

# MINUTES

Meeting:	Board of Directors		
Date:	February 6, 2025		
Time:	5:00pm		
Place:	Boardroom/Virtual		
Our Shared Purpose:	People First		
Committee Members in Attendance:			
<input type="checkbox"/> C. Gilmer, Chair ( R )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. McAllister, VC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Noel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Orpana
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R. Freeborn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Bell-Smith	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Morrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Nixon
<input type="checkbox"/> R. Stevenson ( R )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Savoy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Simmons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Cassaday	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> G. Ivory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P. Ketov ( R )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Zimmerman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Bhargava	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Forsyth	<input type="checkbox"/> K. Everdell ( R )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Walsh
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Gillard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Fleming	<input type="checkbox"/> D. Perera ( R )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Obomighie
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Gervais	<input type="checkbox"/> L. Sellar ( R )	<input type="checkbox"/> L. Andrews ( R )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Cocchetto
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Nasmith (Media)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.</b>	<b>TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>
	C. Bell-Smith provided the territorial acknowledgement.
<b>2.</b>	<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>
	M McAllister called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.
<b>3.</b>	<b>EDUCATION SESSION: Black History Month</b>
	<p>Lola Obomighie, VP People, Culture and Organizational Effectiveness, shared an introduction to Black History Month and the modern-day medicine challenges and contributions to Black History. A review of the actions and activities the hospital is taking to raise awareness to the importance of anti-racism in the workplace was also shared including the role of Board members.</p> <p>The Board was reminded of the Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> EDIAC sponsored fireside chat to recognize Black History month with guest Dr. Everton Gooden. All are invited to attend.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>CONFLICT OF INTEREST</b>
	No conflict of interest was declared.
<b>5.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – December 5, 2024</b>

	The previous minutes of Dec. 5, 2024, were pre-circulated with the agenda package. The minutes were approved on a Motion by M. Cassaday and Seconded by L. Orpana. Carried.
<b>6.</b>	<b>CONSENT AGENDA</b>
	The consent agenda matters were approved on a Motion by L. Savoy and Seconded by L. Orpana. Carried.
<b>7.</b>	<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>
	<p>7.1 <u>Report from the Board Chair</u></p> <p>M. McAllister, Board Vice Chair, provided the report on behalf of the Board Chair. C. Gilmer shared as she reviewed the various committee minutes and communications over the last few months, she was struck by the volume of excellent work that is ongoing by the staff, volunteers, physicians, and Board members and commended them on this excellent work. It has been a busy year so far and anticipate the next few months will be no different.</p> <p>Cyndi, reflected in her report that if she were to pick one word to describe expectations in the next months, it might be “chaos”. Internationally, we are bracing for the impacts of a change in leadership with our allies to the south. Federally, we are facing a significant period of upheaval and the unknown impacts of an election, whatever the outcome. Provincially we are also facing an impending election. We know as a hospital we are reliant on, and regulated by, the Ministry of Health (MOH) and even uncertainty within the MOH significantly impacts our strategic and operational work.</p> <p>Locally, issues and challenges within our catchment area impact our Hospital on a day to day basis. For example, the flu, COVID and RSV.</p> <p>C. Gilmer reflected in her report on the Chaos Theory by Edward Lorenz and more recently Andy Andrews that “a butterfly could flap its wings and set molecules of air in motion, which would move other molecules of air, in turn moving more molecules of air – eventually capable of starting a hurricane on the other side of the planet (Andrews, 2021)”.</p> <p>We are facing a period of increased chaos in healthcare, and we need to be ready for those “molecules of air” The Board Chair believes as an organization the Hospital is well positioned with its people first shared purpose, solid core values, clinical excellence , resiliency, creativity, initiative and heart.</p> <p>The theory further defines that there can be order in chaos and if chaos is expected, embraced, and harnessed it can lead to great innovation, improved outcomes, and increased satisfaction. That is the pathway we need to follow.</p>

## 7.2 Report from the CEO

S. Walsh provided an update on key activities at the hospital aligned to the strategic plan pillars and reflected on the interesting times from a geo-political front. The hospital continues to do important work and as a stabilizer in the community will need to be prepared to continue with growth and master planning to be all we can be for the future.

NHH recently collaborated with the Rural Ontario Medical Program (ROMP) to host a group of first-year med students for the annual ROMP week 2025 celebration. Special thanks to local family physician Dr. Emma Smith, who also serves as NHH's Medical Quality Physician Lead, for spearheading this effort and her peers, Dr. Michelle Long and Dr. Marcus Cunningham, for supporting her preceptors.

An annual upcoming event is the Coldest Night of the Year. NHH staff, physicians, midwives, volunteers and friends will be participating again this year. Please join our team led by Jennifer Gillard on Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> in Port Hope and watch for details in the next Hills Hub that will have a direct link to our team page.

Budget planning for 2025-26 has begun as we continue our efforts to ensure efficiency during a time of fiscal constraints. Key capital projects continue including the MDRD equipment replacement, the installation of two new chemistry analyzers, go live of the tru-pak pharmacy pill packager in November and final construction contracts are out for signature. The MRI procurement contract is at the signature stage and the MRI trailer as contingency plan is on track to be onsite late Spring 2025. We are grateful to the community's support with these critical capital improvements and the Foundation team's expertise and dedication to secure this for these projects and more.

At a recent MAC meeting Dr. Jude Obomighie, Infection and Prevention and Control Lead shared an update on the status of respiratory outbreaks in the community and into the data that drives NHH's masking requirements based on evidence. The data for our region/hospital has not required the increase masking requirements and we remain a 'mask friendly' environment. We will continue to monitor this closely and revisit this position as required.

NHH will be migrating to a new experience survey platform Qualtrics, for patients and caregivers in step with other hospitals across the province and supported by OHA. More details to be shared in the coming months as we get closer to go-live in March. This will allow the ability to benchmark our patient experience against that of patients across other hospitals in the future.

Our 2024 experience survey for staff, physicians and midwives closed on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> and for the first time this survey also included our volunteers. The results will be shared with our teams.

Our People First recruitment documentary and related social media campaign launched just prior to the holiday season with very positive feedback. Since its launch there have been over 1800 views of the video.

EDIAC is recognizing Black History Month with the return of the Black History Month flag and a fireside chat with special guest Dr. Everton Gooden, President and CEO of North York General Hospital. S. Walsh shared we still have work to do, however she is very proud of the efforts of EDIAC.

As you all are aware, elections will be happening in Ontario February 27 and NHH will continue to support this process by enabling the ability of admitted patients to vote.

### 7.3 Report from the NHH Auxiliary

S. Forsyth, President NHH Auxiliary provided the Auxiliary report. Proactive recruitment continues for volunteers in the emergency department and at the inquiry desk. G. Bakker, Manager of Volunteers is supporting the filling of the vacancies in both these areas and making critical steps towards finding more weekend and evening coverage.

Currently the Auxiliary has four service areas with no vacancies and the Manager Volunteers continues to educate current volunteers about other departments to build their skill sets, which often results in them taking on extra shifts in other areas.

R. Holland, Finance Director, reports the Saturday shift in the Little Treasure Shop is now from noon to 3:00pm. The Little Treasure Shop is able to be open on Saturdays as many volunteers have raised their hand to be part of the Saturday coverage, which is a hub of activity during that time for patients and visitors alike.

The Auxiliary continues the work to review Board bylaws with the support of local governance expert P. Went. The Auxiliary is grateful for her guidance and support and will be stronger for it.

J. Gillard and S. Forsyth will be meeting with the Auxiliary's Vice President, R. Riley, later this month to review the position of President and he begins transitioning to this role. Rick will be assuming the reigns at the Auxiliary Annual Meeting in June and Selena will continue in the position of Past President.

The retail operations continue to thrive. Petticoat Lane in January had gross sales of \$17,027 with net sales of \$10,634. The Little Treasure Shop had gross sales in January of \$10,819 and net \$3,109. The Auxiliary made a commitment to the Hospital to donate \$225,000 for the privacy curtains already installed and previously provided \$110K in November, this means the Auxiliary needs to have \$115,000 available in late March. Our Finance Director is fairly confident that the Auxiliary will have these funds available.

#### 7.4 Report from the NHH Foundation

G. Ivory, NHH Foundation Board Chair provided an update on behalf of the Foundation. The Foundation has just wrapped up a very strong third quarter. Leading the way was a successful Light up a Life campaign where the Foundation announced \$336,000 was raised. Results from this effort are up almost 25% in the last three years and the hospital can now move forward with purchasing two hematology analyzers for the lab.

The major gifts program is also performing quite well, and the Foundation has raised \$2.8M against its goal for the year of \$2.9M so they are almost there. Overall, from all sources, \$4.9M was raised against the Foundation's budget goal of \$4.5M or 109% more than budget.

The Catch the Ace program is now in week 33 and the progressive jackpot is now over \$11,000. Visit [nhhcatchtheace.ca](http://nhhcatchtheace.ca) for your chance to win while supporting the Foundation.

The Foundation published its second print newsletter of the year. In that newsletter a story was shared on a new donor naming opportunity – and during the week of Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>, The Judith Hickey MRI Lounge will be unveiled.

Work is underway on the fiscal 2026 budget and operational plan. There are a number of special projects being planned, including a brand refresh which will better align the Foundation to the Hospital and a new website.

**On a Motion by M. Cassaday and Seconded by L. Orpana the Board accepted all reports as presented. Carried.**

#### 7.5 Finance and Audit Committee ENHANCE – Motion

M. McAllister indicated the February 6<sup>th</sup> Board meeting package contained a full presentation and details of the background and intention of the ENHANCE motion for members review and awareness. The Motion is coming to the Board for approval of the resolutions to implement transfer of CE CIS to ENHANCE Ontario. All CE Hospital Boards are required to approve the resolutions to complete the final transfer by April 1, 2025. M. McAllister read out the resolutions in part to the Board members as noted below:

Resolution to Implement Transfer of CE CIS to ENHANCE Ontario

**NOW THEREFORE** be it resolved that:

1. The Definitive Documents, substantially in the form and/or on such terms and conditions as have been submitted to the Board, with such additions, deletions, amendments and other changes as the CEO and chairperson of the Board (collectively, the “Authorized Signatories”) may approve, are hereby approved.
2. The Authorized Signatories are hereby authorized to execute, enter into and deliver, for and in the name of and on behalf of the Hospital, the Members’ Agreement, the MSA, and DSA, and the performance of the Hospital’s obligations thereunder, is hereby authorized and approved.
3. The CEO is authorized and directed to share a copy of this resolution with the chief executive officers of the other CE Hospitals.
4. The Authorized Signatories are authorized and directed to execute and deliver such documents and instruments, and to take all actions necessary or desirable to give effect to these resolutions.

**On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by K. Simmons the Board of Directors approved the resolution as noted above to implement transfer of CE CIS to ENHANCE Ontario. Carried.**

#### **8. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to discuss.

#### **9. IN-CAMERA SESSION**

On a Motion by L. Savoy and Seconded by B. Nixon the meeting moved to In-Camera. The In-Camera meeting addressed matters related to medical human resources and financial matters.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

On a Motion by B. Nixon and Seconded by L. Orpana the Board rose from In-Camera. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned on a Motion by S. Anderson at 6:24pm.