

MINUTES

Meeting:	Board of Directors		
Date:	October 2, 2025		
Time:	5:00pm		
Place:	Boardroom		
Our Shared Purpose:	People First		
Committee Members in Attendance:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Gilmer, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. McAllister, VC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Noel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Cassaday
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Morrison	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Nixon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Gervais
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Walsh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Low	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Savoy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Simmons
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Andrews	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P. Ketov	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Everdell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. Bell-Smith
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R. Riley	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Obomighie	<input type="checkbox"/> M. Cunningham (R)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> L. Orpana
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Fleming	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> K. Zimmerman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> J. Gillard	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Wright
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Oliver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R. Stevenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Cocchetto	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. Perera
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.	TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
	L. Andrews provided the territorial land acknowledgement.
2.	CALL TO ORDER
	C. Gilmer called the meeting to order at 5:03pm.
3.	EDUCATION SESSION: Connecting Care Act
	S. Walsh provided an education session to the Board on the topic of the Connecting Care Act. The session focused on the legislative framework and purpose, key components of the Act, oversight and enforcement, and the role and responsibility as it specifically relates to the Board.
4.	CONFLICT OF INTEREST
	No conflict of interest was declared.
5.	APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES- June 5, 2025
	The previous minutes on June 5, 2025, were approved on a Motion by L. Andrews and Seconded by M. McAllister. Carried.
6.	CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda matters were reviewed. A Motion was put forward by L. Orpana to bring the Finance and Audit terms of reference out of the consent agenda to discuss. It was recommended to change the language, remove the reference to the Central East LHIN, and format all bullets the same.

On a Motion by L. Orpana and Seconded by M. Cassaday the Board approved the Finance and Audit terms of reference with the amendments noted above. Carried.

A Motion was put forward by M. Noel to discuss the results of the board governance assessment survey specifically noting one of the survey respondents consistently scored each question in a negative way and questioned was this a result of an individual or individuals who felt they did not understand the question, or did they feel they were not able to respond to the questions in a positive way.

The Board discussed the survey was anonymous and would not know who the individual person or persons were, however; it was suggested that if the individual felt they would like to discuss further or gain clarification or support they reach out through the Board Chair. The survey was a standardized tool that all hospitals were to complete and is valuable to guide continuous quality improvement through discussions at both the Governance committee and Board level.

On a Motion by C. Gervais and Seconded by S. Anderson the Board approved the consent agenda matters. Carried.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Report from the Board Chair

C. Gilmer welcomed everyone to the first regular Board meeting of 2025-26. As shared at our Annual meeting in June, we had a very productive and successful year last year and am confident that, with continued dedication and collaboration, we can look forward to another engaging and rewarding year ahead.

Cyndi extended a warm welcome to new Board members -Cindy Gervais, Director, Rick Riley, NHH Auxiliary President and Carrie Low, NHH Foundation Chair. Ex-officio members Dr. Kate Everdell, GMSA President and Dr. Marcus Cunningham, GMSA Vice Chair were also acknowledged.

A welcome was also extended to two new Community members, Alexandra (Alex) Wright and Bill Oliver. We are delighted to have you join us and look forward to the insight, experience and energy you will bring to the Board.

C. Gilmer offered congratulations on behalf of the Board to Kate Zimmerman, VP Integrated Care/CNE, on her recent appointment as an Accreditation Canada surveyor. Kate will be completing her first survey in the spring.

As NHH prepares to welcome Accreditation Canada surveyors again as part of our ongoing cycle of continuous quality improvement, we are fortunate to benefit from the guidance of both Susan Walsh and Kate as we prepare for our upcoming review March 2026.

This cycle's Accreditation theme, "Safety in the Spotlight", provides an excellent opportunity to highlight and celebrate the outstanding work of teams across our organization and our collective commitment to delivering safe, high-quality care.

Cyndi also noted she is delighted to recognize Lola Obomighie, VP People, Culture and Organizational Effectiveness, who will be honoured later this month at an event hosted by Canada International Black Women Excellence (CIBWE) in Toronto. Lola has been named as one of Canada's "Top 100 Black Women to Watch 2025".

As CIBWE celebrated its 10th anniversary, this recognition highlights the exceptional leadership of Black women across all sectors of the Canadian economy, and we are proud to see Lola's contributions acknowledged at the national level.

NHH is honoured to be invited to present at the Community of Interest (COI), overseen by the Ontario Age-Friendly Communities Outreach Program – an initiative of the Centre for Studies in Aging and Health (CSAH) at Providence Healthcare in Kingston. During the session, NHH will share key strategies that have contributed to strengthening our volunteer base, including insights from last year's inaugural volunteer experience survey. The presentation will also highlight our experience framework and *people first* shared purpose, which guides our ongoing commitment to creating a positive and inclusive volunteer experience.

As a Board, we hold overall responsibility for the governance of the hospital. Each Director is expected to act honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of NHH. Through this stewardship role, the Board supports the hospital in fulfilling its strategic plan and shared purpose and meeting its accountability to our patients, community and partners.

The OHA has just published the 4th edition of the Guide to Good Governance, which outlines the Board's key duties and responsibilities. These responsibilities serve as a foundation for our work and helps ensure we continue to provide strong and effective governance at NHH.

We have begun integrating the guide into several committee discussions, and I encourage all members to review this document as we embark on another exciting and productive year.

7.2 Report from the CEO

Susan Walsh provided her report aligned with the key strategic pillars. Highlights of the report included recognition of the critical care team in reaching a level 3B ICU. This level of ICU will allow the ability to manage more complex patients and is good news for the community,

NHH in partnership with the OHT have initiated the Essential Care Partners program. The program enables caregivers to have a role as an essential care partner and be recognized as such. The interdisciplinary program is being piloted in 1A/1B areas.

The hospital is scheduled for an Accreditation Canada survey in March 2026. This is an opportunity to showcase the great work the teams at NHH have been doing. Susan explained that there is a new set of standards in 2026; NHH will be surveyed using the old methodology of ROPs (required operational practices). NHH last survey was 2022 and a great deal of excellent work has continued since then.

Master planning is an opportunity to think about and design what the future of the hospital will be 20-40 years from now in collaborative discussions with partners and other organizations. Susan noted that the master planning process is very prescribed and includes data and service reviews, internal and external consultations, and community engagement. NHH will also be engaging with PRHC, LH, and CMH to discuss opportunities.

The National Day of Truth and Reconciliation was recognized. The EDIAC committee has held many events over the years, and this year Senior Leadership members walked in Alderville. A lunch and learn session was held today with keynote speaker, Sara Wolfe. Sara is an RN, a midwife, and has an MBA. This was a great opportunity to hear in a very kind and respectful way the work that NHH will still need to be doing on this journey.

7.3 Report from the NHH Auxiliary

R Riley provided his first formal report as incoming Auxiliary President. Rick share retail operations are performing well. Petticoat Lane held an art sale Sept. 28th and brought in \$650.00, selling 16 large pieces and a number of smaller ones. Petticoat Lane is also holding a Thanksgiving sale, Sat. Oct. 11. The Auxiliary is working with the landlord to increase the footprint of the retail location, more news to be shared later.

The Little Treasure Shop has most, if not, all of its Christmas merchandise in stock, so keep your eyes open for some exciting new products. The shop continues to be open on Saturdays from 12-3 and also offers coffee for sale.

Our Finance Director, Richard Holland, reported that Petticoat Lane sales were down year over year by 10% for July and August. No concerns at this time, but we will be tracking sales over the next month or so. Both retail stores, however, should be up for September.

We presented the Dixie Mikel Scholarships to two very deserving student volunteers, I. Leon and V. Subasri just as they were heading off to school.

Our Board policies have been finalized and approved by the Board and are on the website. Many thanks to Pam Went for her guidance in this process.

As most of you know, our Interim volunteer coordinator Graeme Bakker has moved on to a full-time position within NHH in Patient Experience and has been replaced by Rachael

Milne. I am pleased to report that this transition has been amazingly seamless. Rachael has many years of experience working at NHH and has been a huge help as I stepped into the position of President. Rachael and I have just completed a successful day at a volunteer fair hosted by Community Care. This month we are also going to the YMCA for a seniors' fair where we hope to bring on a few new volunteers.

Thank you, also to Jennifer Gillard, for her guidance, suggestions, and encouragement.

7.4 Report from the NHH Foundation

Carrie Low attended and provided her first report as Chair of the NHH Foundation Board. Carrie shared that she is pleased to present an update on Foundation activities.

After taking a break from Board meetings over the summer, the Foundation met on Sept. 17th, and a very full agenda was reviewed. Some of the highlights were shared.

We wrapped up our Lemon-Aid program announcing over \$7,600 was raised. We held an event at NHH and invited all the stand hosts to share the final total and to also share how those funds would be spent. We were fortunate to have a cancer patient share how much it meant to her to receive the gift of a beanie to wear following the loss of her hair. They also heard from a surgical services nurse about how our youngest surgical patients get to pick up a beanie baby to accompany them during their surgical journey. This program is totally grassroots and is proof that all ages, and gifts of all amounts can make a difference.

Tickets to the 25th anniversary gala event were released on Sept. 9th and the initial block sold out in 24 hours. We started a wait list and have since been able to accommodate everyone on the wait list. This gala will be held on Nov. 8th, and we are looking forward to a special evening to celebrate community generosity and our hospital.

Catch the Ace has returned. After five weeks, the progressive jackpot is over \$11,000. As Board members you are not eligible to purchase a ticket each week, however we hope you can share with your networks to help grow the pot.

The board has approved a new look for the Foundation as part of a brand refresh and will launch into the community during the week of Nov. 13th. This includes a new website designed to be more user friendly and easier for staff to update, new wearables, and a new look for all collateral materials.

Dr. Darius Seidler has agreed to service as the Chair of this year's Light up a Life Campaign focused on raising \$300,000 for new ventilators for the ICU. The campaign will kick off in mid-November with a direct mail appeal to homes in Northumberland County. We are hopeful the Canada Post strike has been resolved by the time the campaign is launched.

We welcomed a new Board member, Ann Mitchell, who will also serve as Chair of the Governance and Human Resources Campaign. Next month we will welcome Dr. Alison Tilley to the Board as the new physician representative. She will replace Dr. Kate Everdell, who has served for six years in this role. Kate will be missed immensely.

From a fundraising perspective, we have a goal to raise \$5.8 Million by March 31st. As of August 31st, we have raised \$3.607 million or 62% of our goal.

7.5 Governance Committee Motion – Seniors Care Network (SCN) Host Transfer Agreement
The Senior Care Network host transfer agreement was presented and discussed at the Sept. 18 Governance Committee meeting. S. Walsh provided additional context to the previous relationship with SCN, noting that many years ago NHH was the host agency for SCN, providing back-office support, space and library services. SCN then transferred to Community Health Centre Northumberland (CHCN) until the present.

CHCN has indicated they no longer have room. SCN has requested transferring the host agreement back to NHH. This would be for the existing back-office support, human resources, payroll process, accounting and finance support, information technology, etc. as noted in the briefing note. There is no requirement for physical space as the hospital cannot accommodate this. SCN is a small organization. NHH would add SCN to the M-SAA and would receive a nominal amount of \$24K annually.

To transfer the host agreement to NHH legally through Ontario Health, approval is required from the Board. The Governance Committee endorsed the change of the host transfer agreement from CHCN to NHH and recommended approval by the Board.

On a Motion by S. Anderson and Seconded by M. Cassaday the Board approves the change to the Seniors Care Network host transfer agreement from Community Health Centre Northumberland to NHH. Carried.

7.6 Finance and Audit Committee Motion – July Financial Statement

M. McAllister indicated the financial details for July were pre-circulated as part of the full Board package and recommends on behalf of the Finance and Audit Committee acceptance of the July financial statement.

On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by M. Noel the Board approved the July 31, 2025, financial statements as presented. Carried.

It was Moved by M. Cassaday and Seconded by S. Anderson to accept all reports as presented. Carried.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

The was no other business or correspondence to discuss.

9. IN-CAMERA SESSION

On a Motion by L. Andrews and Seconded by M. McAllister 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 L. Andrews and Seconded by L. Savoy the Board rose from In Camera. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm on a Motion by M. Cassaday. The next meeting of the Board of Directors is scheduled for Thurs. Dec. 11th at 5:00pm.