



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

**Minutes:** March 4, 2022, 11:00am via Zoom and in person in the AHHC boardroom

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Tom Bryson, Carol Ballantyne, Brad Kneller, Dennis Banka, Joe Vella, Barbara Belrose, Marianne Stickland (Vice Chair), Camille Barr (Secretary)

Guests: Kevin MacLeod (BFFHT)

Regrets: Norm Hofstetter, Cathy Still

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

1. 2022-08 Moved by Brad Kneller- Seconded by Carol Ballantyne  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from February 4, 2022, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None.
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:**  
2022-09 Moved by Tom Bryson- Seconded by Carol Ballantyne  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council receives the correspondence from the Township of Ryerson and welcomes Councillor Joseph Vella. Carried.

*\*As a formality, although discussed and agreed to in February, this next resolution was signed at this meeting*

2022-06 Moved by Carol Ballantyne- Seconded by Tom Bryson

**WHEREAS** the life expectancy of Northern residents is more than two years lower than the Ontario average and one person in eight across the North do not have access to a family doctor,

**AND** these Northern Ontario communities advocate for equitable health care, especially for underserved rural, Indigenous and Francophone communities in Northern Ontario,

**AND** finding ways to encourage more family physicians and health care professionals to stay and work in Northern communities will contribute to reducing the crisis for citizens in the North,

**AND** the Northern School of Medicine graduates far fewer health care professionals than the need requires and it would take five existing graduating classes at sixty-four physicians per year from NOSM just to address the current shortage,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council supports the Village of Sundridge Resolution #2021-381 and requests that the Provincial Government and the Ontario Medical Association expand NOSM's capacity for physician candidates to meet the needs of Northern Ontario,

**AND** find ways to bring additional health care support from other areas of the Province,

**AND FURTHER** that a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Almaguin Highlands Health Council member Councils asking for support. Carried.

## **5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### **1) Follow Up Discussion- Presentation OHT- 'Health Hubs'**

Following the last meeting, R. Ward reached out to health care providers (K. MacLeod of BFFTH and Dr. S. McKinnon of Sundridge) as well D. Mathies (chair of Muskoka and Area OHT), and DSSAB, seeking feedback while maintaining transparency about the recent discussions and proposal to become a 'health hub' within the Nipissing Wellness Ontario Health Team. M. Stickland has also had conversations with West Parry Sound. R. Ward shared that Ontario Health North reached out inquiring when Council would make a decision.

The floor was turned over to Council in which much discussion occurred. There are many considerations for Council to contemplate and questions to be answered before a decision can be reached.

For the next meeting, R. Ward and M. Stickland will prepare a list of pros and cons to joining the Nipissing Wellness Ontario Health Team and creating a 'health hub', and the pros and cons of remaining on the current path in our relationship with the Muskoka and Area OHT. Additionally, all AHH Council members will review information received so far and forward questions to C. Barr or the whole group prior to April, where further discussion will occur.

### **2) Follow Up Regarding Resolution Increasing Capacity for Physician Candidates- NOSM**

Council will share resolution wording with member municipalities asking they too create a resolution to pass. See #4 above.

### **3) Follow Up Regarding Resolution- Kearney and McMurrich-Monteith being added to BFFHT Catchment**

The resolution that was passed in December will be redistributed to the Councils of Kearney and McMurrich-Monteith advocating for their inclusion into the catchment area of the BFFHT. These Councils may request support from Burk's Falls, Armour, Ryerson, and Magnetawan asking for them for support at their next Council meetings.

**4) Discussions Regarding Suggested Resolution- AMO 'local share'**

Municipalities are being asked to provide significant assistance to hospital capital costs. AMO has created a draft resolution for municipalities to consider, asking for a reexamination of 'local share', reducing the portion already strained municipalities are asked to contribute. Suggested resolution will be shared asking member municipalities to consider passing at their next meetings.

**5) Bruce Campbell Board Room Sign**

C. Barr will have the sign installed. R. Ward will invite Bruce to the May Council meeting to present him with the sign in honour of his years of dedication to improving healthcare in Almaguin Highlands.

**6) Information Sharing- NOAH**

R. Ward shared information provided by the Non-Profit Organization for Almaguin Housing (NOAH) on the new Meadow View independent living option, just opened in Powassan.

**7) Terms of Reference**

Item deferred until further discussion can be held regarding OHT and 'health hubs'.

**8) Monthly Progress Report**

February 2022 Progress Report was shared with Council.

**6. OTHER BUSINESS:**

The 2022 resolutions passed were numbered incorrectly. Numbering was corrected at this meeting.

Magnetawan and Armour representatives would like further clarification on the ask from the Village of Burk's Falls for the member municipalities to assist with the deficit the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre creates annually. C. Barr will provide information on where this ask originated for the next meeting.

**7. 2022-10 Moved by Brad Kneller- Seconded by Tom Bryson**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:10pm to meet again on April 1, 2022 at 11:00am. Carried.

Location will be via Zoom or in person.