



## Deep River and District Health Board Meeting Highlights April 2024

### Board

- The Nominating Committee of the Board provided an updated on the current recruitment cycle underway. Applicants have been received and reviewed, with interviews being offered to all candidates. Interviews will take place throughout May, with nominations to be presented for election at the Annual Meeting in June.
- The Board of Directors held its bi-annual Community Health Partners Meeting in April, bringing together partners from agencies across DRDH's catchment area that support community health and wellbeing. The meeting was well attended by municipal officials, community groups and agencies. Discussions focused on upcoming military readiness and how this will impact the community, agencies and families as well as the need for affordable housing and primary care. A collaborative medical recruitment approach that involved municipal and community support was explored, as the need for physicians continues to be a pressing one for the community.
- The Board received a Project Status Report from the DRDH Family Health Team Development Project and Colliers Project Leaders on the Primary Care Building Construction. Highlights of the project status report were provided and included:
  - A Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on April 3rd 2024 that was well attended despite the weather, welcoming staff, community members and partners to the official start of construction on the new primary care building.
  - Construction activities are now well underway, with full mobilization of the General Contractor onsite and construction fencing in place. Work completed to date includes site preparation, concrete footings and adjustments to site drainage and flow. Work over the coming weeks will continue to focus on foundational work and overall site advancement.
  - The Board was made aware of upcoming further reduction in parking onsite, due to the need to complete drainage work and paving of additional parking spaces adjacent to the construction area that will support the new building. A request has been sent to the Town of Deep River to temporarily waive parking enforcement on Balmer Bay road to support access to the campus for patients and visitors while the reduction in parking for construction activities is in effect over the summer.
  - Project risks were reviewed, and it was shared that the project remains on schedule and construction activities are moving forward as anticipated.

### Foundation

- As a result of receiving dedicated grant funding, DRDHF is undertaking a refresh of its Donor Recognition Wall. A design has been approved, donors have been notified and work to prepare the area and remove the previous donor wall is underway. The new wall is anticipated to be revealed in July.
- The Foundation has approved the addition of an "Events Planner and Administrative Assistant" position to assist with the growing needs of the organization. It was highlighted that the addition of the Events Planner and Administrative Assistant position will allow current dedicated Foundation staff to dedicate more time to high value engagement activities.

## **Health Campus Updates**

### Financial Position

- Budget 2023/2024 - Preparations for the 2023/24 fiscal year-end audit are underway. It is anticipated the organization will finish the year in a surplus position.
- Budget 2024/2025 – The organization continues to operate in a conditionally approved budget, as no information related to base Hospital funding for 2024/25 has been received to date. Some ancillary programs have been confirmed, which were anticipated and included in the budget. The Ministry of Long Term Care announced a 6.6% increase in level-of-care funding for 2024/25, however no details of the increase have yet to be shared with LTC operators. No information related to Family Health Team funding for the 24/25 year has been received. A letter from the organization to its funding agency, Ontario Health, outlining resource and funding shortfalls to meet balance budget expectations was provided to the Board highlighting the need for funding and certainty.

### Human Resources

- Members of the DRDH team attended a Job Fair at Algonquin College in April, sharing current and future opportunities with students across the campus.
- There was a great turnout for Deep River and District Health's Spring Employee Recognition Event. It was highlighted that there were over 70 staff in attendance, which speaks to strong employee engagement within the organization. 25 employees were recognized for their years of service and the Essential Pieces award was presented to an Emergency Department Registered Nurse, for her contributions to DRDH's culture of excellence.
- The organization successfully transitioned to the provincial collaborative benefits initiative on April 1, 2024. Support for staff during transition is underway, and a review of anticipated savings is being planned.
- The search for a Chief Nursing Executive is underway. An active posting is available online, and a review of candidates is ongoing.

### Infection Control & Occupational Health

- In alignment with provincial partners the organization will be updating its masking protocols. Messaging will be shared this week highlighting that DRDH will now be moving away from mandatory masking, to offering a choice to mask – unless symptomatic.

### Information Technology

- Project Amplify, a provincial initiative to implement information sharing between acute care information systems of Epic and the long-term care information system of PointClickCare has now closed. Integration of systems up to current capabilities is now complete, and provincial project support and monitoring is now complete.
- Completion of a gap analysis of current DRDH readiness against newly released national standard for cybersecurity, entitled Cybersecurity: Cyber resiliency in healthcare is underway. Key highlights and outcomes will be shared with the Board in May.

### Long Term Care Development Project

- In support of the project, members of the DRDH Leadership Team met with Assistant Deputy Minister for Capital Development, as well as other key leaders in LTC and Ministry, during the Advantage Ontario conference April 16-19. Discussions fostered ongoing awareness of the project, as well as challenges with current costing and construction trade availability.

### Medical Inpatient Unit

- The Medical Floor census briefly dropped below 100%, before immediately surging again to above 140% capacity. The need for inpatient acute care services continues to remain high with no immediate opportunity for respite anticipated.

### Medical Recruitment

- Representatives from the Eastern Regional Medical Education Program (ERMEP) were in attendance at DRDH for a site visit and discussion on expansion of the program to accommodate more learners from Queens University at the DRDH site. Representatives met with members of the local physician team to discuss opportunities as well as resources to support increased numbers of residents for extended tours in Deep River in the coming years.

#### Nursing

- Planning for celebrations for Nursing Week 2024 are underway, with nursing leadership and team members. The goal will be to internally and externally recognize and celebrate the contributions that nurses make to DRDH, as well as the health and wellbeing of the community.

#### Public Relations

- Members of the DRDH Leadership Team attended the Auxiliary Annual Meeting on April 12th. The CEO and CFO shared information on DRDH activities, including the two capital development projects and the work underway to plan for modernization of the Emergency Department.
- The Community Engagement & Fundraising Coordinator attended a meeting of the Catholic Women's League on April 17, sharing information about long-term care as well as DRDH's capital development project.

#### Regional Partners

- As part of National Laboratory Services Week, celebrated April 14-20, EORLA's CEO attended onsite to meet with members of DRDH and the DRDH EORLA team.
- Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVOHT) held a Collaborative Partners Forum in Pikwakanagan on April 10. DRDH had representatives from across the health campus attend the forum which highlighted 23/24 progress and current activities of the OVOHT.

#### Quality

- The organization is current completing a refresh of its internal quality performance dashboards, in alignment with the new strategic plan pillars and priorities. It is anticipated all departmental as well as corporate performance dashboards will be ready for go live to report April data by the end of the month.
- A proactive Risk Assessment Checklist (RAC) process through the Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada has begun a new, three year assessment cycle. Teams are currently completing assessment of risk and mitigation across multiple areas of the organization's operations, which will then be entered into the HIROC platform and assessed to determine areas of focus for the coming fiscal year. Presentation of assessment and top risk recommendation is planned for the upcoming Quality, Risk and Safety Committee meeting.