

### **Board**

- Education – Atlas Alliance Update  
Janna Hotson, President & CEO
  - The Board received a presentation on a provincial cyber security initiative to foster collective preparedness and response, as well as an update on the expansion of a third wave of hospitals joining the shared instance of Epic hosted by The Ottawa Hospital. The education session provided an overview of details regarding the planned expansion of Epic into six additional hospitals in eastern Ontario, to occur over the next 18 months. Deep River and District Health (DRDH) joined the “Atlas Alliance” of hospitals successfully in 2022, integrating with then five other hospitals to implement one patient record. Through this initiative, over 3000 hospital beds in eastern Ontario spanning fourteen hospitals will move to one electronic health record, accessible to both patients and providers in Fall of 2026. This move is expected to significantly increase patient care, standardization of practices and well as patient access to care information through the MyChart platform.
- The Board, through the Strategic Planning & Relationships Committee, reviewed progress on the 2023-2027 Strategic Plan, as well as the identified priority goals for 2024-2025. Strategic Goals for the fiscal year 2025-2026 were identified and approved, that align with the three strategic pillars of *People, Growth and Community*.
- The Board of Directors held its bi-annual Community Health Partners Group meeting in April, bringing together partners from across DRDH’s catchment area that support community health and wellbeing. The meeting was attended by municipal officials, community groups, and agencies. Discussions focused on upcoming military deployments and how this will impact the community, agencies, and families as well as the need for affordable housing, daycare and primary care. A collaborative medical recruitment approach that involves municipal and community support was explored, as the need for physicians continues to be a pressing one for the community.
- The Board participated in an Ontario Hospital Association survey to gather information on the diversity of hospital leadership throughout Ontario. Results will be amalgamated with all other participating hospitals to gain insight into the current diversity within the senior leadership and governance structures of Ontario’s hospitals.
- The Board, through the Governance Committee, is undertaking Individual Director Self-Assessments, to identify current functioning of Board Members and look for ongoing opportunities for improvement in individual and collective Director functioning.

### **Capital Development:**

- Through the Capital Development Committee, the Board received reports from both the Primary Care Capital Development Project as well as the Long-Term Care Capital Development Project. It was shared that both projects remain on track, with construction work well underway and progress at both sites.
  - Primary Care Capital Development - Progress continues on schedule for the Primary Care Building. Exterior and interior work is now progressing towards finalization. Work on the creation of stormwater ponding on adjacent Four Seasons Conservancy (FSC) land is underway, in partnership with FSC. Plans are underway for a Grand Opening celebration mid-June as well as the First Patient Day.
  - Functional programming and operationalization planning are well underway with the DRDH project team. Equipment and furniture purchases are being finalized, with inventory beginning to arrive onsite and be prepared for service in the new building. The

formal Occupancy Plan and Functional Programming were presented at the Capital Development Committee in March and shared with the Board in April.

- Long-Term Care Capital Development - Construction continues, with noted progress on steel framework starting to take shape. Rock-breaking continues intermittently, with the goal to connect the water main to the site. Work continues to create a long-term solution for site drainage, working with partners including the Town of Deep River and Four Seasons Conservancy. As a result of the additional site preparation work required, the project is experiencing schedule and budgetary impacts but is still within planned contingencies. The Ready-for-Takeover date is projected to be March 31, 2027, with the first resident day in June 2027.

## **Foundation**

- The DRDH Foundation shared a call for new members to join the Foundation Board, as they are currently accepting nominations.
- Registration is now open for the Run for Home, which is coming up on the morning of Saturday, June 28, 2025.

## **Health Campus Updates**

### Accountability Agreements

- The Family Health Team agreement with Ontario Health has been extended, on the same terms and conditions as extended in previous amendments, until March 31, 2027. Base funding in the extended agreement remains unchanged for 2025-2026.

### Building Updates

- Work on the sprinkler system upgrade continues, with work moving into administration, main entrances, and diagnostic imaging areas throughout April. Work continues predominately after hours to minimize impact on operations and patients.

### Diagnostic Imaging

- The Diagnostic Imaging Department has shared news of expanded hours and walk in services for X-Rays and ECGs. Hours have been extended to offer evening availability supporting additional hours for walk-ins.

### Emergency Department

- The Emergency Department Team implemented the use of an automated CPR machine for Code Blue response, courtesy of a donation from the Black Bear's Charity Hockey Tournament. The team will be adjusting code response training over the next few months to include the automated CPR support as part of regular practice.

### Human Resources

- The annual DRDH Employee Recognition Event was held on April 11, 2025 celebrating employees who reached service milestones as well as the organization's peer recognition award - the Essential Pieces Award. Over 30 staff and guests attended the event where Michelle, Office Coordinator from the North Renfrew Family Health Team received the Essential Pieces Award. Seven DRDH team members were nominated for the Essential Pieces Award by their peers this year, spanning areas of the organization from information technology, nutrition services, nursing, and administration.
- The Management Team participated in part two of a three part series of formal management training in April. Working with an external facilitator, both existing and new managers are gaining knowledge and skills to support teams across the organization, as well as to align management practices and expectations.

- Two current employees have been accepted into Humber College's Learn and Earn Personal Support Worker (PSW) program. The program supports existing staff in long-term care homes to bridge learning and experience to gain certification as a Personal Support Worker through online learning and clinical placements at their place of work. Employees are granted educational leaves of absences, and receive financial support from the provincial program to ensure continuity of wages while they are learning. Their expected graduation from the program is in December of 2025.

#### Infection Prevention and Control

- The Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC), Emergency Department and Primary Care teams have been monitoring and preparing for potential cases of measles, as growing the number of cases continue to growth throughout Ontario. Table-top drills have been conducted to enhance readiness, and ensure safety measures are in place to protect both patients and team members, in the event of a potential measles case at DRDH.

#### Long-Term Care

- On April 13, 2025 the Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care Home was placed into Respiratory Outbreak by Public Health. From the initial ill residents, once the outbreak was declared, no further spread of illness was noted. The outbreak was cleared by Public Health 10 days after being declared.
- A Ministry of Long-Term Care Compliance Inspector attended onsite in April to conduct unannounced inspection in the areas of Responsive Behavior, Resident Abuse and Neglect, and Infection Prevention and Control. The Inspector reviewed records, spoke with residents and staff members, and issued two minor notices of non-compliance.

#### Medical Inpatient Unit

- Census on the Medical Inpatient Unit has again spiked above 125% capacity, with continued long-stay patients awaiting long-term care occupying a high number of beds. Ongoing shortages of long-term care beds, as well as challenges with insufficient home care supports in our community, continue to contribute to high occupancy challenges.

#### Nursing

- Planning for celebrations for Nursing Week 2025 are underway, with nursing leadership and team members. The goal will be to internally and externally recognize and celebrate the contributions that nurses make to DRDH, as well as the health and wellbeing of the community.

#### Regional Partners

- As part of National Medical Laboratory Week, celebrated from April 14-20, 2025 the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association (EORLA)'s CEO attended onsite to meet with members of DRDH and the DRDH EORLA team.
- In partnership with the Deep River Police Department and other emergency services partners, promotion of BeADonor month to highlight the importance of organ and tissue donation was shared on social media and circulated throughout the organization.
- The planned meeting between DRDH and the Pembroke Regional Hospital's Chiefs of Staff and CEOs was held in April, with leadership from both sites meeting to discuss joint regional priorities, including patient flow, clinical programming needs and medical recruitment.

#### Quality

- The organization has renewed and relaunched its Performance Dashboards for the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Corporate indicators based on the Quality Improvement Plan and priority actions from multi-year action plans were included, incorporating indicators related to employee onboarding process improvements, diversity, equity and inclusion training, and non-violent crisis intervention training.