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Minutes: February 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, Delynne Patterson, Barbara Belrose, Carol Ballantyne, Marianne Stickland (Vice Chair), Cathy Still, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Guests: Kevin MacLeod (BFFHT), Courtney Metcalf (ACED), Dr. Paul Preston and Wendy Smith (Nippising Wellness OHT), Elder Healer Josh, Bobbie- Lyn Roberts, Joseph Vella

Regrets: Norm Hofstetter

Called to order at 11:04 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2022-061 Moved by Barbara Belrose and Seconded by Carol Ballantyne
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from January 7, 2022, as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None.
3. **DELEGATIONS:** Dr. Paul Preston and Wendy Smith of the Nippising Wellness Ontario Health Team to discuss item 5.a of agenda.

Dr. Paul Preston and Wendy Smith provided a presentation on the concept of "Health Hubs" for areas in the north which would fall under the Nippising Wellness OHT.

M. Stickland and R. Ward will follow up for more information. R. Ward will also reach out to the Muskoka and area OHT for feedback.

Council will consider the information provided during this presentation and have further discussion.

4. RESOLUTIONS PASSED:

2022-062 Moved by Tom Bryson and Seconded by Cathy Still

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council receives an invoice from the Village of Burk's Falls for the purchase of the Bruce Campbell boardroom sign and;

FURTHER authorizes the Treasurer to issue payment in the amount of \$50.85 to The Corporation of the Village of Burk's Falls from the AHHC fund. Carried.

2022-063 Moved by Seconded by

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 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.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1) Terms of Reference Discussion

R. Ward met with C. Still and N. Kunkel to review the Terms of Reference as it pertains to the Village of Burk's Falls as the building owner.

Item deferred due to time and in light of "health hub" information.

2) Update on Discussions with Association of Municipalities Ontario (AMO) Regarding Municipal Involvement with Ontario Health Teams

R. Ward met with a representative at AMO to discuss the work that has been done to have municipalities and social service organizations in an official role with OHTs. Advocacy is occurring by AMO. AMO may be interested in having a representative from the Council attend a future meeting to share the history of the AHHC and challenges experienced.

- 3) **Update on Discussions with Northern Ontario School of Medicine (NOSM)**
R. Ward, L. Hall and S. Hicks (Sundridge Medical Centre) met with NOSM to discuss an increase in the allotment of NOSM candidates to potentially provide more physician availability in the North. M. Stickland pointed out it is specifically family physicians needed.

The Village of Sundridge passed a resolution supporting increased enrollment which this Council supports. A resolution has been created and will be distributed to AHHC represented Councils for asking for their support.

- 4) **Monthly progress report review**
R. Ward provided a brief overview of the updates for Council.

6. **OTHER BUSINESS:** None at this time

7. 2022-063 Moved by Barbara Belrose and Seconded by Marianne Stickland

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 12:11pm to meet again on March 4, 2022 at 11:00am. Carried.

Location will be via Zoom or in person