



705-382-2900
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Minutes: Thursday, September 4, 2025, 10:00 am in person & via Zoom at the Township of Perry Municipal Office.

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

Regrets: Sean Cotton, Tom Bryson, Luke Preston, Sandy Zurbrigg, Dr. Sarah MacKinnon.

Guests: Shelly van den Heuvel, Courtney Metcalfe, Deb Raynard, Cheryl Harrison, Sarah Cooke.

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

1. **2025-20** Moved by Norm Hofstetter. Seconded by Brad Kneller.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of July 3, 2025, as circulated.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS TO BE PASSED** None

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a) **Survey to Healthcare Providers & Community Members – Update**

An overview of the survey (Community & Healthcare Provider) data received to date highlighting some points of interest including geography of respondents, locations for accessing primary care, and types of services.

Council members put forward questions about the information shared. These questions could be used in the planning of the summit.

Members were asked to ensure the survey was accessible on all the municipal websites. The survey will also be included the MAOHT Community and also Primary Care Newsletter(s) and in their social media posts; D. Duce will ask the communications leads to create images for inclusion. A reminder to complete the surveys can be added to the agendas for the MAOHT CSC and Primary Care Network meetings.

- b) **Healthcare Available to Residents of Almaguin Highlands Inventory – Status**
The call for list of services has been sent to all MAOHT partners and other service providers. To date, six responses have been received.
- c) **Healthcare Recruiter Funding 2026-2028 – Updates from Councilors**
The Chair asked members to remind the municipalities to notify the MAOHT of decisions regarding the request for the three-year recruiter funding renewal (2026-2028). Members provided updates from their municipalities.
- d) **Association of Municipalities of Ontario Conference Update**
R. Ward shared feedback from the conference he attended. A delegation with Mayors from Bracebridge, Gravenhurst, Huntsville, and the District of Muskoka Chair met with parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Health and discussed healthcare recruitment including the need for sustainable funding and also elimination of competition with communities. Information was also shared on the OPRA request for funding for provincial physician recruiters.
- e) **Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario Conference | October 24-25, 2025.**
R. Ward has been asked to attend and is a part of the committee putting together subjects for discussion and delegations to add the municipal perspective. The topic of the governance model of family health team boards is in the top five subjects for discussion. It was noted that Dr. Jane Philpott will be at the conference. Members discussed different models of governance and compliance criteria.
- f) **Progress Report**
- g) **Other Business**

6. ADJOURNMENT

2025-21 Moved by Vickey Roeder-Martin - Seconded by Shawn Jackson.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 10:49 a.m. to meet again on October 2, 2025, at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.