

Meeting of the Board of Directors

Monday, June 15, 2020

3:30 pm start time

Via WebEx Video/Tele-conference

MINUTES

Call to Order – Howard Rundle

T. Cook conducted roll-call of members who joined via teleconference as those on videoconference were self-identified.

The reflection was provided by Howard Rundle.

1. Full Agenda / Consent Agenda

1.1 Adoption of Full Agenda

It was MOVED and SECONDED the agenda be adopted as circulated. CARRIED.

1.2 Approval of Consent Agenda

H. Rundle confirmed D. Ladouceur and S. Wolnik have declared a conflict of interest to Consent Agenda item #B2 and M. Knowles has declared a conflict of interest with Consent Agenda item #C7. N. Tahir declared a conflict of interest with Consent Agenda item #C7.

It was MOVED and SECONDED that the Consent Agenda for the June 15, 2020 Board meeting, consisting of the recommendations and reports found in Appendix 1, be approved and/or received for information by St. Joseph's Board of Directors. CARRIED.

2. Reports

2.1 Board Chair Remarks

a) 2020/21 Board Work Plan

Based on the feedback from last meeting, a final draft of the Board's Work Plan for 2020/21 was presented.

It was MOVED and SECONDED St. Joseph's Board of Directors approves the Board's 2020/21 work plan, as presented. CARRIED.

b) Meeting attendance roster

The meeting attendance roster for all Board and Committee meetings conducted in 2019/20 was distributed for information. H. Rundle confirmed Governance Committee holds discussion on these attendance results and addresses any areas of concern.



2019/20 Membership

VOTING

Howard Rundle, PhD (Chair)
Jonathan Batch (Vice-Chair)
*Paul Dugsin, MBA
Mary Gillett
Phil Griffin, CPA, CA
Hanny Hassan, C.M., PEng
Margaret Kellow, PhD
Maria Knowles
Donna Ladouceur (A)
Brenda Lewis
Don MacDonald, FCPA, FCA
Fr. Frank O'Connor
Nawaz Tahir
Gary West, CPA (R)
Bill Wilkinson, FCMC
Susan Wolnik

NON-VOTING

*Richard Corneil
*Darren Drosdowech, MD
*Gillian Kernaghan, MD
*Karen Perkin
*Brian Rotenberg, MD (R)
*David Sommerfreund, MBBS
*John Yoo, MD
**ex-officios*

Guests

St. Joseph's Senior Leaders

LHSC

Paul Woods, MD, President & CEO
Matthew Wilson, Vice-Chair

Recorder

Terri-Lynn Cook
R = regrets
A = absent

2.2 President and Chief Executive Officer

a) Year 2 Strategic Plan Summary

G. Kernaghan referenced the Year 2 Accomplishments document, which was circulated in the agenda, which provides a summary of what has been accomplished in alignment with the year 2 priorities. She credited P. Hoffer and the Communication Team for creating the summary and offered to answer any questions.

Discussion took place and the following comments were recorded:

- Under the heading “Innovating and Building New Knowledge Together” and specifically with regards to the priority of “Advance the Mobility & Activity Centre”, Members queried to understand what other events have occurred. G. Kernaghan responded that in addition to the donation to establish the Centre, an agreement was reached with Western to fund a Research Chair. Recruitment for a Research Chair was under way when the pandemic hit; this will be resumed. There was also work to recruit a Coordinator which will be continued as well.
- Question arose related to visitor restrictions for long-term care homes. Members were reminded very early in the pandemic the Ministry of Health placed restrictions on visitors to essential visitors only. It has been over three months and in recognition of the important role of visitors in enhancing the patients’ quality of life and well-being, leadership at St. Joseph’s is in discussion related to amending the visitor restrictions. There are however many factors to address to continue to adhere to pandemic restrictions.

P. Griffin joined the video/tele-conference at 1:15pm.

b) St. Joseph’s Annual Report to the Community

A web link was provided, on the agenda, to St. Joseph’s Annual Report to the Community which has been officially launched on the public website. The report strives for balance from all avenues of the organization. Board Members were invited to view the online report at their convenience.

c) French Language Services Plan update

St. Joseph’s is required by Ontario South West LHIN to develop and submit a French Language Services Plan. It is typically due June/July but has been extended to September in light of the pandemic. The plan will be shared with the Board at the September meeting.

d) COVID-19 update

G. Kernaghan informed the Board of the following pandemic changes since the May 25th Board meeting:

- As of this past weekend, people can adopt a social circle of up to 10 people whom they can be within 2-meters of each other, not wear masks and even hug; however, you can only be in one social circle;
- Social gatherings are allowed for up to 10 people with physical distancing in place (for those not in your social circle);
- It is recommended if you are in a space where you cannot maintain a 2-meter distance you wear a mask. There are discussions on whether this may become mandatory or not;
- St. Joseph’s is exploring opening family member visiting at Mount Hope with certain restrictions. There are many logistics to address;
- Hospitals are now allowed to admit to long term care (LTC) homes however a subsequent directive states LTC homes cannot admit to multi bed (3-4 bed) rooms. Analysis is being conducted to determine the impact of this for South Western Ontario. It will be a while before a reduction in hospital occupancy will be seen given these restrictions for admitting;
- Guidelines have been circulated suggesting hospitals do their best to not admit more than 2 people in a 4-bed room, in hospital. These are just guidelines and it does depend on the spacing in the room. Analysis is being done to looking at what the capacity is and the impact of the capacity across the system if hospitals are limited to admit only 2 persons to a 4-bed room;

- Reintroduction of services will happen based on certain criteria. Hospitals need to retain 10% capacity in the system and need to have personal protective equipment supply to last 15 days. In addition, hospitals need to ensure drug supply for surgeries and lab capacity;
- Pandemic pay is still very controversial in the media. Lots of advocacy occurred but it was not effective. Approximately 60% of St. Joseph's staff are eligible for the pandemic pay based on the list of eligible workers defined by the Province;
- Post-secondary clinical placement of students (i.e. nursing, clinical clerks) will commence in July. Clinical areas are working to ensure St. Joseph's can provide a quality clinical experience while maintaining safety of the students and staff;
- St. Joseph's is required to make a submission, by the end of this week, to Ontario Health West for reimbursement of pandemic cost. This is for March, April and May's costs. Based on the eligible pandemic costs as determined by the Ministry, St. Joseph's will be submitting \$700k for March, \$3.1M for April and May numbers are being finalized this week however anticipated to be around \$2.2M. Ontario Health West reviews the submission and hospital CEO's will be required to sign an attestation confirming these expenses meet the pandemic guidelines. The costs are substantial and St. Joseph's remains hopeful to acquire 100% reimbursement. LTC submissions are different and approximate \$200-250k net new costs;
- With regards to the role HMMS is playing for the region, in response to the pandemic, there has been an agreement that these costs would go on the St. Joseph's pandemic expense submission and the pandemic-related lab costs will go through LHSC's pandemic expense submission.

D. Drosdowech joined at 1:20pm.

Discussion was held and the following comments noted:

- It was confirmed no funding will be lost for not maintaining the 97th percentile in LTC;
- Members expressed concern related to equity of access to hospital services, with the reintroduction of services, and the potential risk of delaying services. These are difficult conversations to be had and a framework will be established. In the event there is no agreement on a framework, assistance can be sought from the regional steering committee and then Ontario Health West if need be.
- Members expressed disappointment in the government's position on pandemic pay which equates to only about 60% of St. Joseph's staff receiving the pay. It is a great inequity and the Board questioned how St. Joseph's plans to deal with the internal ethics of this? St. Joseph's Human Resources team is discussing this issue and the Senior Leadership Team has had multiple in-depth discussions related to the inequity and morale distress. St. Joseph's does want to respond to its workforce even if it is not from a monetary/ compensation way and is exploring a number of options;
- It was confirmed the field hospital remains in place, however is not currently staffed.

2.3 Medical Advisory Committee Chair

No update at this time.

2.4 Quality Report

(a) Patient, Resident, Caregiver story

As part of the Board's focus on Quality, the Board has been receiving updates/stories from the senior leaders at St. Joseph's. L. Higgs, Vice-President, Clinical Support and Chief Financial Officer, shared feedback that had been received from a patient in regards to the Environmental Services Team which emphasized the quality of work and quality of relationships the Environmental Services Team have with staff and patients; they are part of the care team.

B. Lewis confirmed Quality Committee has concluded all of its legislative requirements for this year and that any administrative tasks not complete will be carried over to next year's Committee.

2.5 London Health Sciences Centre

M. Wilson reported LHSC Board met May 27th and its next meeting along with the annual meeting is scheduled for June 25th. He further informed LHSC Board plans to meet over the summer months.

H. Rundle welcomed P. Woods back to work. P. Woods highlighted the following updates from LHSC:

- LHSC is planning for the resumption of services;
- it was easy to stop providing services and is proving to be much more difficult to restart “in” a pandemic environment. This is particularly true for surgeries – how do we prioritize care across the region and ensure it is equitable. Discussions around a regional surgical strategy were initiated pre COVID and this should be explored further;
- There is both a capacity and wait list problem in the province and now due to the pandemic wait times will increase;
- Digital care/ virtual care has transformed the system and will continue to do so;
- It is suspected wave 2 of the pandemic will happen. LHSC is debriefing on wave 1 to apply learnings in preparation for wave 2;
- LHSC has chosen to be a voice of non-racism in the community, to our patients, staff and physicians. LHSC made public statements and is now holding itself accountable.

2.6 Western University

J. Yoo provided the following highlights from Western/Schulich:

- student learners return to hospitals on July 6th. He stated that London is now the readiest of any school in the entire province to accept these students back. He extended appreciation to both LHSC and St. Joseph’s CEO’s and the IVP Medical & Academic Affairs for their quick work to make London prepared. He further confirmed Post-graduate Residents are coming back July 1st;
- there are two new Chair/Chief Selection Committees being initiated: Family Medicine and Pathology & Laboratory Medicine. Board member participation is integral and greatly appreciated;
- On the research side, Western recently reintroduced some graduate students back to research. They are in the first phase of a 4-phase return and things are going well;
- The President of Western has initiated the development of a new strategic planning. Hospital partnership involvement will occur. Schulich will also be instigating the development of a new strategic plan;
- to showcase some of the research going on at the respective hospitals and the enhanced collaboration between Schulich and London hospitals the Mobility & Activity Centre will be showcased in a Schulich magazine that comes out in the fall.

K. Perkin suggested the Board should receive an update on its full academic mandate (other health professionals) at future meetings. Board Chair agreed.

3. New Business / Recommendations

(standing agenda item – no new business arose)

4. Other Business Arising

4.1 Recognition of 2019/20 Retiring Board Members

On behalf of the Board, H. Rundle offered gratitude to retiring Board Members: D. Cheng, B. Lewis, D. Sommerfreund, B. Wilkinson and S. Wolnik.

5. In-Camera Meeting

**It was MOVED and SECONDED the meeting of the Board of Directors move in-camera at 2:15 pm.
CARRIED.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors resumed at 2:50 pm.

Rising from the in-camera meeting, the Chair reported in light of the pandemic the Board is supportive to delay the refresh of the corporate strategic plan and will work toward finalizing a refresh of the strategic plan in fiscal 2021/22.

6. Adjournment

The Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 2:55 pm.

Howard Rundle, PhD, Chair

Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, Secretary