



MINUTES of the **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meeting held on **Thursday, May 1, 2025**, 1700 hours, VIA ZOOM.

PRESENT:

Patricia France, Chair	Chris Lanoue	Karen Riddell (ex-officio, non-voting)
Anthony Paniccia	David Malian	Dr. Wassim Saad (ex-officio, non-voting)
Laura Copat	Cynthia Bissonnette	Dr. Larry Jacobs (ex-officio, non-voting)
Mary Dawson	Paul Lachance	Dr. Irram Sumar (ex-officio, non-voting)
Nila Das	Linda Staudt	
Genevieve Isshak	Jamie Skutovich	
Nadine Manroe-Wakerell	Dr. Laurie Freeman	

STAFF:

Executive Committee

GUEST:

Joyce Zuk, Executive Director, WEOHT

REGRETS:

Ian McLeod
David Musyj (ex-officio, non-voting)
Dr. Maher Zayouna

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 1700 hours with Ms. France presiding as Chair and Ms. Sutherland recording the minutes.

2. WINDSOR-ESSEX OHT PRESENTATION

The Chair and Ms. Riddell welcomed Ms. Joyce Zuk, Executive Director of the WEOHT. The WEOHT works collaboratively with WRH to share opportunities that improve the patient experience and address system gaps as a team.

Ms. Zuk provided the following highlights from her presentation.

Ontario Health Teams (OHTs) were introduced in 2019 to better connect our healthcare systems. The Windsor-Essex Ontario Health Team (WEOHT) was approved in 2022. OHTs provide a new way of organizing and delivering care that is more connected to patients in their local communities. Under OHTs, health care providers (including hospitals, doctors and home and community care providers) work as one coordinated team – no matter where they provide care.

The presentation highlighted some of the different initiatives and priorities. A lot of work has been done in health equity education and training. They have developed integrated care pathways to support the healthcare needs of the asylum seekers and refugees. Other successes include providing primary care support for First Nation evacuees, ConnectMyHealth, Trans Healthcare services and Mobile Medical Support. In addition, WEOHT worked with WRH on the integrated clinical pathways, specifically the lower limb initiative. This program helps prevent loss of lower limb for individuals living with chronic disease such as diabetes. The WEOHT recently received confirmation that they will receive funding for this initiative for another year.

Work continues with mental health and addiction navigation. The Windsor-Essex HART Hub is expected to be operational this year. The hub's goal is to divert repeated/inappropriate emergency department visits by providing immediate access to help and efficiently using local community resources.

Other priorities include system navigation improvements, advancing the implementation of the OHT's PFAC engagement strategy and expansion of the Primary Care Network. Ms. Zuk spoke to improved digital health and better data and analytics.

Question:

What is the biggest challenge over the next six months to a year? What can we do as a board to support?

Answer: The biggest challenge and work ahead is looking at how we can attach more Ontarians to primary care and having enough resources. Unfortunately, there some gaps in service in the community to meet the needs. On the Mental Health and Addictions side, the demand for service continues to exceed the resources and programs available.

Ms. Zuk stated that having the Medical School here in Windsor is beneficial and communication with them is ongoing to ensure that graduates want to stay and work in Windsor-Essex. Also, the

Ms. Zuk was thanked for her presentation. The board agreed that there was a lot of good information provided.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST:

None declared.

4. PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The minutes of the April 3, 2025 Board meeting had been previously circulated.

MOVED by Mr. P. Lachance, **SECONDED** by Ms. C. Bissonnette and **CARRIED** **THAT** the minutes of the April 3, 2025 Board of Directors meeting be approved.

5. REPORT FROM THE ACTING PRESIDENT & CEO / CNE

Ms. Riddell referred to her written report and provided the following highlights.

Ontario Health-Cancer Care Ontario (OH-CCO) is working to advance capacity for stem cell treatments in Ontario, and a new initiative planned at WRH is part of this provincial plan. The Regional Cancer Program, working in partnership with the Medicine program on 4 West, has been working to develop an autologous ('auto') stem cell transplant program for the patients of Windsor-Essex. Currently our patients have to travel to London for this treatment. This new service is scheduled to launch later this month or early June.

Dr. Tony and Mary Pattinson are contributing \$1.5 million toward vital equipment and technologies at the New Windsor/Essex Acute Care Hospital. Dr. Pattinson, an OB-GYN and former department chief at Windsor Regional Hospital retired last year after three decades of caring for patients. His wife Mary is a retired emergency nurse who also worked alongside her husband in their joint fertility practice. They hope the gift honours the patients and families they have cared for during their careers and inspires others to support the future of local healthcare. In recognition of their gift, an Operative Birthing Suite in the new hospital will be named the *Dr. Tony and Mary Pattinson Operative Birthing Suite*. Thank you to Dr. Tony and Mary Pattinson.

On April 24th, we were notified that Windsor Regional Hospital has been officially awarded the 2024 Gord Smith Healthy Workplace PLATINUM Award. The purpose of the awards program is to recognize local employers that provide comprehensive workplace wellness programs for the benefit of their employees. WRH will receive the award at an event scheduled later in May. Congratulations to the entire team!

On May 1st, we celebrated Doctor's Day. This day is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the contributions of physicians in the country. In addition, during the week of May 11th to the 17th we will be celebrating Nurses Week with a number of award ceremonies. Ms. Riddell advised that we received over 200 nominations this year.

Today, the Volunteer Recognition Event was held to celebrate our many volunteers and their contribution to WRH. Thank you to all of the WRH volunteers, we truly appreciate all of the support they provide to our patients, families and staff.

6. REPORT FROM SCHULICH:

Dr. Jacobs reported and provided some highlights from the end of the academic year.

Graduation for the 4th year students will take place next month with successful matches. In addition, all local residency programs have been fully matched.

With respect to overall enrollment, we are now at 46 students per year and continue to build capacity with a lot of support and hard work in the community.

The Schulich Awards of Excellence were held last week. Thank you to the hospital representatives who attended.

7. FINANCIAL PRESENTATION

Mr. Lanoue reported. There was no financial presentation due to year-end processes.

CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED by Mr. C. Lanoue, **SECONDED** by Mr. P. Lachance and **CARRIED**

THAT the report from the April 21, 2025 Finance/Audit & Resources Committee meeting be accepted.

8. CORRESPONDENCE/PRINTED MATTER:

a) Media Report – FYI only.

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

Mr. Paniccia congratulated volunteer Hazel who has been volunteering for 55 years! This is spectacular and we appreciate her efforts and dedication to WRH.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

11. DATE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

Thursday, June 5, 2025, Auditorium, MET Campus

12. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to discuss, it was

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

THAT the May 1, 2025 Board of Directors meeting be adjourned at 1740 hours.

Patricia France, Chair
Board of Directors

Dawn Sutherland
Recording Secretary