



Physician Recruitment & Retention Committee 2019 Municipalities of Brockton & South Bruce

October 30, 2019 meeting as called by the Chair was held in the Gallery Room at the Walkerton Library. It was called to order by Chair Kelly Fotheringham at 4:03 p.m.

ATTENDEES: Kelly Fotheringham, Ryan Fullerton, Kym Hutcheon, Wayne Huber, Dr. Amanda Wilhelm, Christine Brandt, Brittany Hawkins, Ev Dargie and Dr Paul McArthur

GUEST: Michael Barrett, President & CEO of the South Bruce Grey Health Centre

REGRETS: Myrna Inglis, Stephanie Dudgeon and Bob McCulloch

RECORDER: Christine Brandt

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Motion to approve the agenda as presented:

Moved by Ev Dargie, Seconded by Wayne Huber CARRIED

DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF: None.

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 28, 2019: Motion to approve the minutes as presented:

Moved by Kym Hutcheon, Seconded by Brittany Hawkins CARRIED

REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2019: Motion to approve the minutes as presented:

Moved by Kym Hutcheon, Seconded by Ryan Fullerton CARRIED

WEBSITE UPDATE: Bob McCulloch was unable to attend but sent information by email in advance. The five-year agreement with Esite Creations to host the website at no charge is about to expire. A discussion was held on whether the site requires updating and/or a new look. It was agreed that no contract will be signed at this time; a further discussion will be held at a future meeting.

PHYSICIANS REPORT: Dr. Paul McArthur discussed the services to be utilized by Physicians for You, a company that will search for a GPA (general practitioner/anesthetist) for Walkerton. Payment will be made when a physician is signed. Paul is in touch with a few potential candidates already. However, the hospital is currently studying possible efficiencies in the OR and limited surgical hours could make recruitment of a GPA challenging. Paul stressed that a second part-time anesthetist is needed on an all-call basis for obstetrics. Ryan Fullerton will send the contract to the municipality's lawyer before it is signed.

One physician practising with the FHT can now accept additional patients. There is also a physician visiting the clinic in Paisley one day per week.

Wait times in the ER were questioned. It is an occasional issue in Walkerton; a potential solution includes bringing in an additional physician on certain days, such as a locum, but it's difficult to pre-plan when the ER will be most busy.

RECRUITMENT REPORT: Brittany Hawkins reported that a representative from the Durham site will be attending an upcoming recruitment fair in Ottawa. She will represent the Walkerton site as well if that's the wish of the committee. Dr. Paul McArthur noted that with a lack of physical office space in the medical clinic, with no available practises until the next physician retires, Walkerton doesn't have an immediate need other than for an anesthetist.

4:35 p.m. Michael Barrett arrived at the meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS: Members of the committee introduced themselves to guest Michael Barrett, President & CEO of the SBGHC. Dr. Paul McArthur summarized the work of the committee to date, including the recruitment of a general surgeon without significant involvement from the hospital. He also reiterated the need to develop a sustainable anesthesia plan to build a robust surgery program. Michael agreed the hospital should play a more active role in the search for physicians, and he discussed the OR schedule and how it reflects on the hospital's budget. He is bringing in outside professionals to examine the surgical program and to help identify efficiencies.

Operations within the Family Birthing Centre were also reviewed. Approximately 450 babies were delivered in Walkerton in 2018, and the number is set to rise with more young families moving to the area for employment. Michael state the hospital is working with consultants on a business case to show that more funds are needed to operate the centre effectively.

5:15 p.m. Michael Barrett left the meeting.

FAMILY HEALTH TEAM REPORT: No report.

FINANCE REPORT: Ryan Fullerton presented a draft of the 2020 budget, reflecting a decrease in projected operating costs. It was well received by the committee. Ryan noted the committee has not been hosting many events of late; as such, a spring/summer appreciation picnic was briefly discussed. Kym Hutcheon offered to host the event in Chepstow. It was suggested that local medical school students receive a gift of Walkerton Dollars next month, along with a holiday greeting from the committee.

Motion to send 50 Walkerton Dollars inside holiday cards to 10 local medical school students.

Motion made by Ryan Fullerton, Seconded by Kym Hutcheon CARRIED

DISCOVERY WEEK: No report.

CLOSED SESSION: Not required.

Kym Hutcheon informed the committee of the recent passing of Bob Heisz, who was instrumental in the formation of the Brockton FHT. Arrangement details were shared.

NEXT MEETING: At the call of the Chair.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was moved by Dr. Amanda Wilhelm at 5:43 pm.