

Regional Health Authority B Horizon Health Network

Minutes of meeting

Minutes of a public meeting of the Board of Directors held on Thursday June 25th through Zoom.

Attendance:

Directors: John McGarry (Chair), Douglas Baker, Jeanne Breau, Cathy Carnahan, John Cormier, Linda Forestell, Pauline Gallant, Dan McCarthy, Michael McCoombs, Jane Mitton-MacLean, Carol Reimer, Martina Shannon, Mary Schryer, André Veniot

Staff: Karen McGrath, Jean Daigle, Geri Geldart, Gary Foley, Dr. Edouard Hendriks, Dr. John Dornan, Jeff Carter, Dan Keenan, Maura McKinnon, Jennifer Sheils, Margaret Melanson, Janet Hogan, Dr. Jennifer Hall, Susan Dickie (recorder)

1. Call to Order and approval of agenda

John McGarry, Board Chair called the meeting of the Board of Director to order at approximately 2:00 pm. The meeting was held virtually through the zoom platform.

A quorum for the meeting was established.

Upon a **Motion** by J. Cormier, seconded by D. McCarthy it was **RESOLVED** the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

2. Presentations:

2.1 Community Health Recognition Awards

Jean Daigle, Vice President of Community announced the recipients for the fourth annual Community Health Recognition Awards (CHRAs). These awards celebrate individuals and groups that are making a difference to improve overall health in their community. The CHRAs align with the Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA) completed by Horizon which identify barriers to accessing health care. There were 43 applications received. This year, 15 groups or individuals were honored. A video is available on Horizon's Community News Channel and social media channel outlining the winners.

2.2 Mental Health and Addictions - Virtual Care

Dr. Amy Otteson and her client Cole Hatty shared an update on how the use of virtual care- specifically virtual psychotherapy using videoconferencing technology has helped ensure Horizon is delivering important services to clients where and when they need it, even amidst the logistical challenges posed by the pandemic. Dr. Otteson explained adopting this approach has already resulted in a noticeable decrease in the number of appointment cancellations, while also improving accessibility for clients who may have limited options for transportation or mobility.

Discussion was held. No questions.

2.3 COVID-19

Dr. John Dornan, Regional Chief of Staff provided an overview to the Board on the massive, Horizon wide-effort that went into readying our facilities for the pandemic and eventual recovery of services. Dr. Dornan noted how quickly and decisively the organization acted by redeploying approximately 600 Horizon staff to other duties to assist in the pandemic, establishing active screening protocols for staff and visitors, implementing visitor restrictions and access control measures to hospitals and health centres, and establishing enhanced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) training and procedures to mitigate the risk of transmission. Dr. Dornan explained in the weeks and months since, Horizon moved into the orange phase and eventually the yellow phase of our recovery, gradually reintroducing priority elective surgeries, and non-urgent laboratory, diagnostic imaging and electrodiagnostic testing to help support pre-operational procedures. It is anticipated Horizon will remain in this yellow phase until a COVID-19 vaccine has been developed and becomes widely available. Dr. Dornan spoke as we continue to adjust to the new normal, it is important to take time to reflect on the many challenges Horizon has been able to overcome, and celebrate the dedication, perseverance and hard work of our staff, who have gone above and beyond to help ensure our organization was able to respond effectively to this unprecedented situation.

Discussion was held.

2.4 Healthcare Reform

Karen McGrath, President and CEO spoke on the proposed health care changes which were introduced in February of this year, and received a wide range of reactions from different areas of the province. There was significant amount of positive feedback from various stakeholders who believed these types of changes were long overdue for our health care system. Some negative reactions came from the smaller communities, particularly those that would have been impacted by the changes which resulted the plan being cancelled to allow for the government more time to complete community consultation.

The CEO reported that while we wait for the next steps from the province in respect to the consultation, as part of the COVID-19 response plan Horizon has been able to make significant progress in some of the priority areas such as securing appropriate care for many of the Alternate Level of Care patients being discharged from hospital to available nursing home beds. This has resulted in a significant reduction in hospital occupancy rates. The CEO explained over the next year the organization will be carefully monitoring the hospital occupancy levels, Emergency Department and surgical wait times and the number of ALC patients in hospital waiting for community care.

Discussion was held. No further questions.

3. Balanced Scorecard

The balance scorecard quarterly report for March 31, 2020 was received by the Board, presented by M. Melanson, VP of Quality and Patient Centre Care.

4. Report of the Committee of the Whole

The Chair provided a report of the Committee of the Whole that took place on June 8, 2020 in order for the Board to do essential business related to their committee work plans and to prepare for its annual meeting.

Discussion was held. No further questions.

5. Regional Professional Advisory Committee – Report

Geri Geldart, VP of Clinical Services and Co-Chair of the Regional Professional Advisory Committee provided an update to the board on the RPAC meeting held on June 10, 2020.

6. Regional Medical Advisory Committee – Report

Dr. John Dornan, Regional Chief of Staff provided an overview of the Regional Medical Advisory Committee meeting held on June 2, 2020 and the important role physicians play within the organization coping with the COVID-19 crisis.

7. Other business

None.

8. Questions from the Public

None.

9. Adjournment

Upon a **Motion** by D. McCarthy, seconded by J. Cormier it was **RESOLVED** the Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

John McGarry, Board Chair

Karen McGrath, Corporate Secretary