



MINUTES of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, September 7, 2023**, 17:00 hours, via ZOOM and live streamed on YouTube.

PRESENT:

Patricia France, Chair

David Malian

Paul Lachance

Cynthia Bissonnette

Ian McLeod

Mary Dawson

Michael Lavoie

Jamie Skutovich

Chris Lanoue

Dr. Laurie Freeman

Genevieve Isshak

Penny Allen

Anthony Paniccia

Nila Das

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

David Musyj (ex-officio, non-voting)

Karen Riddell (ex-officio, non-voting)

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

STAFF:

Executive Committee

REGRETS:

Dr. Maher Sabalbal (ex-officio, non-voting)

Dr. Danielle Soulliere (ex-officio, non-voting)

Laura Copat

Linda Staudt

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1705 hours with Ms. France presiding as Chair and Ms. Sutherland recording the minutes.

2. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the June 22, 2023 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Dr. L. Freeman, **SECONDED** by Ms. M. Dawson and **CARRIED**

THAT the minutes of the June 22, 2023 Board of Directors meeting be approved with the following amendments: Linda Staudt and David Malian were present for the meeting which was held in person in the Auditorium, MET Campus.

4. REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO:

In addition to Mr. Musyj's written report, he provided the following highlights:

Update on Influenza

At this time of year we look to Australia to see what their influenza season fared to get an idea of what we could be facing. Last year Australia had an earlier than normal start to the flu season and it resulted in a very quick increase in severity with a record number of positive cases and hospitalizations. This trend was followed in Ontario and Canada. Looking at this year in Australia, the season started a couple of weeks later than last year and very similar to 2019 experience with a slightly quick drop off than 2019. However the hospitalizations show a slightly worse situation than 2022.

Therefore, if we look to Australia, it will be a couple of weeks later, in or around October 23, 2023 with possibly more hospitalizations than last year.

Update on COVID

Dr. Saad provided an update with respect to COVID and specifically the new variant of interest that is rising in concern and most recently identified in Michigan, the BA.2.86. Dr. Saad explained that this new variant will most likely supersede the others but not necessarily cause more hospitalizations or more deaths. Dr. Saad referred to the Wastewater data on slide 6 of the presentation. This new variant is clearly on everyone's radar and there is no question that COVID is still here. We will continue to monitor so we can review any changes needed in the hospital and prepare for the fall/winter.

Ms. Riddell advised the COVID vaccine should be arriving at the end of September/early October for high risk groups, i.e. Cancer and Renal patients and those with lung disease along with healthcare workers. The influenza vaccine should arrive in or around the same time.

Question: Will a rapid test pick up the new variant? Yes, however not to the same degree as previous variants. Dr. Saad advised you will need to swab your throat and nose.

Question: Can we identify the variant of interest in hospital? We do not do genetic analysis in hospital as this is not part of routine testing. Dr. Saad explained that wastewater surveillance can be used to monitor the circulation of variants of concern and in some circumstances, can be used as an early indicator for the presence of COVID infections not yet detected by traditional clinical surveillance.

Update on RSV

Ms. Riddell provided the update. There were a few cases in August and we expect to see a spike in cases now that school is back. The MOH covers the full cost of the drug palivizumab used to prevent a serious lower respiratory tract infection caused by RSV in infants who are less than 2 years of age at the start of the RSV season and who are high risk. The active season is generally from November to April.

Health Canada has granted approval for a new vaccine for adults aged 60 and above. Ms. Riddell advised we are hoping to have access to the new vaccine later this fall. We will then have clinics set up to administer the vaccine.

Question: What are the symptoms of RSV in an adult? Symptoms of RSV in adults are similar to any upper respiratory infection and include cough, running nose, sore throat, fatigue

and fever. Adults over 65 or those with health complications are at higher risk for developing more severe RSV. A PCR test is the only way to identify RSV.

Update on Surgery Wait List

Mr. Musyj stated that as of August 21, 2023, 3,223 patients were waiting for surgery, a reduction of 40%. Pre-COVID as of March 19, 2020, there were 5,346 patients waiting for a procedure. There has also been an 11% reduction in long waiters compared to March 25, 2023. The highest volume of patients waiting for surgery is for orthopedic procedures.

Ms. Procedure spoke to the strategies WRH has put into place including running the OR rooms later into the evening and operating on Saturdays and Sundays over the summer and into September.

Nurse Police Team Update

Mr. Musyj was pleased to report that the NPT pilot program will continue for another six months. The NPT program launched in May in an effort to provide treatment and support options while steering people away from the ED departments.

The initiative to date has handled 374 calls for service and referred 253 people to community resources. As well, 36 substance-related wounds were treated. In addition the proactive care diverted 147 patients from hospital emergency rooms. Mr. Musyj added that this has resulted in 40% less ED visits. The program operates on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 1 p.m. and 1 a.m. and frees up resources for higher acuity patients in the EDs.

Mr. Foster spoke to process and advised that most calls primarily come through 911 at which time dispatch determine the appropriate first responder. The team also is able to proactively approach individuals needing assistance while patrolling in the community between calls.

5. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs referred to his report and provided the following highlights:

- This year the undergraduate medical education program will expand from 38 to 42 students. This is the largest class in over 20 years.
- Post-graduate training is also seeing an expansion with increase numbers. The Psychiatry residency program has increased to four residents.
- Received approval to launch an internal medicine residency program tied to London.

6. FINANCIAL PRESENTATION (July 31, 2023 Results):

Mr. Paniccia reported.

Slide 2 – Funding Update

WRH has received the following funding updates which are reflected in the budget presented in the financial statements

- \$6,960,500 increase in base funding
- \$113,250 increase in one-time funding

Slide 3 – Financial Results – YTD July 2023

- \$4,384,000 deficit for hospital operations year to date which is \$5,523,000 worse than budget
- The net deficit after building amortization is \$4,894,000 which is \$5,388,000 worse than budget

Slide 4 – Significant Variances

Chart indicates expense variances and the offsetting revenue

- Salaries & Wage \$3,037,000 deficit (largely due to overtime savings not realized)
- Medical Staff Fees \$744,000 deficit
 - \$712,000 offsetting favourable Patient Services Revenue variance
- Medical/Surgical Supplies \$1,535,000 deficit
 - Offset by additional QBP revenue earned \$525,000 for Hip & Knee replacements
- Drugs \$3,230,000 deficit
 - Offset by \$650,000 revenue in retail pharmacies
 - \$1,926,000 in Ministry drug funding for chemotherapy and renal programs

MOVED by Mr. A. Paniccia, **SECONDED** by Mr. P. Lachance and **CARRIED** **THAT** the September 7, 2023 Financial Presentation (as of July 31, 2023) be accepted.

7. CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Mr. A. Paniccia, **SECONDED** by Ms. G. Isshak and **CARRIED** **THAT** the reports from the June 19, 2023 and August 21, 2023 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meetings be accepted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:

a) Media Report – FYI only.

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

None

10. NEW BUSINESS:

None

**11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:
Thursday, October 5, 2023, 1700, via ZOOM.**

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was
MOVED by Mr. C. Lanoue, **SECONDED** by Mr. M. Lavoie and **CARRIED**
THAT the September 7, 2023 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1740 hours.

Patricia France, Chair
Board of Directors

Dawn Sutherland
Recording Secretary/ds