



Committee Minutes

Health Care Funding Roles and Responsibilities Task Force

October 19, 2021 – 9:30 AM

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; Randy Scherzer, Deputy CAO; Olivia Yale, Communications Officer, and Tara Warder, Deputy Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Selwyn Hicks called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Declaration of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Stakeholder Delegations

Town of The Blue Mountains Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee

June Porter, Chair

Ms. Porter provided the Task Force with information related to the Town of The Blue Mountains Joint Municipal Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee, noting the shortage in physicians across the province. Her committee includes representatives from Clearview, Collingwood, the Municipality of Grey Highlands and Town of the Blue Mountains and until recently Meaford. Mrs. Porter indicated that there are several areas in Grey County that have a high need for physicians.

Mrs. Porter highlighted the benefits of having a strong primary care system including appropriate preventative care, timely and accurate diagnosis, appropriate diagnostic tests and prescriptions, decreased or shorter hospital stays and a decrease of emergency room visits. She also noted the key role that family physicians play in the health care system, stating that emergency or walk-in clinics do not provide that same consistency of care.

Mrs. Porter spoke to the expected population growth in Grey County over the next two decades and how many family physicians will be required to meet the demand. The Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee is requesting financial support in the amount of \$250,000 to assist with their group's municipally driven recruitment initiatives.

Questions and comments from the members then followed regarding the Rural Ontario Medicine Program (ROMP), nurse practitioners and transitional housing, among others.

Mrs. Porter spoke to the reasoning behind the request, noting that this is a growing problem. It takes significant time to recruit and timing with graduating physicians and their availability is crucial to its success.

Ms. Wingrove noted that the presented information will be included in the staff report outlining how meeting health care needs can be supported by the County and making a recommendation in terms of contribution levels, etc.

South Bruce Grey Health Centre

Michael Barrett-SBGHC President and CEO

Michael Barrett provided an overview of the South Bruce Grey Health Centre (SBGHC) noting that it is a multi-site hospital organization serving Chesley, Durham, Kincardine and Walkerton, with each site offering acute care services, 24/7 emergency care and diagnostic and laboratory services.

Mr. Barrett then spoke to the funding noting that a fixed payment amount is received from the Ministry of Health to cover operating expenses annually. He also stated that the Ministry does not provide funding to small Ontario hospitals for equipment purchases and facility upgrades. Rather, this funding is received from local hospital foundations, self-funding, and the health infrastructure renewal fund.

Mr. Barrett outlined past community support for various projects including the Durham hospital ambulance entrance project, blanket warming cabinet, diagnostic imaging equipment and pain pumps. He also provided a brief overview of the Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund and its financial support for various projects. An overview of the capital project process was then outlined along with the 2021/2022 capital

projects including a CT scanner and Kincardine hospital redevelopment. Future capital projects for SGGHC were then reviewed.

Questions and comments from the members then followed regarding impacts to hospitals due to growth in various communities and emergency department volumes.

Ontario Health Team (OHT)

Alex Hector, Executive Director-South East Grey Health Centre and Co-Chair, Grey Bruce OHT Planning Committee and Michael Barrett, SBGHC President and CEO and Co-Chair, Grey Bruce OHT Planning Committee

Michael Barrett provided an overview of what an Ontario Health Team (OHT) is. He noted that under this new model, health care providers will work in one coordinated team. He provided a past and future view of the health system in Ontario and its continuing transformation.

Mr. Hector spoke to the process involved in becoming an approved OHT and the next steps involved in the process. He also spoke of the focus groups planned for the first year of the OHT, including frail seniors and patients living with mental health and addiction issues.

Discussion occurred on the collaborative decision-making arrangement with leaders from multiple organizations who can come together to engage, share goals and provide opportunities to improve patient care. Mr. Hector noted that the Grey Bruce OHT structure is currently under development and will consist of several committees including a community council, physician and nurse practitioner council and chairs council.

Mr. Barrett spoke to the ongoing initiatives of the Grey Bruce OHT including a collaborative decision-making arrangement, community information series, strategic planning and engagement process and collaborative quality improvement plan as well as the next steps for the OHT. New funding has also been received from the government and will be used to hire staff to ensure success.

Questions and comments then followed, including where accountability rests with the new OHT, and the difference between the structure of the Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and OHTs. It was noted that as the OHT evolves and matures, Ontario Health will provide funding in a single funding envelope and the OHT can decide how the funds are spent. It was noted that ongoing long-term engagement with the lower and upper tiers going forward is crucial.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Dates

To be Determined.

On motion by Councillors Milne and McQueen, the meeting adjourned at 11:08 PM.

Selwyn Hicks, Chair