

Board Meeting Highlights April 2022

Deep River & District Hospital
Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care Home
North Renfrew Family Health Team

COVID-19

- With the release of public health restrictions last month, the numbers of infections across the province have again begun to surge. Increasing surge has resulted in critical health human resources shortages across all health sectors, as well as increasing demand for emergency and inpatient care. Provincial and regional hospitalization rates have grown steadily over the past few weeks, with the organization continuing to operate at 16 inpatient beds. Our organization has supported regional pressures in our partner hospitals through transferring of patients to our organization for care from overwhelmed and under-staffed partner hospitals. Capacity on the medical floor is now being measured at 16-bed capacity, and continues to operate at or above 100%.
- The remaining restrictions (i.e. masking) for healthcare settings were due to expire April 27, with local and regional groups awaiting direction as well as considering local and agency specific measures to maintain safety. The long-term care sector has transitioned several temporary COVID protection measures from short-term emergency measures into legislation that comes into effect April 27, 2022.

Board

- The Board was pleased to host its *first in-person Board meeting since February of 2020* at the Deep River Library. Board sub-Committee meetings continue to resume as the organization transitions from emergency operations to long-term management of COVID-19. The Board's Annual Meeting is also currently planned for in-person at the Deep River Library, on Tuesday, June 28, 2022.
- The Board received an education presentation that was shared at the Auxiliary Annual Meeting, on the Long-Term Care Development Project. A project status update was also provided on the concurrent work underway towards final project approval, which includes both licensing and financial reviews. Preliminary artists' depictions of the new and expanded Four Seasons Lodge were shared to show what the future home could look like, and plans for the launch and coordination of the upcoming major fundraising campaign were shared.

Foundation

- The current Catch the Ace jackpot has risen to over \$32,000, and continues to grow the jackpot and excitement weekly. The Foundation Board has approved the next evolution of the lottery, to be shared after the current lottery is completed and the Ace is caught.

Auxiliary

- The Auxiliary held their Annual Meeting on April 21, which was held in-person at The Bear's Den. A presentation was provided on the Long-Term Care Development Project and the fundraising campaign was softly launched.
- At the meeting, the Auxiliary provided a \$14,000 donation for the Speech Language Program, and \$30,000 for the second half of their \$80,000 commitment towards a new Nursing Station in the Emergency Department.

Health Campus Updates

Diagnostic Imaging

- Ultrasound services have resumed at present, with another anticipated disruption expected in the near future. Mitigation and contingency planning is underway, in an attempt to secure services during the anticipated leave time.

Electronic Health Record Transition – Epic

- A Project Status update was provided demonstrating the organization remains on track, and continues to achieve key milestones in building and operational readiness. The project is in the *Testing and Operational Readiness* phase. Preparation for training is underway, with advanced training for super-users and staff trainers anticipated to begin in July, with end user training to occur in September and October for system Go Live in November 2022.

Emergency Department

- Risks related to Emergency Department Operations due to physician and nursing shortages were discussed. Physicians and nurses across the province are experiencing burnout, and many organizations are struggling to staff Emergency Departments. The province has seen short term closures in other rural areas, and is likely to continue to see closures over the coming months. Regionally, hospitals are working together in an attempt to avoid closures, or avoid multiple closures taking place at the same time.

Finance

- Our organization has partnered with Marianhill, a not-for-profit, multi-sector long-term care and community service provider in Pembroke to provide payroll services. An agreement is now in place which has allowed for growth of the DRDH finance department, creating internal redundancy as well as supporting a new partnership.

Fundraising

- A working group was held to identify and plan for launch of major campaign to support the Long-Term Care Development Project, with a campaign name selected. Ongoing work to develop the marketing and supporting documentation for a campaign launch is underway.

Human Resources

- The organization successfully held an Employee Recognition event, the *Postponement Palooza*, after being postponed due to the pandemic. The event provided an opportunity to recognize the efforts of staff, retiring staff, and those reaching service milestones, as well as celebrate all the events we have missed during the pandemic.
- Two staff members were recognized with DRDH's Essential Pieces Awards. Amber Cox, Executive Assistant, was the winner of the Essential Pieces award for 2021 and Sarah-Lynn Parker, Charge Nurse, was the winner of the Essential Pieces Award for 2022. All eight nominees for the peer-nominated award were also celebrated at the event.

Long-Term Care

- The *Fixing Long-Term Care Homes Act, 2021*, came into effect on April 11, 2022. An Action Plan to meet the new legislation is under development, and education will be provided in the coming months related to the new legislation.
- Progress on implementation of the new Long-Term Care electronic health record, Point Click Care, is underway, with final proof of concept meetings completed. Training will begin in the coming weeks, for the Go Live on June 1.

Ontario Telemedicine Network

- The organization successfully hosted its first Cardiology Clinic with the Ottawa Heart Institute (OHI) in April. Two Cardiologists from the OHI will provide monthly clinics remotely using the OTN system, preventing patients from traveling out of the area for regular monitoring and follow up support.

Long-Term Care Development

- A letter from the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Long-Term Care was shared, providing endorsement for the Ontario Financing Authority to approve the loan for our Long-Term Care Development Project.