

Board

- The Board reviewed the results of the recent Accreditation Canada survey assessed under the Governance Standard. An action plan was developed to meet the requirements for the one unmet criteria identified under the area of improving equity, diversity and inclusion within the Board.
- The Board hosted its annual Fiscal Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting in December, which provided an overview of the financial position of the organization and sought feedback on budget development for 2024-2025. Service utilization data as well as population health needs analysis were provided in the context of DRDH services and supports needed to care for the community. A call out to all DRDH team members was made to provide input into budget strategies for the upcoming year following the FAC meeting.
- The Board heard a patient experience story from the Family Health Team, sharing the impact of the recently implemented unattached cervical cancer screening clinic.
 - In 2023, The North Renfrew Family Health Team (FHT) partnered with primary care clinics across Renfrew County to offer cervical cancer screening to unattached patients. Two afternoon sessions per month are available with the FHT Nurse Practitioners to provide cervical cancer screening, with appointment booking online or by calling the FHT office.
 - Cervical cancer screening tests are recommended every 3 years for people with a cervix between the ages of 21 to 70 years old. Cervical cancer screening is available on a self-referral but a provider is required to oversee results.
 - Since the start of the program, 100% of the patients who presented for screening through the NRFHT clinic were past the three year recommended testing time frame.
 - Further, since the implementation of the screening program at the NRFHT, a 25% positivity rate has been observed. This is a comparatively higher positivity rate than the positivity rate of patients receiving routine care, which is Ontario is 4-5%. This difference highlights the importance of providing routine cancer screening, as well as promoting equitable access to services for unattached patients.
 - All patients with positive screening results through the FHT clinic have been referred to specialists for ongoing care and treatment, with positive patients additionally also rostered to a primary care physician under the IVC program. These patients benefit from having continuity of care through their treatment, as well as attachment to primary care to support their ongoing health and wellness.

Health Campus Updates

Building Services

- Restoration work post fire is continuing, with the Emergency Department (ED) waiting room work now completed and space restored. Structural restoration work on the roof and around the penthouse will take place in the spring. Duct cleaning has begun, and is anticipated to occur over the next 6 weeks throughout the building.

Emergency Department

- The Emergency Department has remained busy throughout the month of December, with added pressure from higher than usual patient demand continuing. In late December, the ED waiting room restorations were completed and waiting room was returned to full capacity.

Emergency Preparedness

- Debriefing has been completed related to the Fire Incident on November 20th 2023, with feedback used to identify actions for ongoing improvement in organizational emergency response. DRDH's Emergency Preparedness committee will track improvement activities identified from staff, resident, and community partner feedback with the goal to enhance emergency preparedness and response in the case of future events.

Family Health Team Capital Development

- Construction kick-off meeting was held, to officially start the construction phase of the project. Plans are underway, in coordination with the Family Health Team, to host a groundbreaking event in the spring of 2024. Early works projects continue to progress, in order to ensure the area is ready for construction to begin in the spring. At this time, it is planned that construction will begin in mid-March, depending on the weather. It is expected that by the end of January mobilization plans will be finalized.

Family Health Team (FHT)

- The FHT has welcomed a new Nurse Practitioner and a Community Mental Health Worker to the team, who will work with the current staff to support programming as well as patient care.

Four Seasons Lodge Long-Term Care

- Residents enjoyed many holiday celebrations throughout the month of December, including a holiday meal with family and friends, holiday movie marathons, and Christmas baking throughout the month. Staff of the organization are participating in a Resident Secret Santa to ensure each resident has a surprise Christmas morning under the tree.

Human Resources

- The organization has partnered with the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) to participate in the new Supervised Clinical Practice partnership program to expedite international placement and registration of nurses into Ontario. The organization has filled a full-time Registered Nurse (RN) position with an international candidate under the Supervised Clinical Practice program, with a return of service agreement signed and partnership agreement in place between DRDH and CNO to facilitate the program.

Infection Control & Occupational Health

- Ongoing work to distribute the annual influenza vaccine as well as COVID boosters is underway. Two successful staff and family/household influenza immunization clinics were hosted this month, with the focus to protect both staff and their families.

Information Technology

- The IT Team successfully upgraded the organization's IT ticketing solution. The new SpiceWorks solution modernizes and better secures this important communication channel for IT support, and offers real time data on IT needs for the organization and response times for staff to receive support.

Medical Inpatient Unit

- The Medical Floor census has continued to remain high throughout the month of December, with the organization continuing to operate between 100-125% of bedded capacity throughout December. Preparations continue to manage the prolonged seasonal surge, including to continue to be able to operate at the directed 120% of bedded capacity.

Quality – Accreditation

- An action plan is under development to address unmet standards identified in the Accreditation Canada report, as well as recommendations made by the surveyors. This report and action plan will be provided to the Board via the Quality, Risk and Safety Committee in the New Year. Results of the recent survey will be broadly shared once the final report and decision from Accreditation Canada is received.