



## Deep River and District Health Board Highlights June 2025

### Board

- Guest: Tiffany Cecchetto, Partner, KPMG LLP
  - Tiffany presented the draft audited financial statements for the 2024-2025 fiscal year (FY), as well as a summary of audit findings and comparator data. For the year ended March 31, 2025 the organization finished in a surplus position. In the opinion of KPMG as external auditors, the statements are presented fairly in all material aspects, and in accordance with the Canadian Public Sector Accounting Standards.
  - The Board was also advised of the trends and financial pressures the hospital sector faced in Ontario in the FY 2024-2025 and how DRDH benchmarked against these trends. It was highlighted that DRDH has performed well over the past 5 fiscal years as compared to similar organizations.
- The Board received the Family Health Team (FHT) Annual Operating Plan for 2025-2026, as well as a presentation highlighting programming planning, performance indicators for the coming year, as well as expanded programming incorporated in the new building. The Board of Directors approved the FHT Annual Operating Plan submission for FY 2025-2026 as presented.
- The Board received a proposed Occupancy Plan for the soon to be vacant Family Health Team space, outlining the proposed approach to space repurposing once clinic space is vacated by the FHT team upon their relocation to the new building. In alignment with feedback from DRDH's Community Needs Assessment completed in 2024, two key functions were identified as priority for the space: 1) Creation of rental units for healthcare-adjacent businesses that align with DRDH's mission and values; and 2) Consolidation of DRDH administrative operations, including the relocation of the Finance Department and business office. The Board unanimously approved this dual approach which will provide opportunities to enhance community access to services that support health and well-being.
- The Board received a Briefing Note on a proposed Environmentally Sustainable Landscaping Strategy to promote naturalization of expanded areas of the health campus. This proposed strategy outlined DRDH's commitment to environmental stewardship, community engagement, and long-term sustainability of the health campus and community. Developed in partnership with the Deep River and Area Horticultural Society and the Four Seasons Conservancy, this strategy promotes the use of native species and meadow spaces across the campus, providing ecological benefits, enhancing biodiversity, reducing overall long-term operational costs, and strengthening the campus's connection to its natural surroundings. The Board endorsed the adoption of a naturalized landscaping strategy, reaffirming DRDH's commitment to environmental stewardship and the connection between health and the environment.
- The Board was provided an update on the announcement that DRDH received approval for hospice beds from Ontario Health. The Board was informed that Ontario Health East conducted a site visit at DRDH in early June and has requested a cost allocation for renovations to the existing Four Season Lodge space that would accommodate hospice operations. It was stated that this new program and activity will expand DRDH operational scope into a new sector and business segment, and it was confirmed that management has already started investigating other hospice operations to explore potential operational models. An RFQ to establish vendors of record for architectural services to support renovations for the project will be completed over the coming months to initiate planning.
- The Board received a report on Family Health Team operations from the FHT Lead Physician, Dr. Caitlin Armer. Dr. Armer reported the team continues to expand the programming and services offered to patients by expanding Nurse Practitioners' services, running a successful Women's clinic, welcoming two medical students from Queens University for their residency, and collaborating successfully with onsite Counselors and Dietitians.

## **Annual Meeting**

- The Board of Directors held its 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting for the 2024-2025 year on June 24, 2025. David Cox, Board Chair, highlighted this is a significant year for DRDH, as the organization opened its doors 50 years ago and the corporation is now in its 51<sup>st</sup> year of existence.
  - During the Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors elected officers, directors and patient / resident representatives to serve for the upcoming 2025-2026 Board year.
  - Appointed as the Board Executive are:
    - Board Chair: David Cox
    - Vice Chair: Christian Kaiser
    - Vice Chair: John Osborne
    - Douglas Tennant
    - Claudia Beswick
  - Three existing directors, David Cox, Claudia Beswick, and Beckie Kenrick, were renewed for three-year terms.
  - Two new Patient / Resident Representatives were appointed to serve on Board Committees for the 2025-2026 Board Year. Appointed as representatives are:
    - Betty Cooper
    - Jozlin Alley
  - Recognition was provided for retiring Patient / Resident Representative, Laura Obrutsky, who served on the Board's Quality, Risk and Safety Committee. Her perspectives and guidance were recognized by the Board with thanks for her time and volunteer service to DRDH.
  - The Board approved KPMG's re-appointment as auditor for FY 2025-2026, continuing the current audit contract.
- Annual Reports were received from the Board Chair, the Chief Executive Officer, the Chief of Staff, the Long-Term Care Medical Director and Family Health Team Lead Physician, highlighting the organization's achievements, successes, and challenges over the last year.
- The Annual Report, which highlights achievements and general information about the organization's activities over the 2024-2025 year, was approved.

## **Capital Development:**

- The Board received a report on both the Primary Care Capital Development Project as well as the Long-Term Care Capital Development Project. It was shared that both continue with construction work well underway and progress at both sites.
  - Primary Care Capital Development – Progress towards substantial completion continues, with the critical pathway identified as completion of emergency lighting. Due to equipment delays with inverters for emergency lighting systems, the Ready for Takeover date has been reconfirmed as July 21, 2025. Tentative dates for Grand Opening are being confirmed with MPP and Ministry of Health partners for mid-August, with the first Patient Day anticipated in September following the Labour Day long weekend.
  - Roadway work on the driveway extension will be underway shortly, with commissioning planning underway. Furniture and equipment are being moved into the building and set up throughout June and July, with the goal to minimize set up post occupancy. Functional programming and operationalization continue, with teams working through training and workflow process development. Policy and process planning continue as our teams prepare for operations in the new building.
  - A successful Community Planting Day was held at the new Primary Care Building, coordinated in partnership with the Deep River and Area Horticultural Society. This day brought together community members and DRDH team members to engage with building the new gardens around the development.
  - Long-Term Care Capital Development – Construction activities continue, with steel framing completed for the back half and center of the building. Roofing of the completed framed sections has also begun. Progress towards the front of the building to enable framing work is in progress, with the foundation wall in front of building

completed, and insulation and waterproofing occurring. Coordination of hydro to the site has required additional work to address challenges and risks with the current underground line. Relocation of hydro poles will be needed to supply electricity to the site, and clearance of the areas outside of the construction area will be needed to support overhead lines.

- The project team is working through advancing procurement of key equipment and supplies that require import from the United States. Planning for advanced procurement to minimize impacts of potential tariffs, as well as to provide for safe, secure storage of advanced ordered items is underway.
- Stormwater drainage continues to be directed off-site, in partnership with the Town of Deep River and Four Seasons Conservancy (FSC). FSC continues with planning and survey work on their land for placement and holding of site stormwater long-term with the goal to have a proposed plan this summer.

### **Foundation**

- The DRDH Foundation is currently undertaking a Strategic Readiness & Capacity Assessment with the support of a third-party consultant. The goal is to support future planning for the Foundation across governance, operations, and donor relations.
- The DRDH Board was advised that this year's Run for Home is taking place on June 28, 2025 with the goal to raise \$50,000.
- The DRDH Board commended the DRDH Foundation and its Board of Directors for another successful year of campaigns and their ongoing support of DRDH capital expansion activities.

### **Auxiliary**

- Eileen Burke reported on the DRDH Auxiliary's Annual Meeting was held on May 8, 2025. Over the past year, the Auxiliary donated \$152,000, including \$135,000 for a new cardiac monitoring system for the Emergency Department and Medical Inpatient Unit, and \$17,000 in annual support to the Speech Therapy Program. An additional \$600 raised through a silent auction at the Annual Meeting will be donated for recreation activities at the Four Seasons Lodge.
- Since 1974, the DRDH Auxiliary has donated over \$2 million and contributed 445,200 volunteer hours in support of DRDH's services and programs.
- The DRDH Board extended appreciation to the Auxiliary volunteers for their ongoing efforts and generous support.

### **Health Campus Updates**

#### **Building Updates**

- Work on the Sprinkler System Upgrade continues, with work moving into clinical areas, including the Medical Inpatient Unit and the Emergency Department. Work during this phase is occurring during the daytime to minimize impact to the care environment overnight. A series of planned water shutdowns will be coordinated over the next several weeks, occurring overnight, in order to finalize work to connect the system.
- Work on the replacement of the Nurse Call system continues, with a crew onsite for installation and programming of the updated system. A review of system functionality with clinical teams was conducted in order to ensure the updated system met needs across the health campus.

#### **Diagnostic Imaging**

- With the recent addition of a casual Diagnostic Medical Sonographer, DRDH's waitlist for ultrasound examinations has been cleared. As a result of this, timely appointments have been offered to partnering hospitals to help increase regional access to ultrasound.

## Emergency Preparedness

- In partnership with the Town of Deep River Fire Department, DRDH is hosting hands-on fire extinguisher training this July at the health campus. Sessions are open to DRDH team members, volunteers, community partners, and anyone who would like to gain hands-on experience with the use of fire extinguishers, as well as build confidence and practical skills in the event of a fire emergency at home or work.
- The Emergency Preparedness Committee is completing a review and update of all emergency policies affected by the addition of the new Primary Care Building. Education for staff on changes impacted by the relocation will be shared in August before occupancy and opening of the new building.
- The mutual evacuation agreement has been renewed between DRDH and North Renfrew Long-Term Care Centre, for the period June 2025 to June 2027. This agreement provides for conditions to support stable patients/residents to be temporarily safely housed at either organization in the event a total evacuation was needed at either site.

## Human Resources

- The organization completed local Ontario Nurses Association (ONA) negotiations in May, finishing a day earlier than anticipated. The agreements have now been ratified. Provincial ONA negotiations continue, coordinated on behalf of Ontario hospitals by the Ontario Hospital Association.

## Infection Prevention and Control

- Monitoring of measles cases and regional risk, in partnership with Public Health, continues. A review of all DRDH team member immunization status has been completed, with 91% of team members up to date. The remaining staff members are being contacted by Occupational Health to receive follow up assessment and support.

## Information Technology

- As per Ontario Health's operational direction received on May 6, 2025, each hospital in Ontario is required to submit a Health Information System (HIS) and digital health plan. As the Atlas Alliance includes 15 hospitals that share a common HIS and collaborate on digital planning, a single, consolidated submission was proposed. This approach has been endorsed by both Ontario Health and all Atlas Alliance partners, with the collective plan submitted to Ontario Health through the Atlas Alliance for all current and incoming partners.

## Insurance

- A review of insurance needs related to non-liability and property coverage is underway, triggered by the upcoming opening of the new Primary Care Building. A 40% increase in premiums is anticipated due the growth in space. This amount was budgeted as part of the 2025/2026 budget.

## Long-Term Care

- The team at the Four Seasons Lodge (FSL) continues towards a June 24, 2025 Go Live date for implementation of the updated interRAI assessment tool. Staff training is underway, with a focus on building knowledge of new documentation standards throughout the FSL care team.
- Residents celebrated Father's Day with a BBQ for friends and family in June, offering residents an opportunity to connect with loved ones as well as enjoy the outdoor patio space.
- Residents celebrated the second annual Long-Term Care Day on June 15, 2025 as well as Seniors' Month with education through Residents' Council and promotion on social media.

## Medical Inpatient Unit

- A respiratory outbreak of unknown origin was declared on the Medical Inpatient Unit on May 27, 2025 by Public Health. The outbreak was cleared with the minimum amount of time

required on June 5, 2025 with no internal spread noted. A debriefing is being conducted to identify lessons learned for future outbreaks.

#### Medical Affairs & Recruitment

- In early June, the organization hosted several first year medical residents from the University of Ottawa and Queen's University as part of each school's "Community Week." Medical residents took part in clinical practice experiences, focused on providing exposure to medical practice in rural and community settings alongside DRDH physicians. In addition to clinical practice experiences, medical students also experienced highlights of life in the Ottawa Valley, in collaboration with Pembroke Regional Hospital medical students.

#### Regional Partners

- DRDH's Chief Financial Officer, William Willard, served as facilitator and presented at an Advantage Ontario education session in May on "Advanced LTC Funding, Budgeting & Reporting." Participants from across Ontario attended for a full-day, deep dive education session into advanced LTC funding and reporting.
- Member of Provincial Parliament for Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke, Billy Denault, visited DRDH on May 30, 2025 receiving a tour of the organization and the new Primary Care Building. Updates on activities at DRDH, as well as community needs including affordable housing and daycare were shared.