

# Regional Health Authority B Horizon Health Network

## Minutes of Meeting

### Board of Directors

Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Directors of Regional Health Authority B, held on Thursday, January 20, 2011, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Ramada Plaza Crystal Palace, Dieppe.

**Present:** John Laidlaw (Chair), Rod Borden, Karen Branscombe, Richard Breault, Leo Burns, Natasha Campbell, Cathy Carnahan, Harry Doyle, Lise Drisdelle-Cormier, Madeleine Drummie, Larry Hachey, Mavis Hurley, Jean-Eudes Levesque, Donna Mazerolle, Barbara Quigley, Wayne Roach, Roxanne Sappier, Donald J. Peters, Dr. Tom Barry, Jeff Carter, Michael Chisholm, Jean Daigle, Gary Foley, Geri Geldart, Dr. Edouard Hendriks, Janet Hogan, Dr. John McCann, Dr. Jim O'Brien, Nancy Roberts, Nancy Savage, Vicki Squires, Norma MaGee (Recording)

**Regrets:** Kristen Pinsent-Close

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The Chair called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m. Mr. Laidlaw and Mr. Peters expressed appreciation to the staff in Charlotte County for their dedication and hard work to ensure the health and well being of the community during the December floods in that area.

1. Minutes of Board of Directors' meeting of November 25, 2010

**MOTION:**

**MOVED BY MR. BORDEN, SECONDED BY MS. CARNAHAN**

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 2010 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

2. Update on Strategic Planning Initiatives

Ms. Roberts provided an overview of the progress to date on the initiatives under the Strategic Plan, approved by the Board of Directors in January 2009. The progress updates are given semi-annually, the last one being in June 2009. She explained that there are 37 strategic initiatives, with 149 project activities which directly support these initiatives.

### **3. Corporate Communications Plan**

Ms. Hogan explained there are four major initiatives in the three-year Communications Plan:

- provide effective internal communications to unify Horizon Health Network;
- develop communication strategies for Horizon Health Network Strategic Plan initiatives;
- strengthen media, government and community relations and effectively manage emerging issues; and
- create a Horizon Health Network marketing campaign to enhance reputation nationally.

### **4. Committee reports**

#### **Board of Directors' Committees**

(a) Finance and Audit: Harry Doyle stated that Horizon Health Network is working with the Department of Health in reducing our expenditures where possible for the remainder of this fiscal year (ending March 31, 2011). Horizon's savings initiatives are focused mainly on administrative areas. Additionally from a staffing perspective there is close scrutiny on the use of overtime and the replacement of staff. Job postings are limited to those for patient care positions and staff members are also being offered unpaid leaves.

These and other efforts will continue as the organization strives to reduce the current year expenditures without impacting patient care.

(b) Human Resources: Jean-Eudes Levesque provided highlights from the recent Human Resources Committee meeting, at which time there was an update on new nursing graduate recruitment and Ms. Geldart explained that Horizon has employment opportunities for new graduates.

The committee was also updated on the work of the smoking sub-committee, and the hiring freeze on external positions imposed by the Province. Internal posting volumes have returned to normal and positions to be recruited externally are approved by the Executive Management Team on a weekly basis. Increased scrutiny ensures that critical vacancies are filled.

The committee also discussed the challenges the organization faces with recruitment efforts for the allied health professionals; and had a presentation on workforce demographics.

(c) Health Planning and Delivery: Ms. Sappier provided highlights from the committee's two meetings held since the last board meeting. Topics of discussion included ALC patients, quality management framework, the Baby Friendly Initiative (BFI) adopted by the Province of New Brunswick in 2006. She noted that Zone 7 Miramichi was recognized by Accreditation Canada as one of the leading practices in Horizon Health Network during September's accreditation survey. Information was also received on

Therapeutic Services in Zone 2 Saint John, on the work being done by the Population Health portfolio, the physician vacant positions effective December 22, 2010, and temporary closure of six in-patient beds at the Sackville Memorial Hospital.

Ms. Sappier also explained that the committee received information on the surgical wait time report, generated by a Provincial Surgical Access Registry managed by the Department of Health. The Registry includes every patient who is scheduled for surgery. Board members discussed the wait times. A question was raised about the recall of a hip implant around the world, and what affects this had on Horizon's patients. There were eight orthopedic patients who had received that particular implant in Horizon, and all have been contacted by their surgeon and the Program.

### **Board of Directors' Advisory Committees**

(d) Regional Medical Advisory: Dr. Barry reported that the Regional Medical Advisory Committee had met twice since the board last met. He talked about the Heart Centre in Saint John starting a process with the two Moncton Hospitals where people from these communities who have an MI would be transported from the Emergency Department to the Regional in Saint John and undergo a cardiac catheterization within a few hours. This process has now been extended to Fredericton, and has had good results.

Dr. Barry also spoke about one of the advantages of the restructured health authorities is the ease by which physicians can be granted privileges to work in other zones in Horizon.

### **5. For information**

(a) Corporate summary: an overview of current activities in Horizon Health Network was provided.

(b) Between Friends – Friends of The Moncton Hospital Foundation Inc newsletter: provided for information.

### **6. Other business**

Albert County Wellness: Mr. Doyle provided a fact sheet on the Albert County Health and Wellness Centre for information, which showed the programs and services provided at the Centre.

Mr. Doyle also asked about the wait times at The Moncton Hospital Emergency Department (ED), an issue he raised with the Board previously. Ms. Savage explained that after reviewing the data on this ED, along with all others in Horizon, an additional six hours per day of physician coverage was initiated at The Moncton Hospital ED on January 2 and initial reports is that this has had a positive impact. It continues to be monitored.

A great deal of work has been done to try to alleviate problems in the ED, both in Horizon and provincially, and it was noted that most of the time patients are not aware of the reasons behind the long wait. Communication is key.

Alternatives care sites should be used for patients rather than seeking non-urgent care in the ED. There was also discussion on the five triage levels and the nationally accepted wait times for each.

**7. Questions from the Public**

Eugene Niles spoke about his family's experience with the lack of mental health services provided in the province compared with the rest of the country. He noted that of the 80 recommendations of the McKee report on Mental Health Services completed in February 2009, only one is being addressed. He suggested the first priority for the province should be to establish a small unit for teenagers who are being treated on adult units because of the lack of appropriate space. He also feels that there needs to be a psychiatric nurse in emergency departments to deal with emergency cases, which are not always available.

Willard Estey spoke to the long wait times in the Emergency Department at The Moncton Hospital, and questioned why patients were referred to the Dumont Hospital from The Moncton Hospital to seek medical care.

**8. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Borden at approximately 8:00 p.m.

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John D. Laidlaw, Chair

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Donald J. Peters, Secretary