

# Board Meeting Highlights May 2021

Deep River and District Hospital  
Four Seasons Lodge  
North Renfrew Family Health Team

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## Education Sessions

- Tabitha Kearney, VP of Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive, provided a presentation on Renfrew County's COVID-19 vaccination roll-out, including regional planning structures, community partner engagement, and design of the vaccine program within the provincial context. Vaccine distribution for long-term care residents, healthcare staff, and the community since the start of COVID-19 vaccine distribution was reviewed, as well as ongoing plans to support community access to vaccines in the coming months.

## COVID-19

- COVID Clinical Environment and Supports
  - The Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) team is has begun using the enhanced trailer for community swabbing. This trailer will continue to support additional capacity for clinical care, assessment, and swabbing as needed. The previous trailer has been moved to North Renfrew Long-Term Care to support their swabbing requirements.
- Community COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution
  - The vaccine team has recently noted the achievement of administering 3000 doses of vaccine so far through clinics since February, when vaccine distribution began.
  - Second doses for healthcare workers and long-term care essential caregivers have now started. Renfrew County continues to progress through the provincial framework for vaccine eligibility as directed. Currently projections aim to have 65% of Ontario's population vaccinated by end of May, approaching the estimated herd immunity target of 80-90%.
- Health System Surge & Capacity Planning
  - Projections with current public health restrictions in place have COVID-19 case counts leveling off over the coming weeks, although health system demand remains high. Interregional transfers ceased as of May 5, with no further transfers from GTA planned.
  - Direction was received May 19 that hospitals may gradually resume non-emergent and non-urgent surgeries and procedures that are not expected to require inpatient resources in order to maintain their ability to rapidly respond to increases in COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations if needed. This requires an initial focus on resuming outpatient and day surgeries and procedures only, and signals a gradual, control recovery is beginning for the health system.
- Visitor Restrictions – Long-Term Care & Inpatient
  - Direction from the Ministry of Long-Term Care was received to resume general visits outdoors. A plan to accommodate general visitors over the weekend (outdoors and socially distanced) was developed in time for the May long weekend.
  - Restrictions remain in place on the inpatient unit, in alignment with the stay-at-home order.

## Board

- This year, a large number of Board Member applications were received! After conducting interviews with each of the applicants, the Nominating Committee presenting names of Director candidates for Board approval, to be elected at the Annual General Meeting in June.

## Auxiliary

- The Gift Shop remains closed, and Auxiliary volunteering on-site remains on hold.
- It is planned that the Whistle Stop will be re-opening on July 1!

## Foundation

- The online Catch the Ace raffle lottery, now in its thirty-seventh week will continue to provide revenues to the Foundation to support future needs of the Hospital. Weekly revenues now exceed \$2,000 each week the lottery continues. The progressive jackpot stands at the moment at \$29,055. Over \$34,000 in net revenues have been generated to date.
- The Foundation, in conjunction with our organization, has successfully launched the fundraising program “Healthcare Heroes”, which ties into the patient experience. The program, now in its third successful week, recognizes the valuable contributions of DRDH staff that resulted in excellent healthcare has been positively embraced and over \$2500 in donations have been received.

## Health Campus Updates

### Building Services

- Medical Patient Deck
  - The deck outside of the medical floor has been resurfaced and expanded to facilitate outdoor visits and accessibility for patients.
- Picnic Tables
  - New picnic tables were also purchased for patient, resident and staff areas, including wheelchair accessible tables.

### Capital Updates

- Electrical Service Upgrades
  - Work continues on schedule, however delays are expected due to supply chain issues with supplies and major components of upgrade.
- Family Health Team Building Development
  - An introductory call was held between the CEO, Executive Director and the representative for the Primary Care Branch from the Ministry of Health. The application remains in cue and awaiting approval from Ministers to proceed.

### Communication

- A review of operational committee structure, including cadence, membership and reporting relationships was reviewed with the senior team and physician representation. An updated structure is underdevelopment, with plans for a fall launch.

### EPIC- Hospital Information System:

- The Fusion 2 Project Kick-off was held May 12 to officially start the organization’s transition to EPIC over the next 18 months. Participating partners in the project included staff and physicians from The Ottawa Hospital, Deep River and District Hospital, Kemptville and District Hospital, Winchester Hospital and participants from across the current Atlas Alliance.
- Activities to prepare are already underway, and “leads” for various areas will be identified by the end of June. We are also preparing for other activities this summer, including workflow walk-throughs for some staff and physicians to be able to see the system in use.

### Long-Term Care Development

- Work with the Ministry to gain approval to initiate building is ongoing. A meeting is scheduled with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Long-Term Care to discuss fast tracking project approval for the build.
- The Board of Directors has struck a *Long-Term Care Development Committee* in order to coordinate activities of the project and community engagement. A Terms of Reference for the Long-Term Care Development Committee was approved and a Committee Chair appointed.

## Health Human Resources

- Planning for implementation of the Strategic Human Resources Recruitment & Retention Initiative approved by the Board in April is underway:
  - The creation of the dedicated Charge Nurse role has been shared with the Nursing Team, and an engagement survey to determine implementation timelines has been conducted. Implementation of the dedicated Charge Nurse position will occur in August, 2021, in alignment with notification that is required by the collective agreements.

## Ontario Health Team (OHT)

- The organization has signed the “Network 24” OHT application, indicating support for the proposal. The signed application was submitted on April 30. A news release was shared May 3 announcing the application submission and the full OHT application has been made available via link on our website
- A virtual community “visit” is planned on June 7 to support the Ministry’s initial engagement with the proposed OHT partners, and assess readiness for approval.

## Quality Framework

- Dashboards were re-launched across the organization this week. Dashboards are now posted publicly on bulletin boards around the organization as well as on PolicyMedical to track various quality indicators which all relate to our strategic pillars.

## Rebranding

- Rebranding was identified as a key strategic goal, under the pillar of “integration” within our current Strategic Plan, and need to rebrand the organization, and the entities included in the health campus has been identified as an activity for the current year, with the outcome to approve and launch a unified branded operating name.
- With the organization embarking on several major initiatives in the coming months that will have long-term implications for the organization, as well as a strategic planning cycle in 2022, the need to have a unified name that reflects the organization’s direction was identified.
- The Board of Directors approved the initiation of the procurement process to engage a firm to facilitate stakeholder consultation, rebranding identification and communication with the goal to identify and launch a unified operating name within the current fiscal year.