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ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS HEALTH COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, February 5, 2026, at 10:00 am, in person & via Zoom.

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

Regrets: Rod Ward (Chair)

1. **2026.03** Moved by Brad Kneller. Seconded by Tom Bryson.
THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the meeting of January 8, 2026.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST: None**
3. **DELEGATIONS: None**
4. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED: None**
5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**
 - a) Updates
 - i. Recruiter – D. Gravelle - Highlights
 - The plan for recruitment of a physician who is leaving SDMC. Patients will not be orphaned.
 - Dr. Brenda Martin launched her clinic in Port Carling on February 6th.
 - Has presented to the MAOHT Collaboration Steering Committee, MAHC Board, and South Muskoka Hospital Foundation.
 - ii. SDMC – Dr. S. MacKinnon
 - Additional information on the physician recruitment plan including a pause in the opportunity for area residents receiving care outside of Almaguin to return to SDMC.
 - [HCC](#) has been notified that patients are not being attached at this time.
 - iii. Patient Family Caregiver Partner Advisory Committee – S. Zurbrigg
 - Dr. Cross, Co-Chair of the MAOHT primary care network, presented an overview to PFCPAC on January 22nd.
 - Two new partners joined the PFCPAC include a past director of Burk's Falls FHT.
 - In February the SCOPE Nurse Navigator and Mental Health Social Worker will be presenting on the services they offer to primary care providers (PCPs).
 - Dr. MacKinnon shared the value of SCOPE to PCPs include a referral for virtual mental health counselling.

- iv. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare – C. Harrison
 - High volumes of ER patients and record setting admissions due to influenza.
 - No news on capital development from the Treasury Board – continued successful fundraising including a special upcoming event in Port Sydney with the Premier.
 - v. Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team – written report from D. Raynard.
 - No questions on content.
- b) AHHC Financial Statement – January 2026 – Information shared. No questions/comments.
- c) State of X-Ray Equipment in Burk’s Falls – Discussion
 - C. Harrison shared that the lifetime of equipment is 15 to 20 years. The Burk’s Falls equipment was installed in 2001 but the volume (2000 x-rays per year – approx. 1/10 of the total for Bracebridge & Huntsville) and condition of parts (good with regular service).
 - Need to plan for the next 5 years: amount to fundraise, plan for downtime of installation.
 - **Action Items**
 - **Coordinate a second meeting of the Building Planning Subcommittee.**
 - **Connect with D. Raynard to investigate the strategic plan to address the needs/desires for AHFHT.**
 - **Determine funding restrictions due to mapping.**
- d) Building & Space Subcommittee – Schedule New Meeting
 - Discussed in above item. Will be scheduled.
- e) Need for Growth in Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team
 - Discussed in above item. Will connect with D. Raynard.
- f) Kearney & McMurrich Monteith Catchment Areas Discussion
 - Overview of feedback (email/phone calls) following letter sent to MPP Graydon Smith. No formal response received.
 - **Action Items**
 - Ask D. Raynard to share the letter sent by AHFHT to MPP Graydon Smith.
 - At the next meeting, create a resolution for all councils in Almaguin Highlands to advocate re-mapping.
 - Invite MPP G. Smith to a future AHHC meeting to speak about the issue.
 - Investigate if MAOHT has sent a letter.
 - S. MacKinnon noted that any decision regarding mapping would be from the Ministry of Health rather than Ontario Health. The AHHC will explore roles of each group.
- g) AHHC Progress Report – Quarterly
 - Following discussion it was decided to create an infographic with achievements/milestones of the AHHC. The infographic will be a part of the ‘Road Show’ to Local Councils to Provide Updates & Answer Questions
- h) Other Business - None

6. ADJOURNMENT

2026-04 Moved by Sean Cotton. Seconded by DeLynne Patterson.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:33 am to meet again, on February 5, 2025, at 10:00 am at the Township of Perry Municipal Office and via Zoom.