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## **ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS HEALTH COUNCIL MINUTES**

Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 10:00 am via Zoom.

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Margaret Ann MacPhail, Brad Kneller, David Gravelle, Deb Raynard, Shawn Jackson, Jim Ronholm, Delynne Patterson, Sandy Zurbrigg, Courtney Metcalf, Sarah Cooke, Vickey Roeder-Martin (Vice-Chair), Sean Cotton, Dr. Sarah MacKinnon, Deb Duce (Secretary)

Regrets: Cheryl Philip, Tom Bryson, Cheryl Harrison, Norm Hofstetter, Shelly van den Heuvel.

1. 2026.01 Moved by Margaret Ann MacPhail. Seconded by Jim Ronholm  
**THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the meeting of December 5, 2025.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED:** None
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
  - a) Update – Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare – Deferred - C. Harrison unable to attend.
  - b) Update – Almaguin Highlands FTH – D. Raynard, Executive Director
    - The AHFHT is fully staffed as of Jan.7<sup>th</sup> welcoming a new Nurse Practitioner.
    - Coordinating a surplus funding project with \$9,000 to be used to hire two contractors to assist with the waitlist management project of adding 200 patients in 2026.
    - With AFHT, SDMC on March 4<sup>th</sup> will participate in a full day customer facing trauma training on how to understand difficult patient situations/problems how to work with them. Fire and paramedics have found this fascinating and beneficial. Space is available and the event can be shared with municipalities.
  - c) Update – Sundridge & District Medical Centre – Dr. S. MacKinnon
    - 12 new patients were onboarded last month.
    - Recommendation of LifeStyleRx a free, OHIP covered, 12 week program for patients in Ontario [LifestyleRx - Diabetes Reversal Program](#)

d) Update – MAOHT Recruiter – D. Gravelle

- December was very active with confirmation of 3 FT Family Physicians starting in the new year as well as 3 locums in the last two weeks.
- Since beginning his goal has been developing a pipeline for recruitment. The pipeline is approximately 400 and building with 46 active candidates.
- Has started creating a 2026 calendar – based on 2025 successes and also some new events
- Will be presenting a 2025 budget to MAOHT leadership with recommendations for 2026.
- Upcoming presentations to SMMH Foundation, Huntsville Hospital Foundation and also to the MAOHT CSC
- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> his contract was expanded to include recruitment of GIM for MAHC
- Working on a couple of projects with Dr. Sarah MacKinnon for SDMC.
- Discussion points included community connections, recruitment from the Quebec, and the foundation of recruitment is about where to settle/live long term as well as interpersonal relationship rather than incentives.

e) Progress Report

f) Other Business

- V. Roeder-Martin shared information on denture business in Cambridge that does dentures in people's homes. They are investigating the Almaguin region and do work a lot with RH/LTC. She will call the business to gather more information. The brochure will be scanned and shared with AHHC members.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

2026-02 Moved by Jim Ronholm. Seconded by Shawn Jackson.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 10:33 am to meet again, on February 5, 2025, at 10:00 am at the Township of Perry Municipal Office and via Zoom.