



705-382-2900
www.almaguin-health.org

Minutes: May 4, 2023, 10:00 am via Zoom and in the Township of Armour Council Chambers

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Norm Hofstetter, Brad Kneller, Jim Ronholm, Sharon Smith (Sundridge) Chris Hope, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Regrets: Tom Bryson, Fraser Williamson (Vice Chair), Vicky Roeder-Martin

Guests: Susan Keast (HHR), Shelly Van den Heuvel (BFFHT), Courtney Metcalf (ACED), Cheryl Harrison (MAHC), Dr. Sarah MacKinnon

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

1. 2023-13 Moved by B. Kneller - Seconded by D. Patterson
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of April 6, 2023 as circulated. Carried.

2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None

3. **DELEGATIONS:**

Cheryl Harrison- CEO and President of MAHC

The new hospital build is in Stage 1.3. Currently there are 16 user groups formed focusing on services needed in the hospitals. The groups are being challenged to look towards the future as they plan as well not just within the physical “four walls” but also within the community. Consultants will take the information provided from the user groups and prepare a design. From there the design will go to the architect. Cheryl encourages Council members to reach out should they have an interest in being a part of the user groups.

There are three locations being considered for Bracebridge. One of these is a preferred site and is on Muskoka Beach Road. All three will be assessed by the town of Bracebridge for service needs.

Regarding the ‘local share’, Cheryl reports she has been sharing the work that Almaguin has been doing by providing assistance and advocacy. The goal is to have shovels in the ground by 2029.

Dr. Sarah MacKinnon- Sundridge & District Medical Centre

Dr. MacKinnon reiterated that the Province has announced funding available for primary care expansion. Both S. Van den Heuvel and S. MacKinnon have been working on this separate applications for Sundridge and Burk's Falls however resources would be shared across the two groups. The goal is to expand primary care and fill the gaps for unattached patients.

The period for expressions of interest will be announced quickly with a short turn around. It is essential to be prepared. Letters of support are required from stakeholders which include the AHHC and Almaguin Councils. Letters of support need to share real examples of how needs are not currently being met in Almaguin communities. They should tell the tale of our area.

S. MacKinnon will provide the Council with talking points highlighting key areas to address in letters of support.

The following is what will be requested in the expression of interest in a phased in approach:

Services for SDMC:

Phase 1: RN, NP, Mental Health Therapist

Phase 2: Administrative Assistant, Team Office Manager, funding for OTN set up

Services for BFFHT:

Phase 1: NP

Phase 2: Mental Health Therapist, Reception/Medical Secretary

Shared services for BFFHT & SDMC:

Phase 2: Social worker/clinic navigator, Physiotherapist

Letters should be prepared sooner rather than later as the turn around will be quick.

Additionally, S. MacKinnon shared that NOHF contributed a significant amount to the renovations at the Sundridge & District Medical Centre and an open house will be planned for the near future. Stay tuned.

Susan Keast- Human Health Recruiter MAOHT

S. Keast shared she attended a job fair in Collingwood where she was able to network and build resources. She notes a lot of Dr's in attendance were at various stages of their careers. She also attended training with Northern Rural Medical Association which focused on northern rural medicine and what is relevant today. Susan continues to build networks and notes that people are starting to know who she is within her role.

Susan was invited to a dinner in Huntsville with doctors which further supported her learning. She inquired as to what attracted them to the area in hopes of building on this.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2023-14 Moved by M. MacPhail - Seconded by D. Patterson
Whereas the Burk's Falls Family Health Team and the Sundridge and District Medical Centre are applying for potential grant funds for Primary Care Expansion through an Expression of Interest,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Almaguin Highlands Health Council will prepare letters of support to be included in the applications. Carried.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Hospital 'Local Share' Update

R. Ward has attended the majority of the AHHC municipal council tables to speak on local share. He reports that MAHC is now seeing Almaguin as being one and the Council continues to be asked to sit on various groups and committees for MAOHT.

b) Health Care Services in the Township of Armour

R. Ward shared that alot of needs of Armour residents are met by the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre in Burk's Falls. He reports there are still many residents on the wait list for a doctor however BFFHT is making gains in catching up.

c) Progress Report

R. Ward reviewed the May Progress Report with Council. The report will be shared with the draft minutes.

d) Other Business

Home Care Modernization Working Group Update- M. MacPhail attended the most recent meeting. Servicing needs are being reviewed and in order to do so good data must be collected. The group will also engage with stakeholders to understand their personal experiences with the program and how outcomes may be improved. M. MacPhail will share the meeting minutes with AHH Council.

Palliative Care Task Force- MAOHT is looking to the Council for representation. Council felt F. Williamson would be a great fit. S. Smith will reach out to F. Williamson. M. MacPhail will attend the first meeting until F. Williamson is spoken to regarding the opportunity.

Eastholme Medical Transportation Services- As per last meeting, Secretary reached out to Eastholme for general information on medical transportation use. The following general information was shared for the 2022 calendar year for medical related appointments only (not errands) and covers from South River to Novar, including Magnetawan:

Total rides- 2,153

Of those, the following percentages are where clients traveled to for medical:

Huntsville – 40%

Local (South River, Sundridge, Burk's Falls) – 23%

North Bay – 22%

Orillia – 4%

Barrie/Newmarket – 3%

Toronto (GTA) – 3%

Dunchurch/Parry Sound – 2%

Bracebridge/Gravenhurst – 2%

Sudbury - 1%

AHHC Foundation- C. Hope is currently working on a new logo for the foundation and will work with the new Village CAO once in place on how the foundation will operate regarding the acceptance of donations and the charitable status.

2023- 15 Moved by C. Hope - Seconded by J. Ronholm

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:00 am to meet again on June 1, 2023, at 10:00 am. Carried.

Location will be Village of Burk's Falls Council Chambers followed by a tour of the BFFHT expansion at 12:00 pm

*July meeting tentatively booked in the Village of Sundridge, Council Chambers