



705-382-2900
www.almaguin-health.org

Minutes: September 5, 2024, 10:00 am via Zoom and at the Township of Perry Municipal Office

Present: Rod Ward (Chair), Delynne Patterson, Margaret Ann MacPhail, Fraser Williamson (Vice Chair), Vicky Roeder-Martin, Tom Bryson, Sean Cotton, Brad Kneller, Camille Barr (Secretary)

Regrets: Cheryl Philip, Norm Hofstetter

Guest: Chris Hope, John Wilson, Isabel Pereira, Rebecca Paul, Courtney Metcalf, Cheryl Harrison,

Called to order at 10:00 am by Chair R. Ward

1. 2024-20 Moved by Brad Kneller - Seconded by Fraser Williamson
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adopt the minutes from the regular meeting of June 6, 2024, and special meeting of August 8, 2024 as circulated. Carried.
2. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY OF INTEREST:** None
3. **DELEGATIONS:** None
4. **RESOLUTIONS PASSED:**
 - 2024-21 Moved by Fraser Williamson - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council hereby recognizes Sean Cotton as the new representative with the AHHC for the Village of Burk's Falls, replacing Chris Hope. Carried.
 - 2024-22 Moved by Fraser Williamson - Seconded by Margaret Ann MacPhail
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council receives the request from the Village of South River to return their contribution to the OTN fund;
and
Further directs the Recording Secretary to prepare a cheque in the amount of \$2500.00, the amount contributed by the Village of South River. Carried.
 - 2024-23 Moved by Delynne Patterson - Seconded by Tom Bryson
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council approve the refreshment expenditure for the Jane Philpott presentation; and
Council agrees to reimburse the Recording Secretary in the amount of \$65.15 for the refreshments purchased. Carried.

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- a) New Health Council Member-
Council recognized Councillor Sean Cotton as the new representative for the Village of Burk's Falls, replacing Mayor Chris Hope.
- b) Update on Almaguin Highlands FHT Strategy / Next Steps for AHHC Strategy-
The Strategic Road Map project was on hold during the summer months. 7 municipal resolutions were received to date supporting the initiative. The Almaguin Highlands Family Health Team has moved forward with their strategic planning. They will complete their project first which in turn will help inform what remains to be explored in an Almaguin plan. It may also help reduce costs for the AHHC. The AHFHT's strategy is being completed in collaboration with the Sundridge and District Medical Centre. John Hogenbirk has been engaged for the planning. The next step for the team will be a review of the data, working groups developed and engaging a wide variety of users from patients to staff. More to come on this item of discussion.
- c) Municipal Responses Regarding 'Strategic Roadmap for Almaguin Highlands'-
Addressed above.
- d) MAHC Redevelopment Working Group Updates-
Cheryl Harrison (CAO MAHC) provided the group with an update on redevelopment activities. Many working groups occurred over the summer months as well as engagement sessions both formal and informal. Cheryl thanked the group for their advocacy and positivity. An update communication will be issued shortly regarding 3 working group: transportation, bed capacity, and community programming.

Margaret Ann MacPhail updated that the Home and Community Care Working Group are continuing to explore a pilot project in Gravenhurst, following 5-10 patients experience. They will monitor progress made and they can work towards well supported returns to home in a healthy manner. The project is seeking funding. Katie Zammit of MAHC who leads the group, may attend a future AHHC meeting.

Fraser Williamson shared the Palliative Care Working Group had a couple of meetings over the summer. An update will be provided next meeting.

Rod Ward discussed the newly formed Alternate Level of Care Working Group. The group is exploring alternatives for those who do not need to be in the hospital however are there due to having nowhere else to go. Data has been collected and at the last report, 25% of those individuals in this situation in the Huntsville site were from Almaguin Highlands. The working group is exploring other options from a housing point of view and want Almaguin involved. The next meeting is in September. This is a longer-term initiative. The group discussed having Tammy Mackenzie of DSSAB part of the group too. It is important Almaguin is at the table. There was questions as to what buildings are available in the catchment communities that may support this need.

The Community Planning Working Group focuses on what is needed to bring services into the community. The OHT will run this group as they are the administrative body for programming. There is opportunity for Almaguin to be involved.

The Regional Transportation Working Group focuses on transportation between the two hospitals. Perhaps some of the planning can be overlapped with the Almaguin bus initiative. Dr. Erven will sit on this working group. The group is in the early stages and has only had one meeting so far.

Delynne Patterson will meet with Cheryl Harrison next week to develop resolution from the Township of Ryerson to the MPP asking that he support all constituents when discussing the hospital builds as well outlining the positive aspects of the plan. It will request his support. Ryerson will share the resolution when passed to all Almaguin municipalities.

- e) Healthcare Topics from AMO Conference-
Rod Ward attended the AMO conference and listened to a session on recruitment initiatives in rural areas. The data suggests offering money to physicians does not provide a sustainable provider. What does provide a sustainable provider is having a caring community that can help or eliminate roadblocks. This has shown to mean more in the long run for maintaining providers.
- f) Clarification Questions from Deputy Mayor, Burk's Falls-
Deputy Mayor John Wilson represents 6 municipalities on the Parry Sound Emergency Medical Services Board. As such he sought to gain a clearer picture of healthcare in Almaguin. Specifically, who is accountable to who and how the systems work together. The committee shared a brief overview. Rebecca Paul, Executive Director of the AHFHT offered to meet with John Wilson to discuss how the FHTs operated.
- g) Progress Report
None
- h) Other Business
Rebecca Paul informed the group that herself along with three other FHTs reps met with Graydon Smith to discuss the wage discrepancy for Family Health Teams and the HR challenges it creates. The AHHC offered to provide a letter of support. Rebecca to advise. Rates for FHTs have not changed since the 2018 funding agreement. They have been told change is coming however with the cost of living increase, the team is struggling with this wait as it detrimental to recruitment efforts.

The Township of Armour passed a resolution at their last meeting to donate a three acre of parcel of land for a future potential health and wellness facility.

Dr. Sarah MacKinnon and Tom Smith of Parry Sound Community Paramedicine worked with Ontario Health to apply for a grant. They did not receive the funds for this however will continue efforts in the future.

6. ADJOURNMENT

2024-24

Moved by Tom Bryson - Seconded by Vicky Roeder-Martin

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Almaguin Highlands Health Council adjourn at 11:30 am to meet again on October 3, at 10:00 am at Perry Township. Carried.