



**705-382-2900**  
**[www.almaguin-health.org](http://www.almaguin-health.org)**

**Minutes:** December 3rd, 2021, 11:00am via zoom and in person in the AHHC boardroom

Present: In person- Rod Ward, Carol Ballantyne, Delynne Patterson, Brad Kneller, Tom Bryson

Zoom: Cathy Still, Marianne Stickland

Regrets: Norm Hofstetter, Barbara Belrose, Dennis Banka

Guests: In person- Kevin MacLeod

Zoom: Courtney Metcalf

Secretary- In person- Camille Barr

Called to order at 11:00am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2021-055 Moved by D. Patterson and Seconded by B. Kneller  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None at this time
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None at this time
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:**  
2021-056 Moved by C. Ballantyne and Seconded by T. Bryson

**WHEREAS** the current agreements between the Ministry of Health, the physician group in Burk's Falls and the Burk's Falls Family Health Team list the Burk's Falls catchment area to include Burk's Falls, Armour, Magnetawan, Perry and Ryerson; and

**WHEREAS** the physicians represented by these agreements can, technically, only take on patients within that catchment area; and

**WHEREAS** the Town of Kearney and the Township of McMurrich-Monteith are not part of this catchment area, nor are they part of any other agreement or other defined catchment area; and

**WHEREAS** the physicians in Burk's Falls have taken on some patients within the Town of Kearney and Township of McMurrich-Monteith on a best-effort basis; and

**WHEREAS** the inclusion of Kearney and McMurrich-Monteith population numbers would change the physician-to-patient ratio and may allow for increases in healthcare human resources within the Burk's Falls Family Health Team,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** The Township of \_\_\_\_\_ supports inclusion of the Town of Kearney and the Township of McMurrich-Monteith and asks that the Ministry of Health update the required agreements to reflect this change. Carried.

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

a) **Revisit of the Terms of Reference for the Almaguin Highlands Health Council**

The floor was open for discussion on the draft Terms of Reference for Council. Overall AHH Council was happy with the terms with some minor adjustments. R. Ward will proceed to set up a meeting between himself, N. Kunkel and C. Still to review, specifically the Village of Burk's Falls role and the fund section. R. Ward aims to have a final draft to the AHH Council for review at the next meeting. R. Ward encouraged Council to share the draft with their own municipal Councils.

b) **Sign for the AHHC Boardroom**

Mockups for the Bruce Campbell boardroom sign were reviewed by Council. Council favored the wood plaque and design of Two Horse Gallery and requested the addition of the logo be added to the mockup for review. C. Barr to follow up on this request and will send revised mockup to Council for approval.

c) **Health Hubs for Northern Ontario**

R. Ward and M. Stickland were approached by Dr. Preston (formerly of Sundridge) and Wendy Smith of Nippissing Wellness Ontario Health Team, to engage in a conversation regarding Health Hubs. There is recognition that the North is unique and should have a special designation based on its specific challenges. A decision as to where boundaries will fall will be made in March. Up to this point, the Ministry has not been in favor of several smaller Ontario Health Teams (OHT's) being developed in the North; however, the concept of forming smaller "health hubs" working under the umbrella of a larger OHT in the north has been discussed. Conversations are preliminary and Council is seeking further information at this time.

M. Stickland and R. Ward will attend a meeting in December with the North East OHT steering committee and they will bring information back to Council for the January meeting.

d) **Other business**

K. MacLeod informed Council that the FHT has hired an OTN Telemedicine Nurse. She is currently training, with the hope to be able to offer telemedicine in the next few weeks. She will be working Tuesdays and Thursdays with a gradual increase in days.

Renovations for the FHT continue to move forward. The project will go to tender in the new year. FHT continues to work closely with the Village of Burk's Falls with this project.

OTN may require upgrades as the new Telemedicine Nurse begins exploring the system and its needs. K. MacLeod will bring equipment requests to Council

should there be some. K. MacLeod also purchased an air purifier for the OTN space. He will provide Council with the receipt.

**2021-057** Moved by T. Bryson and Seconded by C. Still

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:00pm to meet again on January 7th at 11:00am. Carried.  
Location will be AHHC boardroom or via zoom.

DRAFT