



Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee Minutes Municipalities of Brockton and South Bruce

May 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting held by Zoom Media Communications

Attendees: Kym Hutcheon, Brian Currie, Elaine Stirrat, Jeff Goetz, Stephanie Pegelo, Dr. Paul McArthur, Lindsay Nelson, Brontae Frook, Ryan Fullerton, Dr. Kyle Scheuerman, Christine Brandt, Trish Serratore, Chief Financial Officer

Regrets: Taylor Holdsworth, Dr. Jaclyn Robinson

(Acting) Secretary: Sarah Johnson, Municipality of Brockton Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

Acting Chair Kym Hutcheon called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

2. Adoption Of Agenda

Kym Hutcheon added the resignation of Ryan Fullerton to Item 4.

Motion:

Moved by: Brian Currie

Seconded by: Ryan Fullerton

That the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee hereby accept the agenda for the meeting on May 21, 2025 as amended.

Carried.

3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

None.

4. Accept Resignation of Committee Members, Kelly Fotheringham and Ryan Fullerton

Regretfully, the Committee discussed the resignations of Kelly Fotheringham and Ryan Fullerton.

Motion:

Moved by: Paul McArthur

Seconded by: Jeff Goetz

That the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee hereby accepts with regret the resignations of Kelly Fotheringham and Ryan Fullerton.

Carried.

The Committee were invited to consider filling the Chair position in future. In the interim, Kym Hutcheon has volunteered to chair.

5. Adoption Of Minutes

5.1 Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee Minutes from April 9, 2025

Elaine Stirrat noted that 30 spots are full for MedQuest, which is now called HealthCare Discovery Camp.

Motion:

Moved by: Elaine Stirrat

Seconded by: Paul McArthur

That the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee hereby adopt the minutes from the meeting on April 9, 2025 as amended.

Carried.

Kyle Scheuerman entered the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

6. Physician's Report

Dr. Paul McArthur advised that the transition for new physicians is going well. Dr. Natasha Leva (Physician #24) has been active in the Obstetrics Department as well as Dr. Robinson.

Dr. McArthur advised that one of the physicians is due to have a baby in early August, but will continue to work anesthesia and some obstetrics until their leave begins. Dr. McArthur informed the Committee of a group obstetrical plan to secure long-term sustainability in the program, and ensure good care continues through this group commitment.

Dr. Leva (Physician #24) will start their practice this summer, and has 500 individuals on their waitlist. Dr. Leva (Physician #24) will begin phoning individuals on the waitlist mid-June to have patients complete their booking forms prior to the practice opening. They will also be providing relief in the Mildmay Clinic for Dr. Scheuerman and Dr. Lorenzen.

Dr. McArthur advised that the potential new physician is now on hold due to personal matters.

The Committee spoke to the potential space available in Mildmay, and noted the challenges with limited space in Walkerton in order to accommodate new physicians.

Steph Pegelo advised that Jane Tillman has emailed about a cohort practice, and Provincial plans....

Dr. Paul noted the challenges associated with this process, including the required space and plans needed.

7. Finance Report

The Committee noted there would be expenses for the locum house.

8. Recruitment Report

8.1 Update on renovations in the Walkerton Clinic

There is hope that Pod 4 will be operational soon to include an additional suite or individual.

The Committee discussed the number of physicians and available space in Walkerton, including the need for additional office space.

The Committee discussed the Mildmay Clinic which could accommodate one physician in the current layout.

The Committee discussed the number of individuals without a family doctor, including new residents within the last five years that are not truly orphaned as their family doctor located in another community/city.

The Committee discussed possible funding that could be received from Bruce Power.

Dr. Scheuerman discussed the future for the South Bruce Grey Health Centre, including a strategic plan and renovation plan update, noting that the facility is functioning fairly well, although the space is maxed out for the number of physicians. The Committee discussed the benefit in having a long-term plan for the next 5-10 years.

Acting Chair Kym Hutcheon noted that she could ask if the SBGHC CEO would like to attend Committee meetings to provide additional insight.

8.2 Onboarding Plans for Physicians

Dr. Leva (Physician #24) is currently acting as a locum for Dr. Scheuerman and Dr. Lorenzen until the end of June and then will open their own practice. Patients are being onboarded electronically, although a paper-based form is available for those who require it. There are approximately 567 individuals on the waitlist, and calls will begin in mid-June to those individuals.

Elaine Stirrat noted that there may be a possibility of a new surgeon joining in the next few years, and Dr. Stirrat would be willing to share their office with a new surgeon.

9. Website Update

No update.

10. MedQuest / Healthcare Discovery Camp

A meeting is being organized in early June.

The Committee noted the previous suggestion of providing a monetary gift for local students who completed the camp. This item will be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

11. Discovery Week 2025

6 individuals will be coming to the community next week. Lindsay Nelson will be connecting with Ev Dargie to obtain additional information on the students.

On May 26, 2025 a meeting will be held with South Bruce Grey Health Centre to ensure students are certified to work at the hospital.

On Monday evening, the dinner will be held at 519 Table & Pour, on Tuesday evening, a dinner will be held with Dr. Bowman, Wednesday is Farm Day, and the students will be supplied lunch for 3 days.

The Committee discussed the funds for Discovery Week and additional clarity needed.

12. Family Health Team Report

Stephanie Pegelo informed the Committee of the election promise from the Ontario PC Party for a primary care provider plan for 2 million people. In mid-April an invitation from Ontario Health was distributed to particular communities in underserved regions. There was a 3 week timeline for regions to submit a proposal.

For the NOG region, there are approximately 8,800 unattached or not fully attached patients. The Ministry will conduct multiple rounds for this program; however, there are now guarantees funding will be available in future rounds. For the NOG region proposal, 6 Family Health Teams had to apply singularly, and funding will be awarded to 1 Family Health Tea to report and manage amongst the

region. It is unfortunately unknown where the 8,800 patients reside. The first round opened May 2nd and a second invitation will be released in the Fall.

The Committee discussed learning opportunities from this experience, and hope that funding will be decided by the end of the Summer to ensure patients can be accepted in the Fall. There is a deadline of March 31, 2027 to have all patients attached.

The Committee discussed challenges experienced in Durham, and ensuring there is community support for physicians practicing in the area.

13. New Business

Acting Chair Kym Hutcheon discussed the grant application to Bruce Power. A meeting was held with Nancy Shaw and SBGHC Staff about the application, including requests for funding for renovations at the Walkerton birthing centre. The Municipality of Brockton submitted a letter of support for the application, and the Municipality of South Bruce may also be including a letter of support.

Action: Jeff Goetz to discuss the grant application letter of support with the Municipality of South Bruce

The Committee discussed that the hospital serves Grey, Huron, and Bruce Counties, and renovations to the birthing centre will hopefully include a smudging room.

The Committee noted that grant applications could be considered in future years as well.

14. Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for June 25, 2025 or at the call of the Chair.

15. Adjournment

Motion:

Moved by: Christine Brandt

Seconded by: Jeff Goetz

That the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee meeting adjourn at 4:40 p.m.

Carried.