond & Honor Roll program and the Years of Service Recognition. The goal is to honour and recognize those who make a patient's experience more comfortable. Ms. Riddell outlined how the Above & Beyond program works including how nominations are received and reviewed. Team members are featured on the monthly Honour Roll that is displayed throughout the internal television system. Team members may also be showcased on banners, brochures and patient menus.
- WRH celebrates over 110 holidays – see the list on slide 5. For the month of May we will be celebrating National Physicians Day, International Day of the Midwife, Palliative Care Week, Nursing Week, Physiotherapy Month, PSW Day, Biomed Week and Paramedical services.
- Staff are also recognized by third party organizations and events such as the upcoming Lois Fairley Award.
- Ms. Aruna Koushik, WRH's Mediation & Human Rights Commissioner retired on May 1st after 35 years of service.
- Ms. Lucy Di Pietro, Technical Coordinator in the Microbiology Department at WRH was named a 2022 Lerner's Healthcare Champion honouring her work during the pandemic.
- We plan to encourage frontline staff in planning committees to continue to expand meaningful recognition throughout the year.
- Employee wellness and support – WRH has several available services including EAP, on-site fitness facilities and programs and most recently, the introduction of the latest Employee Wellness Program.

The Chair expressed congratulations to both Ms. Koushik and Ms. Di Pietro on behalf of the Board of Directors.

6. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs was unable to attend the meeting and had not submitted a written report.

7. FINANCIAL PRESENTATION:

There was no financial presentation for the May 5th Board meeting. Auditors are currently working on the 2021-2022 financial statements and those will be brought to the June board meeting.

8. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Ms. P. Allen, **SECONDED** by Mr. I. McLeod and **CARRIED**
THAT the report from the April 25, 2022 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meeting be accepted.

9. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:

a) Media Report – FYI only.

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

None

11. NEW BUSINESS:

None

12. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, June 2, 2022, 1700 hrs VIA: ZOOM

13. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was
MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance, **SECONDED** by Ms. L. Copat and **CARRIED**
THAT the May 5, 2022 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1740 hours.

Anthony Paniccia, Chair
Board of Directors
/ds

Dawn Sutherland
Recording Secretary