NHH Northumberland Hills Hospital

MINUTES

Meeting:	Board of Directors
Date:	April 9, 2026
Time:	5:00pm
Place:	Boardroom
Our Shared Purpose:	***People First***

Committee Members in Attendance:

☒ C. Gilmer, Chair	☒ M. McAllister, VC	☒ M. Noel	☒ M. Cassaday
☒ D. Morrison	☒ B. Nixon	☒ S. Anderson	☒ C. Gervais
☒ S. Walsh	☐ C. Low (R)	☒ L. Savoy	☒ K. Simmons
☒ L. Andrews	☒ P. Ketov	☐ K. Everdell (R)	☐ C. Bell-Smith (R)
☐ C. Low	☒ L. Obomighie	☐ M. Cunningham (R)	☐ L. Orpana (R)
☐ J. Fleming (R)	☒ K. Zimmerman	☒ J. Gillard	☐ A. Wright (R)
☐ B. Oliver (R)	☒ R. Stevenson	☒ M. Cocchetto	☒ D. O'Brien
☒ C. Nasmith (media)	☐	☐	☐

1.	**TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**
	L. Savoy provided the territorial land acknowledgement.
2.	**CALL TO ORDER**
	C. Gilmer called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.
3.	**EDUCATION SESSION: Credentialling**
	Dr. P. Ketov, Chief of Staff, provided an overview of the medical staff credentialling process explaining why credentialling is needed and the process to complete. The Board is responsible for the credentialling and appointment of medical staff. Only the Board has the authority to grant privileges as well. Privileging, is the process of granting specific clinical privileges to healthcare professionals based on their credentials, experience, and demonstrated competence in performing certain procedures or delivering specific types of care.
4.	**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**
	No conflict of interest was declared.
5.	**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES – Feb. 12, 2026**

	The previous minutes of Feb. 12, 2026, were pre-circulated with the agenda package. The minutes were reviewed and approved on a Motion by M. Cassaday and Seconded by L. Andrews. Carried.
6.	**CONSENT AGENDA**
	Item 6.1 approval of the agenda was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion. The NHH Foundation report was moved from the Board agenda to the In Camera agenda based on the nature of the embargoed information. On a Motion by C. Gilmer and Seconded by M. McAllister the Board agenda was approved with the amendments as noted above. Carried. The consent agenda matters were approved with the amendments to the Board agenda on a Motion by K. Simmons and Seconded by L. Savoy. Carried.
7.	**NEW BUSINESS**
	7.1 Report from the Board Chair C. Gilmer welcomed everyone to the April meeting of the Board and began the report by acknowledging the significant effort involved in preparing for the recent Accreditation visit, as well as the engagement demonstrated during the survey process itself. While Susan Walsh will speak to the preliminary report, I want to extend my sincere thanks to all those who contributed. The level of commitment across the organization – despite the considerable time demands – clearly reflects Northumberland Hills Hospital's deeply embedded culture of quality and safety. As a Board, one of our core responsibilities is oversight of quality, and the strength of this organization supports that mandate. The Ontario Hospital Association has recently released its 2026-27 operating plan. While I will not review the plan in detail, it is clear that it will have implications for our Board's work in the coming year. In particular, Boards will be expected to: Review emerging governance supports and expectations, including strengthening financial oversight, scenario planning, and risk monitoring I response to system volatility; Enhance focus on financial stewardship, including the use of advanced analytics and performance data to support funding requests; Maintain oversight of the OHA Workforce and Labour Strategy, including monitoring labour negotiations and outcomes, while remaining focused on talent retention, organizational culture, and staffing models Embrace innovation and system transformation by supporting the adoption of new care models that enhance capacity, resilience, and research; and Oversee Indigenous health and equity initiatives, including monitoring actions aligned with Truth and Reconciliation commitments. These priorities will be in addition to the work arising from Northumberland Hills Hospital's own operational plan. In preparing for recent committee and Board meetings, it has become increasingly evident just how much work is undertaken across the hospital on a daily basis. Over the

	past year, this has included an upgraded ICU, the launch of an Emergency Department wait time dashboard, the introduction of a Newborn Perinatal Clinic, implementation of a Caring for the Carers pilot, and the rollout of several new patient experience surveys – among many other initiatives. From a capital perspective, significant progress has also been made. Renovations to the Pharmacy and Laboratory has been completed, a new MRI and SPECT CT are now fully operational, the fourth Operating Room is nearing completion, and the MDRD equipment replacement project is almost finalized. While it is not possible to capture every initiative, I would also like to recognize the extensive work involved in developing the Operational Plan, guided by the senior leadership team this past year. We will receive a comprehensive overview at the Annual Meeting, but it is important to acknowledge the scope and depth of effort involved. Looking ahead, work is already underway on the 2026-27 Operational Plan. While this is encouraging, it is also clear that the level of effort required will be no less significant.
	7.2 Report from the CEO S. Walsh provided her report to the Board. We have just begun Q1 2026-27 April 1st and are in the process of closing out the 2025-26 operational plan. This is the fifth operational plan based on the current strategic plan. I am enormously proud of the disciplined way we have kept the strategic plan CARE alive. This came through as well from the accreditation surveyors who commented they could see the strategic plan was embedded throughout the organization. As Cindy has commented, there have been a number of major projects that have been completed including the SPECT CT, MRI, MDRD as well work continues to update our pharmacy to NAPRA compliance standards. We are externally grateful to the Foundation and the Board for their support. The new stroke recovery clinic opened in February three days a week. There has been significant media interest in the new clinic which has clearly resonated with the community. A new surgery dashboard has been developed which allows individuals waiting for their loved one in surgery to see their journey through a confidential patient number assigned. Master planning has been a very prescribed process. We have had great conversations with different groups and individuals in the community which has sparked other conversations. M. Cassaday and I participated in an OPG social impact interview where we expressed our concerns related to the largest nuclear plant in the world coming to our area and what the impact that will have on our community and how to ensure we plan appropriately during our master planning process. Accreditation has been completed as Cyndi mentioned. The results are still pending; however, I would like to recognize Sarah Dolsen who reports to Lola Obomighie for leading this process internally as well as Kate Zimmerman and her clinical teams who really stepped up.

	National Volunteers' Week is April 19-25 and a recognition event will be held Aprill 22nd at the Best Western, with keynote speaker Amy Coupal, CEO, Ontario Caregiver Organization. The Essential Care Partner project launched in partnership with NHH and the OHTN has been featured in OHA Health Scape with comments from Howard Goodfellow, a caregiver, volunteer with the Ontario Health Team Northumberland Experience Partner Council and a member of the ECP Working Group. The OHTN has recently welcomed a new Executive Lead, Ram Puva, who began his new role in March. The OHTN is hosting an event called **Come Together Northumberland**, May 8 at the Cobourg Community Centre. The event is a community initiative aimed at improving access to supports across Northumberland County and will bring together service providers, organizations, and community members to discuss mental health, addictions, homelessness, social services, and the justice sector. It will feature networking sessions, public panel discussions, a keynote presentation, and a community open house to learn about available programs and referral pathways. The event is free to attend.
	7.3 <u>Report from the NHH Auxiliary</u> Rick Riley, President of the NHH Auxiliary was not able to attend. Cindy Gilmer provided the report to the Board on his behalf. Once again, I will start with Petticoat Lane. Although the winter sales started slow, we had record sales for the month of February and March sales were 14% higher than March 2025. We are negotiating with the Landlord to expand our footprint and presence in the plaza. The increased space will allow us to sell some larger items such as tables, chairs, and other pieces of furniture. Stay tuned! The Little Treasure Shop has a YTD sales increase of approximately $22,000.00 and continue to provide great quality clothing and gift items. Visitors are appreciative with the continuation of coffee service on Saturdays, and with that Saturday sales are picking up which is encouraging. We currently have 320 volunteers with just twenty on leave! The re-introduction of Auxiliary volunteers to the ICU was piloted last month with support from the NHH Volunteer Lead and we are just waiting for results of a staff survey as we believe this is an important area in which we can once again serve. Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for July 23, 2026, in the Education centre and you are invited to join us at 10:00am. The volunteers are looking forward to the appreciation event on April 22 at 11:30am.

	7.4 Governance Committee Update Motion M. McAllister Extension The Governance Committee is bringing for Board approval the recommendation that the tenure of Director, M. McAllister, be extended by two years in order that he may serve as Board Chair ending in 2028. There is precedence to this motion aligned to NHH ByLaw 3.05. **On a Motion by S. Anderson and Seconded by M. Cassaday the Board approves the extension of M. McAllister as Director for two years in order the he may serve a Board Chair until 2028. Carried.** Motion Ethics Policy The NHH ethics policy has recently been updated to revise some of the language and embed links. The policy in the meeting package remained the document that had a section duplicated. The Board agreed to approve the policy once amended to remove the duplication. **On a Motion by s. Anderson and Seconded by L. Andrews the Board of Directors approves the ethics policy with amendments as noted above. Carried.**

	7.5 Finance and Audit Committee Updates Motion 2026-27 Capital Budget Plan The Finance and Audit Committee recommends for Board approval the 2026-27 capital budget plan which was reviewed and approved by the Committee March 25th. **On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by S. Anderson the Board of Directors approved the 2026-27 capital budget plan. Carried.** Motion 2026-27 Operating Budget The Finance and Audit Committee recommends for Board approval the 2026-27 operating budget which was reviewed and approved by the Committee March 25th. **On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by L. Andrews the Board of Directors approved the 2026-27 operating budget. Carried.** Motion KPMG Auditor's Annual Engagement Plan An annual activity of the Finance and Audit Committee is to review and approve the auditor's annual engagement letter. The Committee approved this at the March 25th meeting. **On a Motion by M. McAllister and Seconded by K. Simmons the Board of Directors approved the auditor's annual engagement letter. Carried.** **On a Motion by M. Cassaday and Seconded by C. Gervais, the Board accepted all reports as presented. Carried.**
8.	**OTHER BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**
	There was no other business or correspondence to discuss.
9.	**IN-CAMERA SESSION**
	On a Motion by L. Andrews and Seconded by C. Gervais the Board 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. Savoy and Seconded by M. Cassaday the Board rose from In-Camera. There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:08pm on a Motion by K. Simmons. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for June 11, 2026.