

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 23, 2023

Zoom - Virtual Meeting

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land acknowledgement was read by Andrew Bassingthwaighte.

CALL TO ORDER

Andrew Bassingthwaighte called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Andrew Bassingthwaighte, Marlena Stadnik-Misner, Chris Ventura, Kelly Pilato, Matthew Mahler, Timothy Nelles, Peter Fraser, Tara McKendrick (ex officio)

Guests: Marion Quigley

Regrets: Christopher Yendt, Faith Scott

Recorder: Sherry Riddick

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

No conflict of interest was declared.

PRESENTATION

- Community Accountability Planning Submission (CAPs) Update – There is no update at this time. January 31st was the final submission deadline and an email was received that there would be a response provided by end of day, but unfortunately nothing was received. Several other agencies have not heard back yet either. There was a webinar on March 8th and it was mentioned that within 7 business days there would be an update, but unfortunately there was nothing received. This has not impacted day to day cash flow, the budget has allocated for such a delay and there is a business continuity plan for backup.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved by all.

Moved by: Marlena Stadnik-Misner
Seconded by: Kelly Pilato

That the Agenda for the Board Meeting of March 23, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

The minutes were approved by all, Andrew Bassingthwaighe, Peter Fraser and Timothy Nelles abstained as they were not in attendance at the previous meeting.

Moved by: Matt Mahler
Seconded by: Chris Ventura

That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Thursday February 23, 2023 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was approved by all, Andrew Bassingthwaighe, Peter Fraser and Timothy Nelles abstained as they were not in attendance at the previous meeting.

Moved by: Kelly Pilato
Seconded by: Matt Mahler

That the Consent Agenda information be received.

Carried.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- CMHA Ontario is continuing to expand on support to branches in terms of Board/Governance roles, responsibilities and skill building. For this purpose, a **Governance Conference has been scheduled for November 6 & 7, 2023, in Toronto**, which will coincide with the Executive Leadership Network meeting. All CMHA Niagara Board members will be invited, and be supported to attend through offer of hotel accommodations, mileage and meal reimbursement (as per policy limits). Board members are encouraged to hold the dates in their calendars and plan to attend all or part of the conference. More details will follow as available. Normally, attendance would be limited to 2 members due to cost considerations, however, an exception is being made given the impact of the pandemic, the number of new Board members, and an investment in Board knowledge and experiences.

- **The Trauma Informed Collaborative** has successfully graduated its first cohort. This initiative, sponsored by Pen Financial, arranged by Armstrong Strategy Group, championed by CMHA Niagara, and facilitated by the TI Team from University of Buffalo, provided community agencies and organizations with guided and facilitated training and information in Trauma Informed Care. The aim was to champion and improve implementation and provision of trauma informed care in Niagara agencies. This opportunity was well received by partners and next steps are being considered.
- **During February and March, all CMHA Niagara staff participated in Crisis Intervention Training for certification.** This training is geared for staff in “low risk” healthcare settings to deescalate, manage and respond to potential threatening and/or aggressive behaviors, as well as how to remove themselves from aggressive behaviors. This training increases both staff and client safety in potential aggressive situations.
- **MPP Wayne Gates visited CMHA Niagara on March 14,** and toured the location at 264 Welland Ave. Mr. Gates and his team are visiting Niagara mental health and addictions agencies to better understand the pressures, challenges, and needs of the sector. Key messages were repeated and shared with MPP Gates and his team to inform their work.
- **The inquest into the death of Mr. Fred Penner** began on Monday March 20. CMHA Niagara is involved due to our partnership with the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRPS) for the Mobile Crisis Rapid Response Team (MCRRT). The first officer on the scene was the MCRRT vehicle, which included our Mobile Crisis Worker, and therefore we are considered a party with standing and interest. The inquest is scheduled for 3 weeks from March 20, and was delayed due to a change in acting Coroner availability, and will resume Thursday March 23 at 12:30 pm. The public livestream is available at
- Public health protocols in place due to the COVID 19 Pandemic are being reconsidered at CMHA locations, with the exception of congregate living programs where protocols are still required. It is possible that effective April 1, 2023, CMHA Niagara will cease to actively screen staff, require masking on site, honor physical distancing or room limitations etc. The Health and Safety team is currently reviewing potential considerations and creating communication for staff and clients. This is in keeping with protocols being lifted across other organizations in Niagara, including Niagara Region Public Health. **Note:** *Although this would remove the barriers for in person Board meetings, we are not able to offer hybrid options at this time, and previously the Board decided to finish out this Board year virtually (with exception of the Annual General Meeting which would be at a restaurant). We are aiming to be prepared to be able to support in person Board meetings starting in September 2023, and to have technology in place for hybrid options.*

Moved by: Kelly Pilato
Seconded by: Marlena Stadnik-Misner

That the ED Report for March 2023 be accepted.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- Welcome and Introductions of New Board Members – The Niagara CMHA Board would like to welcome Peter Fraser and Timothy Nelles.
- Welcome and Introduction of Marion Quigley - We are welcoming Marion **Quigley** to CMHA Niagara for the coming months, in a mentoring and consultant role. Marion is the retired CEO of CMHA Sudbury, who has since been performing consulting functions with CMHA Ontario and other CMHA Branches. Marion will be working with the ED to observe and review branch operations, structure and functions, and provide insights and recommendations for consideration. In this role, Marion will be meeting with key staff to get an understanding of current state, to inform potential recommendations for future action. This work will also help inform upcoming strategic planning goals and objectives. Marion will join a few future CMHA Niagara Board Meetings.
- Strategic Planning 2024 and Beyond – The presentation is attached:



CMHA Niagara
Strategic Planning Proc

- Five years ago, the agency worked with Overlap Associates Inc. All of the participants confirmed that it was a very positive experience. There were several different activities that SLT, CLT, Board members and the some of the Client/Family Advisory Committee collaborated and completed. The process was client-lead, human centered with buy in from leadership which contributed to the success of the last strategic plan. Many of the goals were achieved, considering the effects of the three year pandemic. There was good value for the dollar amount spent and a confident feeling that it would be achieved again this time.

Chris Ventura motioned that the Board endorse the strategic planning workplan proposal by Overlap Associates.

**All were in favour.
Carried.**

- Policy Review - Update – A few months ago, Andrew asked for a sub-committee to be formed to review the board policies that required updating. This is “on-hold” at this time, the board policies will need to align with ONCA requirements. ONCA will be reviewing all of the policies for the entire agency and will required professional “eyes”. CMHA Hamilton and CMHA Haldimand are interested in cost sharing, Tara will be reaching out to their EDs for a joint effort. They have similar bi-laws with a bit of tweaking for a local perspective.
- Rescheduling of the AGM – Due to a conflict on the scheduled AGM of June 22, 2023, the board will be meeting for the AGM on June 29, 2023 at a restaurant to be determined. All board members are to reach out to Sherry if they have any dietary restrictions.
- Budget Update from Ontario government – The issue note attached:



CMHA budget reax
2023 digital package

OTHER BUSINESS

Link to Meeting survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FYRSVZ3>

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Bassingthwaighte moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m.