



Board Meeting

HSNS Board of Directors
February 16, 2023 – 5:15 pm
Zoom meeting

Timeline:

- 5:15 pm Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Plan presentation, by Angela Ryan, Greg Noel
5:45 pm Regular board meeting

Board of Directors

Table with 6 columns: Name, Attendance Status (V/R/A), Name, Attendance Status (V/R/A), Name, Attendance Status (V/R/A). Includes guests: Dr. Greg Noel, Dr. Sharon Walker, Ms. Angela Ryan.

Present: (P) Videoconference: (V) Regrets: (R) Absent: (A)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 pm by Mr. Barnett.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: THAT the Board of Directors approve the agenda. It was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

3. Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Plan presentation: Dr. Noel introduced Ms. Ryan, who provided a brief overview of the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Project. For more background information, he referred to the other two presentations given to the board: "Audio Wait Times" (May 2019) and "Risk Management Overview" (Oct 2022) that were included with the documents for this meeting and can be found in the Aprio library.

4. Announcements

- 4.1 Regrets: as listed above
4.2 Declarations of potential conflict of interest: none.

5. Minutes, January 19, 2023

MOTION: THAT the Board of Directors approve the minutes as circulated. It was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

6. Board Executive Report

The Board Executive met on February 9, 2023 (report attached). Mr. Barnett reviewed the report, and he highlighted the very generous offer of an audio booth from Dr. Kujath. The next Board Executive meeting is April 14, 2023.

7. Committee Reports

7.1 Finance and Investment Committee update: The Committee did not meet since the last board meeting. The next meeting is TBD.

Policy and Governance Review update: The Committee met on February 9, 2023 (report attached). Mr. Landy reviewed the report. The Accreditation Canada Board Governance Functioning Tool (online survey) is now open until March 12th and all board members are requested to complete it. The next Policy and Governance Committee meeting is February 9, 2023.

- **Policy #5 CEO Succession:** no recommended changes
- **Policy #8 Global Executive Constraint:** no recommended changes
- **Policy #24 Board Member Education:** no recommended changes

MOTION: THAT the Board of Directors, on the recommendation of the Policy & Governance Review Committee, approve the policies as presented. It was moved. Motion carried.

7.2 Nominating Committee update: The Committee met on Feb 8, 2023 (report attached). Since the Nominating Committee meeting, we have received two Expressions of Interest. Ms. Manning reviewed the report and asked board members to contact her if they are interested in serving on board committees and to serve as Vice Chair. The committee will have a joint meeting with Board Executive on March 2nd to discuss recruiting priorities. The next Nominating Committee meeting is March 20, 2023.

8. Business Arising

8.1 Meeting Evaluation form: Mr. Barnett reported that 2 forms were submitted from the last board meeting.

9. Old Business: none

10. New Business

10.1 Annual Board Evaluation Activities: Mr. Landy reported these activities in the Policy & Governance report.

10.2 Strategic Plan 2024 - HSNS Values:

MOTION: THAT the Board of Directors approve the amendment to our Values statement on the Strategic Plan. It was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

10.3 Clinical Forum 2023: Mr. Landy described the three-day staff event and the Board Appreciation luncheon which will be held on September 27, 2023. He extended the invitation to the luncheon to all board members to meet our staff.

10.4 Board regular meeting and site visit (April 20): The site visit in April will be held at the Bridgewater site. This will be an in-person meeting only, as the site does not have Zoom or teleconference capabilities. For catering and accommodation purposes, please RSVP to Ms. McKenna by Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

11. CEO Report to the Board: Ms. Mason-Browne presented the CEO Report (attached).

11.1 Highlights of the CEO Report are as follows:

- The Executive met with many of HSNS key stakeholders this past month, including Dept. of Seniors

and Long Term Care (Feb 2nd), Department of Health and Wellness (Feb 13th), IWK Hospital (Jan 17th), Dalhousie School of Communication Sciences and Disorders (Jan 24th), and Nova Scotia Health (Jan 24th).

- Collective Bargaining between HSNS and Nova Scotia Government Employees Union (NSGEU) Local 20 resumed on January 23rd.
- Progress has been made with respect to resolution to the licensure issue presented by the NB Association of Speech Language Pathologists and Audiologists (NBASLPA).
- **Staffing and Service Disruptions:** Recruitment for the leadership positions related to retirements is complete. Ms. Leah MacEachern, an SLP who has worked with HSNS for 9 years and served on multiple teams and committees has been appointed as Clinical Manager (starting February 27). We continue to have ongoing vacancies in our Communication Disorders Technician (CDT) positions across the province. This week, we posted 5 regular speech-language pathologist positions related to autism services. 2 of these positions were to backfill the vacancies left by the successful management candidates.

Most Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Services at the HSNS clinic site in Yarmouth (South Shore Regional Hospital) were suspended last week due to a flood in the hospital, necessitating the closure of the site. Some in-patient services and off-site speech-language services are being maintained.

- **Quality and Quality Improvement:** The Board will be receiving its annual update on the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Plan at its regular meeting on February 16th.
- **Risk Plan:** The HSNS site in Yarmouth (South West Regional Hospital, NSH) was closed on Feb. 6 following extensive flood damage from burst pipes in the hospital. An interim alternative site in the community has been identified.
- **Communications:** Executive staff has made the decision to suspend inclusion of Twitter in its social media strategy.

12. Members Comments

- Ms. Sibley-Fox mentioned that she likes the educational topic suggestions.

13. In-camera session:

The CEO and staff left the meeting for the Board to hold an in-camera session. It was moved and seconded. Motion carried.

14. Date of next meeting: Thursday, March 23, 2023, by Zoom (one week later due to March break)

15. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. Motion carried.

Recorded by:  Approved by: _____