



Committee Minutes

Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force

September 14, 2021 – 1:00 PM

The Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force met on the above date through electronic means with the following members in attendance:

Present: Chair Warden Selwyn Hicks; Councillors Barb Clumpus, Tom Hutchinson, Brian Milne, and Paul McQueen

Staff

Present: Kim Wingrove, Chief Administrative Officer; Mary Lou Spicer, Director of Finance, Jennifer Cornell, Director of Long-Term Care, and Heather Morrison, Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Selwyn Hicks called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Stakeholder Delegation

Georgian College-Implementation Plans for BScN Nursing Program-Owen Sound Campus

Dr. Marylynn West-Moynes, President and CEO, David Bell, Associate Vice President, Advancement and Alumni Relations, Sarah Lankshear, Associate Dean-Nursing Degree Programs, Kevin Weaver, Vice President, Academic, and Sheila West, Dean-Health Wellness and Sciences

Kim Wingrove introduced the team from Georgian College and welcomed them to the meeting. Dr. West-Moynes provided an overview of Georgian College noting there are seven campuses across the province. She thanked the Task Force for the opportunity

to present today. She spoke to the pandemic and its impact on the college while also noting that many positive signs of the campus experience are starting to re-emerge this year. Georgian College has 9,000 full time students with 3,000 of those students participating in in-person learning this year. Even during the pandemic, she noted that the focus continued to be on the students and their experiences. The BScN program is a stand-alone program with no other affiliates, the first of its kind in Ontario.

Dr. West-Moynes provided an overview of the agenda speaking at a high level to the areas being covered during the presentation.

Sara Lankshear spoke to the alarming lack of health care worker in Ontario, especially in rural areas with a growing senior population and mental health issues. Sheila West noted there is a need for nurses due to the health care worker shortage across all sectors. She spoke to the burn-out faced by many colleagues across the province. She noted that recently, even colleagues from the United States have reached out for participation in job fairs to recruit staff to that country. The new nursing policy supported by the provincial government will permit colleges to provide BScN programs which has allowed Georgian to develop the BScN program.

Ms. Lankshear highlighted the “Grown Your Own” solution to the crisis which is the implementation of a BScN Nursing Program scheduled to be launched at the Owen Sound Georgian College Campus in September 2022. The focus will be on the various communities served and the rural issues that accompany rural living. It is hoped that there will be placement opportunities for students for rural experiences across the seven GBHS sites along with other community partners.

Kevin Weaver noted that this BScN program will be Central Ontario’s first to be implemented and will assist in easing the burden for students, providing equity across the sector, and will provide a full-time program with expert professors and rigorous standards.

Sheila West stated that Georgian College has hired faculty to participate in the design of the program. She noted that the faculty live locally and are committed to the students and community.

Kevin Weaver noted that the program will support several areas including community wellness, rural health care, sustainable workforce, higher education, and the local economy. It is hoped that with the implementation of this program, Grey County will have a resource pipeline for needed health care workers. He noted that class sizes will be limited to 30 students to provide for the best access to clinical placements. The overall hope of the program is to train students and have them stay in the area to work and support the local economy. There will be 105 graduates annually beginning in

2026. It is also hoped that the program will also attract other businesses to the area that provide peripheral support for the program.

David Bell highlighted the 9,200 square foot nursing and wellness wing being planned, noting that will be a cutting-edge facility including a simulation lab, flex skills lab, state of the art equipment, teaching apartment, breakout rooms and multi-purpose classrooms. The cost of the project is \$7.1 million. Once complete it will be a regional showcase and provide the very best opportunity for training health care workers.

Dr. West-Moynes spoke about past community collaborations and highlighted the Grey County's contributions to the Centre for Marine Training and Research. She thanked the County for stepping in and advocating for Georgian College on its behalf with the provincial government to support the BScN program coming to the Owen Sound Campus. She noted that it is the first nursing degree program to submit to College of Nurses that did not have any changes to the curriculum, something the college is very proud of.

Dr. West-Moynes noted that the Province will fund for the BScN program but will not fund the capital program costs. She spoke to the request to Grey County for \$1 million to support this initiative noting the benefits the program will provide to the students, the community, and the County.

Warden Hicks thanked the delegation for their presentation. Questions and comments then followed. Discussion occurred on bringing current students into the program who are part way through an ongoing program to graduate in 2024. The presenters noted that the current partnership with York University will maintain the current student roster until they are complete. The Georgian College program is different than the other programs so it will be a fresh start.

CAO Wingrove spoke to conversations related to increased acuity in long-term care residents and asked if the new facility could offer in-service learning for Grey County staff-both in long-term care and paramedic services. Georgian staff responded positively and they look forward to an academic partnership with community stakeholders.

It was also noted that Georgian College may reach out to Grey County for in-service support to use current Grey County staff, both long-term care and paramedic services as subject matter experts for the students during class time. Georgian staff also noted that the partnerships the County has developed with the College will help leverage other community relationships. Dr West-Moynes noted that international students are a huge component to building more workers for the shortage. Discussion then occurred on the timeframe for the contribution as well as whether Bruce County will be approached.

CAO Wingrove noted that Georgian College is also presenting to Committee of the Whole at the September 23 on the economic impact report as well as BScN program implementation.

HCF01-21 Moved by: Councillor Milne Seconded by: Councillor Hutchinson

That the Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force support, in principle, the request from Georgian College for \$1 million to support the implementation of the BScN program at the Owen Sound campus and direct staff to bring further information forward to Committee of the Whole on the next steps and funding opportunities.

Carried

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

October 2021

On motion by Councillors Clumpus and Hutchinson, the meeting adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Selwyn Hicks, Chair