

Board Meeting Highlights December 2020

Deep River and District Hospital
Four Seasons Lodge
North Renfrew Family Health Team

Education Session

William Willard, Vice President of Operations & Chief Financial Officer, provided a presentation on the 2021-2022 budget.

- Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting Recap
 - The Fiscal Advisory Committee is a sub-Committee of the Board of Directors and is legislated to meet annually. This year, a Fiscal Advisory Committee Meeting was held on November 10, 2020 with representatives from union and non-union staff. At the meeting, the unknown financial landscape was discussed and a request was made for input on revenue generating and cost saving ideas. Following the meeting, an email was sent to all staff that included the presentation delivered at the meeting, and reiterated the request for input from all staff members.
- Impacts of COVID-19 on 2020-2021
 - William outlined a number of the financial pressures the organization has been under this year, including low patient revenues and increased supply costs. Due to the decreased volumes, program slow-downs and strategic bed management, patient revenues have been significantly below budget. Supply costs have also exceeded budget, as a result of price inflation, resource scarcity, and higher standards. Staffing costs have increased as a result of segregating the Four Seasons Lodge, having additional housekeeping staff, adding screening staff, etc. In addition, insurance premiums have seen a 7% increase for both liability and property.
- 2021-2022 Forecasting
 - Looking forward to the next fiscal year, there are some knowns that we are able to plan for and numerous unknowns that need to be considered. We know that infection prevention and control standards, as well as the need for housekeeping, will continue to be high. The overall capacity of the organization will be decreased on a daily basis due to time required to meet IPAC standards and expectations. We also know that our hydro costs, insurance, and cost / utilization of personal protective equipment will be increasing. We were previously eligible for around a 30% rebate on our Hydro rates, but we are no longer able to receive the rebate. There are also a number of factors where more clarity is required. For example, it is unknown if COVID-19 funding will continue in either the Hospital or Long-Term Care sectors. It is also unknown if patient volumes will return to pre-COVID-19 levels, if base funding will increase, if the need for screening staff will continue, if the need to segregate Long-Term Care staffing will continue, etc.
- Future Considerations
 - William noted that the Ministry of Health has cancelled the November budget submission. Other future considerations for the coming year include the roll-out of a COVID-19 vaccine, and advocacy from the Ontario Hospital Association and Advantage Ontario for funding. William explained that this presentation is for preparatory purposes at this time, and the organization is awaiting news from Ontario Health/The Ministry on budgets, submission requirements, and forecasting for 2021-2022.

Building & Capital Improvements

- Electrical Service & Distribution System Upgrade
 - The RFP for the electrical service distribution project is now posted, and will remain open until mid-January.

COVID-19

- COVID-19 Swabbing Site Now Live
 - In coordination with regional partners, including RC VTAC and Renfrew County EMS, our donated trailer from CNL is now a community COVID-19 swabbing site. Testing currently takes place twice a week, and those seeking testing are to call RC VTAC to make an appointment.
- CMA Foundation Community Hospital Fund – ER Department Negative Pressure/Redesign
 - On site visit has been completed by engineer.
- Fit Testing
 - CNL helped to support quantitative mask fit testing for designated staff and physicians.
 - Occupational Health is working with CNL to coordinate additional quantitative fit testing for applicable staff.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Most PPE items remain at a 30 to 60 day supply.
- Personal Support Worker Temporary Wage Enhancement:
 - Further information has been received from the Ministry of Long-Term Care regarding the Personal Support Worker Temporary Wage Enhancement. Eligible staff will receive a \$3 per worked hour wage enhancement retroactive to October 1, 2020 until the earlier of March 31, 2021 or the date on which O.Reg. 195/20 expires or is revoked.
 - The PSW Temporary Wage Enhancement will be paid in two instalments to eligible staff. The first payment will be in January 2021 covering the period of October 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020. The second payment will be issued in April 2021 covering the period of January 1, 2021 to the earlier of March 31, 2021 or the date on which O.Reg 195/20 expires or is revoked.
- Universal Eye Protection
 - COVID-19 Universal Eye Protection policy introduced .
 - All staff or physicians entering identified “high risk” areas are to use universal eye protection.
- Vaccination
 - Although there is a lot of media attention on the COVID-19 vaccines, no concrete information has been received regarding distribution plans for our area. It is likely that more information will be available in January.
- Visitor Policies Updated
 - Visitor policies for both LTC and Inpatient/ALC have been updated in response to updated provincial direction for visitors in LTC and the need for safe entry/exit into LTC for visitors and caregivers.
 - Visiting restriction levels have been adjusted following provincial guidelines. Visiting restrictions now align with regional risk levels based on public health zones.

Foundation

- The online Catch the Ace raffle lottery is now in its fourteenth week. The progressive jackpot stands at \$5055 with all ticket sales coming from online purchases. You can help to spread the word to help promote sales by sending prospective ticket buyers to the Foundation website – www.drdfoundation.com/catch-the-ace/.
- The other two fundraising efforts undertaken by the Foundation include the sale of books authored by Dave Thompson; that fundraiser has now raised over \$2200 as 110 books have been sold.
- The second fundraiser is the Trim the Tree, a seasonal event normally held in conjunction with the Town activities of lighting the tree and the Christmas parade. The Trim the Tree event is offered this year as a virtual fundraiser; with two weeks to run, the fundraiser has now generated over \$2300.

Organizational Updates

- CEO Role
 - The Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Janna Hotson as President and CEO of the Deep River and District Hospital, the Four Seasons Lodge, and the North Renfrew Family Health Team, effective April 2021.
 - Current President and CEO, Richard Bedard, announced his retirement in the spring of 2021.
 - The recruitment process for our President and CEO was conducted by a Selection Committee of the DRDH Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is very pleased with the results of this recruitment process, and extends a warm welcome to Janna as she assumes the position of President and CEO.
 - The Board of Directors also expresses their gratitude and appreciation for all that Richard has contributed throughout his tenure with the organization, and wishes him well in his upcoming retirement.

Regional Updates

- Ontario Health Teams
 - The Ontario government announced the approval of 13 new Ontario Health Teams across the province. Ontario Health Teams are a new way of delivering care that brings together health care providers and organizations to work as one coordinated team to improve patient outcomes, strengthen local services, and make it easier for patients and families to navigate the system and transition between health care providers.