



705-382-2900
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Minutes: July 3, 2025, 10:00 am in person & via Zoom and at the Township of Perry Municipal Office

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Vicky Roeder-Martin (Vice-Chair), Sean Cotton, Brad Kneller, Jim Ronholm, Cheryl Philip, Tom Bryson, Luke Preston, Deb Duce (Secretary).

Regrets: Norm Hofstetter.

Guest: Dr. Sarah MacKinnon, Shelly van den Heuvel, Sandy Zurbrigg, Courtney Metcalfe, Greg Stevens, David Gravelle, Nav Othi.

Called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chair R. Ward.

1. **2025-17** Moved by Margaret Ann MacPhail - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of June 5, 2025, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:**

- a) **Muskoka Almaguin Ontario Health Team (MAOHT), HHR Recruiter 3-Year Funding Renewal Request**
Greg Stevens, David Gravelle, Nav Othi, with Dr. Sarah MacKinnon and Shelly van den Heuvel.

The MAOHT team presented the recommendation of the Health & Human Resources Task Force to continue with a 3-year extension of the 3-year Recruiter funding term that expires on December 31, 2025. The initial term was implemented to address the persistent shortage of primary care providers; municipalities in Muskoka Almaguin contributed as well as healthcare services organizations (health teams/hospital/foundations).

The presentation overview included a workforce analysis, population growth throughout the regions, totals for unattached patients, ideas, plans for expansion of access to healthcare support and services, and recruiter engagement at conferences and physician recruitment events in the UK, USA, and other provinces.

Sundridge District Medical Centre shared they have been fortunate in part because of recruiter support, programs such as Practice Ready Ontario (PRO), and

assistance with the recruitment process (appointments, tours, dinners, hotels, etc.). Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team also benefited from the support.

It was noted that primary care provider recruitment will continue to be a problem until there is a larger solution by the MOH/OH across the province.

Council members noticed that Joly Township and Town of Kearney were not included in the first term and asked that they be included in the recommendation from AHHC to municipalities in Almaguin Highlands.

4. RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2025-18 Moved by Delynne Patterson - Seconded by Tom Bryson.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT Be it resolved that the Almaguin Highlands Health Council will request commitment from each municipality for \$1000 per year for the years 2026, 2027, and 2028 for the continued MAOHT Health Human Resources Recruiter

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

a) Almaguin Health and Wellness Summit – October 7, 2025

The plan for the summit scheduled was amended following a discussion on what healthcare providers are doing now and how they would like to do things in the future. A survey will be created and distributed to healthcare providers and organizations. Following a review of the survey data, one-on-one interviews may be coordinated to gather greater detail. The information received will be used to create a report to the municipalities on what the desired and future needs in healthcare and what they can do to help.

Members shared questions on building requirements (planning/development), patient waitlists, PCAT funding (\$1.6 billion), feedback from patients, families and caregivers (PFC), and access to a list of resources that are available to assist people navigation the healthcare system (i.e. MAOHT Community Helpline & other [community resources](#)). D. Duce will share links to information following the meeting and introduce them to the MAOHT communications leads – Jessica North and Louise Picot – who will be able to assist in creating healthcare resource lists for distribution at summer events and community offices.

Next steps include a presentation to the MAOHT Alliance Council or Collaboration Steering Committee to connect with healthcare providers and organizations and promote the information gathering survey. S. van den Heuvel will coordinate the survey plan (questions, marketing, accessibility) with a team. L. Metcalf will create the online survey. D. Duce will connect with G. Stevens regarding presentation at the August CSC meeting.

The Summit on October 7th will be put on hold with the committee determining plans following the review of survey data.

b) Progress Report:

At the next meeting, a proposal for municipal funding supports for an in-depth building engineering study will be presented

c) **Other Business: none**

6. ADJOURNMENT

2025-19 Moved by Jim Ronholm - Seconded by Tom Bryson

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:20 a.m. to meet again on September 4, 2025, at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.