

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024

at 5:30pm

Zoom – due to inclement weather

CALL TO ORDER

- Andrew Bassingthwaighte called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- The land acknowledgement was read by Andrew Bassingthwaighte. Brock University is holding its first official Pow Wow tomorrow, Friday Jan 19th from 11:00 am until 6:00 pm, everyone is welcome.

ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

Present: Andrew Bassingthwaighte, Timothy Nelles, Peter Fraser, Chris Ventura, Tara McKendrick (ex officio), Christopher Yendt, Kelly Pilato, Faith Scott, Judy George

Regrets: None

Recorder: Sherry Riddick

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT

- No conflict of interest was declared.

PRESENTATION – Enterprise Risk Management – Judy George

- Risk Management presentation was provided to the Board of Directors.

AGENDA

- The agenda was approved by all.

Moved by: Kelly Pilato

Seconded by: Chris Yendt

That the Agenda for the Board Meeting of January 18, 2024 be adopted as circulated.

Carried.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING

- The minutes were approved by all.

Moved by: Chris Yendt

Seconded by: Faith Scott

That the Minutes of the Board Meeting held Thursday December 21, 2023 be adopted as circulated. Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

- There are no items to be ratified from the Committee Agenda items at this time.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

- **Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) report** was submitted and uploaded to Board portal for member reference and orientation to the questions asked on the report. Board members will note the response as *“Your responses to the questions on your accessibility report indicate that your organization is in compliance with AODA standards. Your organization may be audited to verify compliance.”* While currently in compliance, AODA standards will continue to be considered for continuous quality improvement in development of Operational Objectives in the coming year(s).
- ED did media interview with Matthew Latour of Giant FM and Country89 in regards to **“Blue Monday”**, Seasonal Affective Disorder and tips for the winter months. The intent is for Matt to edit and play snippets of the interview during broadcasting on January 15, 2024. If links become available, they will be shared with the Board in the future.
- With the support of CMHA Ontario Team (Communications and Government Relations), ED appeared before the **Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs regarding Pre-budget Consultations 2024**, on January 11, 2024. Information was presented in regards to gratitude for the 5% base increase last year, and encouragement to maintain this momentum. Speaking notes also included highlighting Niagara Region’s declaration of a state of emergency on mental health, homelessness and addiction, and the challenges for our sector to help with initiatives due to resourcing challenges, including the health human resource crisis (staffing challenges). It was highlighted that a recent compensation survey of the community mental health and addiction sector indicated inequitable wages across health sectors, with our staff being among the lowest paid, and the difficulty this presents in recruitment and retention of qualified staff. CMHA Ontario “ask” is for a 7% increase in the mental health and addiction sector, inclusive of another 5% base

stabilization funding, and 2% to develop a Community Supportive Housing Innovation Fund to bolster supportive housing programs and services. Questions from the Committee enabled the opportunity to further talk about successes in emergency room diversions and the need for community programs to interrupt the “cycle of crisis” (such as case management and supportive housing). Attending in person also provided the opportunity for face to face connection with local MPP’s Sam Oosterhoff, Wayne Gates, Jeff Burch and Jennie Stevens, who demonstrated support and understanding of the issues.

- A **new Clinical Manager**, Christine Harvey, has been recruited and scheduled to start work with us January 15, 2024. Welcome Christine!
- Interviews for the **Director of Quality and Strategy** are scheduled for week of January 15, with several strong candidates. Stay tuned as we anticipate a late January/early February start with a successful candidate!
- Congratulations and a gift from CMHA and the Board were sent to member **Chris Ventura on the arrival of his daughter**, Maya, on January 2, 2024. A separate email with details and picture was sent to Board members previously. Congratulations Chris and Katie, and welcome Maya!
- Preliminary work has been started regarding finding and securing quotes for consultant/legal to guide Board through **ONCA** compliance in the coming months.
- **Happy New Year to you all!** So far I am 100% on writing “2024” instead of 2023 this year!

Moved by: Chris Ventura
Seconded by: Tim Nelles

That the ED Report for January 2024 be accepted.

Carried.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2024 - 2029

- All members agreed that the Strategic Plan for 2024-2029 be adopted, with the exception of Safety and Belonging (rather than Safety and Inclusion) from page 4 of the document. Tara has asked Overlap to help with this edit.

Moved by: Chris Ventura
Seconded by: Kelly Pilato

That the Strategic Plan 2024 – 2029 be accepted as circulated with the slight wording change as described above.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- None at this time

OTHER BUSINESS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Andrew Bassingthwaighte moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 pm, Faith Scott seconded the motion.