BOARD OF DIRECTORS MANUAL

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Purpose:

To describe the many principles related to community engagement, including the ability to determine local needs, promote information about the health system locally and beyond, improve service design and strengthen local accountability, and to facilitate a common understanding of NHH's commitment to engagement and community engagement practices.

Policy:

The Board will engage its community along a spectrum of participation, ranging from 'inform' to 'empower'. The spectrum acknowledges various degrees of engagement ranging from communicating to listening and to consulting and partnering. The greatest level of public impact falls on the empower end of the spectrum which, in the present context of Ontario hospitals, rests with the Board of Directors in collaboration with Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health.

Procedure:

Guiding Principles for Community Engagement:

In step with the recommended best practices for public participation of the International Association of Public Participation and the Ontario Ministry of Health, the following guiding principles shape community engagement at NHH:

1. Public participation is based on the belief that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making.
2. Public participation includes the promise that the public's contribution will (where opportunity permits) influence the decision.

3. Public participation promotes sustainable decisions by recognizing and communicating the needs and interests of all participants.
4. Public participation seeks out and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision.
5. Public participation seeks input from participants in designing how they participate.
6. Public participation provides participants with the information they need to participate in a meaningful way.
7. Public participation communicates to participants how their input affected the decision.

References:
NHH Community Engagement Framework 2016

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March 2016 revised
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