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ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS HEALTH COUNCIL

MINUTES: October 2, 2025, 10:00 am in person at the Township of Perry Municipal Office and via Zoom

Present: Jim Ronholm, Shawn Jackson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Vickey Roeder-Martin (Vice-Chair), Rod Ward (Chair), Brad Kneller, Delynne Patterson, Cheryl Philip, Sean Cotton, Deb Duce (Secretary)

Regrets: Tom Bryson, Norm Hofstetter

Guests: Cheryl Harrison, Deb Raynard, Courtney Metcalfe, Sandy Zurbrigg, Shelly van den Heuvel, David Gravelle.

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

1. **2025-22** Moved by Brad Kneller. Seconded by Delynne Patterson.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the amended agenda for the meeting of October 2, 2025.
2. **2025-23** Moved by Vickey Roeder-Martin. Seconded by Jim Ronholm.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of October 2, 2025.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST: None**
3. **DELEGATIONS: None**
4. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED:**

2025-24: Letter of Support to Burk's Falls | Rural Ontario Development Program Application

2025-25: Support the Partnered Funding for Engineering Study Huston St. Health Centre

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Progress Report

- i. C. Harrison provided an MAHC update highlighting capital development to date and the \$20 million dollar donation by the Hutcheson Family to support the new hospital as well as annual scholarships.
- ii. D. Raynard shared information on the AHFHT staff, programs, services, and unattached patient waitlist (800), D. Duce will D. Raynard the OH HHC contact information for the region.

b) Community & Clinical Providers Survey Update

Presentation of key points in the feedback from over 300 respondents to the community survey.

Discussion of an agreement and/or contract between an FHT and the municipalities to support the recruitment of primary care providers needed. Current OH criteria sets limits that are tied to funding.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a group will meet in the next week to discuss a possible AHC PCAT submission outside of the OHT. Those interested included S. van den Heuvel, R. Ward, V. Roeder-Martin, D. Patterson, & S. Zurbrigg.

c) Healthcare Services Survey Update

Overview of the data received to date and discussion of sharing on municipal digital spaces.

d) OPRA Recommendation to Ontario Health & Physician Recruitment Update

D. Gravelle presented an overview of the OPRA recommendation to OH/PCAT to provide \$5M over 2 years to support 1. existing community recruiters, 2. shared technology systems, 3. travel, outreach, community engagement activities as well as 4. data and reporting infrastructure to guide evidence-based recruitment and 5. equity subsidies for underfunded and underserved communities.

C. Metcalfe share information on the Rural Community Immigration Pilot (<https://nbrcip.ca/>) funding opportunity.

e) Explore Almaguin Website and the Health Hub webpage [LINK](#)

Council members were asked to review the Health Hub webpage on the Almaguin website and provide feedback to C. Metcalfe.

f) Village of Burk's Falls Letter of Support – Funding Application for Strategic Plan

R. Ward shared background information on the request for a letter of support. The following resolution was put forward.

2025-24 Moved by Brad Kneller. Seconded by Shawn Jackson.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council will submit a letter of support to the Village of Burk's Falls for inclusion in their Rural Ontario Development Program Grant Application for development of a comprehensive strategic plan.

g) **Recruiter Funding Renewal Update | Confirmations Received to Date**

An overview of the status of the MAOHT recruiter funding renewal by AH municipalities. An email will be sent to those who have not yet shared information requesting an update.

h) **Engineering Study – Quote**

Sean shared background information, and the following resolution was put forward. The plan summary will be scanned and sent to all AHHC members. The resolution (2025-25) was deferred.

i) Position Hiring N/A

j) Other Business N/A

6. ADJOURNMENT

2025-21 Moved by DeLynne Patterson - Seconded by Vickey Roeder-Martin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:56 a.m. to meet again on October 2, 2025, at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.