

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

### MINUTES

Thursday, January 27, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Zoom - Virtual Meeting

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#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Christopher Yendt read the Land Acknowledgement.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Christopher Yendt called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m.

#### ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Sarah Cacilhas, Matthew Mahler, Chris Ventura, Christopher Yendt, Tara McKendrick (ex officio)

Regrets: Andrew Bassingthwaighe, Lindsey Marois, Dawn Shickluna

Guests: Kristen Dyell, Terri Jackson, Amanda Landon

#### DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

No conflict of interest was declared.

#### AGENDA

Moved by: Chris Ventura

Seconded by: Matthew Mahler

**That the Agenda for the Board Meeting of January 27, 2022 be adopted as circulated.**

**Carried.**

#### INTRODUCTION OF NEW CLINICAL LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS

The Executive Director introduced the new additions to the CMHA Clinical Leadership team, all of whom were already part of the CMHA family. Board Members introduced themselves and each of Kristen Dyell, Terri Jackson and Amanda Landon provided a summary of their background and experience. Matthew Mahler noted that the passion and enthusiasm that each presented. The President echoed those comments and thanked them all. The guests left the meeting at 6:01 p.m.

## **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Sarah Cacilhas noted an error in the previous minutes. Leah Jeffery, not Lindsey Marois, moved that the minutes of the October 28, 2021 be adopted.

Moved by: Matthew Mahler

Seconded by: Sarah Cacilhas

**That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Thursday November 25, 2021 be adopted as circulated with the correction that the mover for adoption of the October 28, 2021 minutes was Leah Jeffery.**

**Carried.**

## **REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

- **January 27, 2022 ED Report**

The Executive Director began her report by stating that positive case statistics are being tracked differently due to Public Health testing capacity and changed Ministry guidelines. “Presumed” positive cases (i.e. without a test result confirmation) are now counted. Prior to November 22, 2021, there were six positive cases from PCR results, and now, between November 22<sup>nd</sup> and January 27<sup>th</sup>, there have been fifteen presumed cases and eight positive test results. This illustrates how prevalent the Omicron variant has been, but the good news is that there have still been no workplace transmissions. Chris Ventura asked about the impact of the booster vaccinations. The Executive Director indicated that Public Health has not yet taken a position on the booster but if it becomes mandated, then it will become part of the agency policy.

Progress has been delayed with the Canadian Centre for Diversity and Inclusion (CCDI) project, due to staffing challenges that they are experiencing.

Virtual self-care workshops are being offered to staff as a follow-up to a workshop that was held just prior to the pandemic. The decision was made to proceed with a virtual platform instead of continuing to wait for an in-person option.

There will be a presentation about the Niagara Ontario Health Team at an upcoming Board Meeting. The Executive Director will discuss the time involved, key milestones, as well as her participation and how it is benefitting CMHA Niagara.

Accreditation was a huge success! A link to the debrief video is included in the uploaded report. (This debrief is confidential, for internal purposes only, and the Board was asked to refrain from sharing it.) The final report has not yet been received from Accreditation Canada. They are also experiencing staffing challenges.

The Women & Wellness event planning is actively underway. \$15,000 has been raised to date. The Board was reminded to register in Eventbrite for the February 22<sup>nd</sup> event.

A grant has been approved by the Niagara Regional Police Service to fund a pilot Mobile Crisis Rapid Response team (MCRRT) in Welland. This should be in operation in late March or early April, but as a pilot project, only, there is no ongoing funding. When asked about the need, the Executive

Director indicated that the purpose of MCRRT is emergency room and court diversion. It remains to be seen if the service in Welland will meet the diversion objective but, she said, there is a need.

There was more good news about annualized funding for an additional bed at Safe Beds. Ontario Health West has confirmed that \$300,000 will go toward this enhancement. The President stated that this is a massive achievement for a program that has been historically underfunded.

Board Members were asked to respond to the survey about their preferences for the upcoming Risk Management Workshop dates.

The full Ontario Structured Psychotherapy application has been delayed by the Ministry for six to eight weeks, but internal work is continuing to address the application questions.

It has been agreed that work will commence with francophone partners to assess the current state of the agency's ability to offer French language services, as well as to plan for improvement in this area.

A link to a Bell Let's Talk Day local radio interview with the Executive Director is included in her report.

Prior to the holiday season, and in alignment with the provincial restrictions, CMHA Niagara went back to Step 2 of the Decision Making Matrix. It is anticipated that there will be a move back to Step 3, but this is dependent upon government updates. In the meantime, a staffing redeployment plan has been developed to ensure required staffing levels can be met in the identified essential services (i.e. Safe Beds, COAST and Glendale). This information was shared in a recent Town Hall, but it is hoped that the redeployment of staff won't need to be actioned.

The MSAA deadline has been extended to March 2023.

Moved by: Sarah Cacilhas  
Seconded by: Matthew Mahler

**That the ED Report of January 27, 2022 be accepted.**

**Carried.**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

***2021-22 Enterprise Risk Management Board Report***

***Risk Appetite Statements***

***Climate Survey #1 Results***

***Minutes from the January 11, 2022 Committee of the Whole Meeting***

Moved by: Chris Ventura  
Seconded by: Matthew Mahler

**That the Consent Agenda information be received.**

**Carried.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Board Member Recruitment

The President noted, in the absence of the Governance Committee Chair, that the intention is to begin Board recruitment. He asked that the Matrix (on the portal) be reviewed for any updates. He stated that it is incumbent on the Board to tap into their networks. It was also suggested that there be a fulsome conversation about the skills required, and which ones should be prioritized. The Executive Director noted that volunteer recruitment in general is challenging at this time. The Staggered Board Terms document was cited as needing to be updated. Chris Ventura asked about what the optimal number of new members should be. The President recommended that any more than three might disrupt the culture of the Board. Sarah Cacilhas asked about a timeframe. The goal, according to the President, is to have candidates be recommended at the AGM, so posting should happen ideally by mid to late April. He added, though that nothing would prevent an earlier start. The process was briefly reviewed and there was discussion about the posting of it on the website.

There was no other business.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

A closed session was not held.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Matthew Mahler moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

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Recorder Margaret Rankin

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President Christopher Yendt