

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 14, Issue 1

September 2020

The Board of Directors held a meeting on September 24, 2020.

2020~2021 Operating Results

The Board of Directors reviewed the Financial Statements for the period ending July 31, 2020. The Hospital has experienced a significant reduction in revenue related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Year-to-date net deficit (excluding COVID expenses) at the end of July is \$1 million. Pandemic expenses of \$3.6 million are shown separately as the Ministry of Health has signaled there will be dedicated funding to cover associated incremental expenses.

Operating and Capital Budgets

The Board of Directors approved a revised 2020-2021 operating budget which now includes the confirmed Ministry of Health funding and other funding sources received. The Board has also approved its capital budget for 2020-2021 with expenditures up to \$4 million.

COVID-19 Preparedness and Recovery

The Board of Directors received a presentation on the ramping up of services across the hospital and activity levels compared to the same period in 2019-2020 and during shutdown for the following services: Diagnostic Imaging, Ambulatory Clinics, Endoscopy, Surgical Services, Emergency Department volumes and Inpatient admissions.

As part of its ramp up activities, the Hospital monitors its personal protective equipment and drug supplies, hospital capacity, particularly in the Critical Care Unit, and COVID prevalence in the community.

Since ramping up, the Hospital has exceeded overall activity year-to-date, and total activity by year-end is expected to be at around 85-90% compared to last year. During the shutdown, only emergency surgery was taking place, but since ramp up, inpatient surgical activity is beyond year-to-date. There is an activity shortfall in Day Surgery and this is attributed to ophthalmology and dental surgery; however, these procedures are in the process of being reintroduced as well. Emergency Department visits and inpatient admissions had decrease to 40-50% of last year's volumes in April, but have been increasing over the summer months. Although Computed Tomography (CT) and Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) were impacted by the shutdown and are taking more time to ramp up, they are doing great strides in trying to address the backlog. The Endoscopy Service is now back at full strength and is in good shape. As surgeon offices maintain their surgical wait lists, the Hospital will be working with the surgeons to complete an analysis regarding the number of outstanding surgical procedures due to the shutdown and to implement some strategies in an attempt to address this backlog.

The Hospital continues to adapt to this new normal in a pandemic environment. This is a new and different environment where there is a need to constantly balance precautions to ensure safety with volumes and efficiencies.

Research Study

The Board of Directors has approved hospital participation in the "Tele-psychiatry Pilot" study.

The Tele-psychiatry Pilot study is a quality improvement initiative that will measure satisfaction levels related to the provision of psychiatric care via a virtual platform.

General Meeting of Members

A General Meeting of Members will be held on October 8, 2020 for the purpose of electing directors to the Board of Directors.

Corporate Scorecard

The Board reviewed results of the 2020-2021 Corporate Scorecard to Quarter 1.

Policies

The Board approved amendments to the following policies:

- HR 05-015 Awards Program;
- PE 10-070 Smoke-Free Environment.

Terms of Reference

The Board approved amendments to the following terms of reference:

- Clinical Research Advisory Group;
- Operating Room Committee.

Recognition

The Board recognized the following individuals:

Ms. Katrine Benke, Manager of Financial Services, and the COVID-19 Assessment Centre Team, for the efficient operation of the Assessment Centre;

Mr. Luis Bolado, Personal Computer Technician, for his willingness to go above and beyond to be of service and his dedication to the iCare Values of Cornwall Community Hospital;

The Clinical Informatics Team, for the successful implementation of an entire CERNER code upgrade with minimal downtime;

Dr. Jason Parnes, for his outstanding performance caring for patients in the Emergency Department;

Dr. D. Schindler, for his many years of service as an Emergency Medicine physician

Also acknowledged are the dedication and work of the many **physicians**, **staff**, **managers**, **directors** and **members of the Senior Administration Team** who have stepped up above and beyond every time in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The commitment and resiliency demonstrated across the organization, from the administrative and physician leadership team to the front-line staff and providers, is remarkable. The Hospital is fortunate to have such a dedicated team.

Patient Portal Update

The Board of Directors received a progress report on operationalizing a patient portal. The patient portal
system has been built and testing is nearly complete. The Hospital is heading into the roll out phase, which
requires strong communication, clinical engagement and onboarding plans. All critical to the success of the
project. The target is to go-live in Quarter 4 of the 2020-2021 fiscal year.