

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Volume 14, Issue 8

June 2021

The Board of Directors held a meeting on June 3, 2021.

Indigenous Students

The Board of Directors observed a moment of silence to honour the lives of the 215 Indigenous students whose remains have been discovered on the grounds of the former residential school in Kamloops, British Columbia. The flag at Cornwall Community Hospital is flying at half-mast for a period of ten days in memory of the students.

2021~2022 Operating Results

The Board of Directors reviewed the Financial Statements for the period ending April 30, 2021. April has been a busy month in terms of COVID-19 activity and there has been 15% more patient days than normally seen at this time of year. In accordance with Ministry directives, elective procedures have been deferred in order to increase inpatient capacity to respond to COVID-19 needs. The month has ended with a deficit; however, management is currently working with an interim budget as the Ministry funding letters have not yet been received for this fiscal year. The balance sheet is in an excellent position at 94% current ratio.

COVID~19 Pandemic Response

What a difference a month (or even a few weeks) can make to our reality at CCH. In April, the Hospital was operating at the peak of a third wave of this pandemic, resources were stretched and preparedness was being tested. Recently, the Hospital has had a few days with no admitted COVID-19 positive patients.

On May 19, the Province's Chief Medical Officer of Health has rescinded Directive No. 2 and has authorized the gradual resumption of non-urgent and non-emergent surgeries and procedures for patients not requiring hospitalization, conditional on established criteria. This criterion primarily relates to capacity and Cornwall Community Hospital has been able to meet the criteria. Earlier today, Ontario Health has given the authorization for hospitals to begin performing procedures that would require patient hospitalization.

Today's occupancy is quite good; however, this situation changes rapidly during the course of a day. The Hospital has capacity for 178 beds, which makes those fluctuations quite manageable.

In terms of vaccination, many front-line health care professionals have received their second dose, and the rest of staff will be able to receive theirs within 1.5 weeks.

The Hospital's Incident Command Centre has gone through the preparedness phase and the operational phase, and is now starting to shift its focus and attention on how to support staff through the recovery phase of the pandemic.

Addiction Services

There has been an increase in the number of people who use purple heroin presenting in the Emergency Department. Provincially, Addictions and Mental Health Ontario reported a 79% increase in opioid deaths within the last year. So far this year, the Emergency Department of Cornwall Community Hospital saw 43

patients presenting with an opioid overdose. There have not been any deaths, but there have been some admissions to the Critical Care Unit. A meeting was held last week with a few key stakeholders to strategize about how to address the opioid issue in the community. This problem, which had less impact on our community, has increased significantly during the pandemic.

Emergency Department Activity

The Emergency Department is seeing a recent return to some normalcy. Volumes are increasing, and the Department is seeing 130-140 patients per day, which is almost the same volume as pre-pandemic.

Corporate Scorecard

The Board reviewed results of the 2020-2021 Corporate Scorecard to Quarter 4. The Scorecard will be posted on the hospital's web site.

Recognition

The Board recognized the following teams and individuals:

Cornwall Community Hospital Foundation for the various recognition events organized throughout the year for our health care workers, and for their respect for donors, recognizing that many have been experiencing hardships during this challenging year;

Ms. Cindy Ley, Manager of Environmental Services, for applying and being accepted in an Infection Prevention and Control Program at Queen's University and for her leadership.

Accessibility Plan

The Board of Directors approved the Multi-Year Accessibility Plan for 2021-2023. The Plan will be posted on the hospital web site.