



**705-382-2900**  
**www.almaguin-health.org**

**Minutes:** January 4, 2024, 10:00 am via Zoom in the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Brad Kneller, Chris Hope, Fraser Williamson (Vice Chair), Vicky Roeder-Martin, Tom Bryson, Norm Hofstetter, Jim Ronholm, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Regrets: Cheryl Phillip

Guest: Susan Keast (HHR MAOHT), Isabel Pereira, Courtney Metcalf (ACED)

Called to order at 10:01 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2024-01            Moved by F. Williamson - Seconded by N. Hofstetter  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of December 7, 2023 as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:**  
2024-02            Moved by T. Bryson - Seconded by V. Roeder- Martin  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council approves the concept of the brochure as designed by ACED, for promotional use by the MAOHT Health Human Resource Recruiter. Carried.  
  
2024-03            Moved by D. Patterson - Seconded by V. Roeder-Martin  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council agrees to fund the Burk's Falls Family Health Team up to \$2000.00 one time towards the rebranding project. Carried.  
  
2024-04            Moved by N. Hofstetter - Seconded by B. Kneller  
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** members of the Almaguin Highlands Health Council will approach individual Councils for a contribution of \$1000.00 for 2024 to cover healthcare related activities in the Almaguin Highlands, to be revisited annually. Carried.

## 5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

### a) **Update on 'Local Share'**

MAHC has selected the site for the Bracebridge location- 300 Pine Street. The next stage of the project requires discussions as to what services will be housed in which location. Determination of services at each location is still under discussion. There have been no concrete decisions made at this time. User Groups are assisting in the determination. Note that Emergency services are not on table for discussion – Emergency will be available at both locations. MAHC will visit communities early this new year to receive feedback on the matter. When the community meetings are announced, please share widely.

### b) **Progress Report:** R. Ward provided the group with an overview of the Progress Report.

#### **Potential Health and Wellness Centre**

The individual with interest in building the health and wellness centre in Armour is collecting costing and pulling together a business plan. Armour is looking at how the funding model could work and the feasibility of the options (i.e. is there an approach that makes sense for the region?). They are working through scenarios and hope to bring information to the table soon.

This discussion led to another regarding the current Burk's Falls building and the ability for an expansion, what Burk's Falls plans are for the building. It was noted that the replacement of the x-ray machine has prompted a lot of thought about healthcare in the area. All options must be a coordinated with a view to the future. Is there room for expansion on the new potential build in Armour if it is needed? What would it take to expand the current Burk's Falls location? The group agrees they need to work towards a mutual plan both model and structure. Council will keep their focus on Almaguin wide healthcare and not on one building. The solutions need to stand the test of time.

### c) **Other business**

#### **Promotional Material for Healthcare Recruitment**

ACED was approached by S. Keast, HHR Recruiter with the MAOHT to develop a promotional tool for Almaguin. A draft brochure was shared. Feedback included images that better represent the facilities, wording/contact adjustments, and service changes. C. Metcalf collected feedback from the group and will use it to prepare a new draft. The brochure will also be shared with R. Paul and S. McKinnon for their FHT input. Once complete it would be a product used in a variety of formats including social media.

C. Metcalf will attain quotes on a finished glossy product. If the Recruiter budget is used for printing it is said there will be less money to attend events as it is the same budget.

The goal would be to have the brochure available for recruitment events scheduled end of January and beginning of February.

### **Branding Support Request from the Burk's Falls Family Health Team**

The Burk's Falls Family Health Team is without branding or a website. They have been able to attain a grant from ACED for \$3000.00 for a branding project but are short approx. \$4300.00 to complete it. They are seeking assistance from the AHH Council for the remaining balance. After discussion about funds remaining in the bank account which contains only \$4767.00 of unallocated funds, the Council determined they would be comfortable to provide \$2000.00 towards the project considering there may be future requests from others for branding, or additional requests for support from other Almaguin communities.

### **Unused OTN Funds**

C. Barr will contact Machar and South River regarding their \$2500.00 donations towards OTN replacement and if they agree to redirect the funds towards other initiatives related to healthcare in Almaguin. Initial request was not responded to.

### **Funding for Health Care initiatives in Almaguin**

N. Hofstetter presented the idea of requesting \$1000.00 annually from the 10 municipal councils that would be held in the AHHC account for future requests. The requests may include subsidies for new providers as was done for the dentist in Burk's Falls, or for requests from Health Teams etc. It was suggested that a process for approving, and review requests be established for equity. The funds would be considered for all the Almaguin communities. \$1000.00 requested annually would potentially provide \$10,000.00 and eliminate the individual requests to Council, streamlining the process.

2024-05            Moved by T. Bryson - Seconded by C. Hope

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:15 am to meet again on February 1, 2024, at 10:00 am at the Almaguin Highlands Health Centre. Carried.