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ALMAGUIN HIGHLANDS HEALTH COUNCIL MINUTES

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 10:00 am in person at the Township of Perry Municipal Office and via Zoom.

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

Regrets: Cheryl Philip, Tom Bryson

Guests: Cheryl Harrison, Deb Raynard, Courtney Metcalfe, Sandy Zurbrigg, Shelly van den Heuvel, Dr. Sarah MacKinnon.

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

1. 2025-29 Moved by Norm Hofstetter. Seconded by Sean Cotton.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the amended agenda for the meeting of November 6, 2025.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST: None

3. DELEGATIONS: None

4. RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED

2025-30: Chair expenses for attendance at the AFHTO Conference – accommodation & meals (\$921.94).

2025-31: Proposal for Engineering Services – Burk's Falls Health Centre – 150 Huston St.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) Updates

- i. Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare
C. Harrison was unable to attend.
- ii. Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team)
D. Raynard shared that an NP will be starting in January 2025, the position of social worker has been filled, and mental health services are restarting. Also shared details on

the AFHT and HCC waitlists (AFHT 800 | HCC 300) and that the HCC data is under review. The plan is to attach 500 patients by spring 2026 and to clear the list by fall. AFHT has been in conversation with MPP Graydon Smith to discuss the McMurrich Monteith Township letter regarding MOH/OH criteria for primary care providers (PCP) in areas including MAOHT support for advocacy. Dr. MacKinnon shared background information on PCP numbers and no formalized agreement between AFHT and AHFHT to handle gap in region.

Lead to discussion of space needs (where to put more staff), Phase 2 [PCAT applications](#), and directions for municipalities in the future. The Chair noted that the task is to think of what is needed in the next 40 years. D. Raynard will ask T. Mintz if she can share the North Proposal with AHHC.

iii. Sundridge & District Medical Centre

Dr. S. MacKinnon shared that the SCMC has taken on 334 new patients since December 2024, has no waitlist, is currently on a repatriation campaign with letters to PCPs in Huntsville and Burks Falls, and has moved their waitlist to the evolved HCC list. Information was also shared on the renovation of their space. AHHC members were invited to tour the facility. Also noted was a study around people moving from southern Ontario to northern Ontario, the people keeping their PCP, driving long hours for appointments, and the impact on emergency departments. SDMC with WPS EMS have implemented EMS Video Visits for homebound patients.

b) Chair Update (R. Ward)

- i. The Chair provided an overview of his presentation and engagement with other attendees at the AFHTO Conference. He will share the presentation with AHHC members.

2025-30 Moved by Norm Hofstetter. Seconded by Brad Kneller. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council approve reimbursement to Rod Ward for the amount of \$921.94 for accommodation and meal expenses incurred during attendance at the AFHTO Conference October 23 & 24.

- ii. At the MAOHT HHR TF meeting, a request from MAHC was put forward for support for recruitment of General Internal Medicine (GIM) physicians for Bracebridge (2) and Huntsville (1). It will be reviewed by the Operations WG and Collaboration Steering Committee.
- iii. Recruiter Funding Renewal is successful. All Almaguin Highlands municipalities have passed resolutions. Members shared reasons for their support.

c) Proposal for Engineering Services for Burk's Falls Health Centre, 150 Hudson St.

Discussion included space requirement, renovation and/or expansion, and needs for the next forty years. Information is shared on the idea of creating a municipal services corporation that could be used to create a healthcare space in which all ten municipalities would have a stake. Members shared thoughts, knowledge of projects, and other experiences.

It was decided to form a subcommittee and municipal support staff from the ten municipalities to discuss options. The following motion was put forward.

2025-28 Moved by DeLynne Patterson. Seconded by Vickey Roeder-Martin.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT AHHC forms a Building and Space
Subcommittee with member Norm Hofstetter, Sean Cotton and Jim Ronholm, with
municipal staff invited to report back at December 4, 2025 meeting.

d) Discussion – Health Services & Support Inventory Update

S. van den Heuvel shared information on the Algonquin Family Health Team research study of unattached patients.

In an overview of the updated inventory, it was agreed that its purpose is to be able to identify gaps, where they occur, and thoughts for development in the region in the ten municipalities of Almaguin Highlands.

e) Roundtable

Topics included a list of capital renovations completed on the Burk's Falls facility, the costs required to keep the building functional, and municipal budget requirements.

5. ADJOURNMENT

2025-32 Moved by DeLynne Patterson. Seconded by Vickey Roeder-Martin.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:04 pm to meet again, on December 4, 2025, at 10:00 am at the Township of Perry Municipal Office and via Zoom.