



Land Acknowledgement Statement

Although we gather here virtually, we acknowledge that the land where we work and gather is the traditional unceded territories of the Indigenous nations who have lived on these lands since time immemorial.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2022

Present: Tom Baumgartner, Stephen Bird, Cynthia Carver, Lindsay Jackson Derrrough, Carole Devine, Jean Dunning, William Enright, Kim O'Connor, Richard Schooley

Staff: Morgan Hawn, Carol Anne McNeil, Brenda Powers Ross, Sarah Sark, Kara Symbolic, Becky Walker

Guests: Bruce Brough, Nick Dibdin, Tandrae Knapp, David Moat, Neil Nicholson, Wayne Stryde

Regrets: Maddy Dever, Deborah Duffy, Sharon Mousseau, Thomas Todd

Program Presentation (2:30 p.m.): Brenda Powers Ross presented on Primary Care in Renfrew County. Richard thanked Brenda and indicated that there would be opportunity to explore some of the challenges raised during the generative discussion later on in the meeting.

- 1.0 Welcome:** Richard greeted everyone and extended a special welcome to Board nominees attending today's meeting. He called the meeting to order and confirmed quorum at 3:00 p.m. Jean Dunning introduced the guests.
- 2.0 Approval of agenda**
 - 2.1 Conflict of interest:** None declared. Richard reminded attendees that a conflict of interest could be declared at any point throughout the meeting.
- 3.0 Approval of minutes from March 22, 2022:** Minutes approved as presented.
- 4.0 Business arising from minutes:** The group discussed follow up from last month's item on participation in the Climate Action Plan. Deborah had circulated the directive from CRA to charities regarding political action, confirming that our participation would not be an issue. The Board is still seeking clarification on what is expected of ConnectWell if we express support for this initiative. Maddy will follow up with Climate Network Lanark and share additional



information with the Board. To be discussed at Governance and brought back to the Board for further consideration.

5.0 New business:

- 5.1 Approval of amended Letters Patent: The Board approved the amended Letters Patent. The resolution will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on June 28 for approval.
- 5.2 Approval of Annual Meeting notice to ConnectWell membership: It was confirmed that approval by the Board was not necessary, but the group reviewed the notice drafted by Deborah and approved it being distributed to the membership. Becky confirmed that additional notification would be published in local media.

6.0 Board workplan:

- 6.1 Board succession planning: Jean reported on the work of the Nominating Committee; succession planning is continuing as outlined in the committee workplan. The group will meet this week to discuss next steps.
- 6.2 Request Committee Chairs submit their annual reports: Committee chairs have been asked to submit their annual reports to Becky by May 31 for inclusion in the Annual Meeting information package that will be sent to attendees.
- 6.3 Initiate annual Board evaluation survey: Stephen confirmed that the annual survey is live and asked Board members to complete the evaluation by mid-May. The Board chair will review the results and provide a summary at the May 24 Board meeting.

7.0 Operations report: Sarah presented the Operations report. William provided an update on the Ottawa Valley OHT. Staffing is taking place through secondments and new hires. Working groups should be set up in the next month.

8.0 Healthier Community Committee report:

- 8.1 April 5 meeting minutes: Minutes were reviewed and received by the Board. Carole expressed thanks to the volunteers on the committee and staff, especially Lara and Brenda, for their hard work on the many initiatives the group has taken on.

Further to the topic of volunteers, Kara shared that as part of Volunteer Appreciation Week, ConnectWell will be hosting a lunch at the Lanark site this Thursday to thank our program volunteers (with plans to hold a separate function for Board and committee members at a later date, in keeping with current health and safety protocols). The organization currently has approximately 80 active volunteers (pre-pandemic, about 180



individuals were actively volunteering for ConnectWell programs). Kara thanked Board members for their ongoing support and work on behalf of ConnectWell.

9.0 Finance Committee report:

- 9.1 April 11 meeting minutes: Minutes were reviewed and received by the Board.
- 9.2 Policy 3.01.11 Mileage rate reimbursement: The Board reviewed the changes and approved the revised policy.
- 9.3 LEIP financial statement: The Board reviewed and approved the LEIP financial statement.
- 9.4 ConnectWell insurance renewal summary: The Board reviewed Amy's memo and approved the renewal of insurance as per her recommendations.

10.0 Governance Committee report:

- 10.1 April 12 meeting minutes: Minutes were reviewed and received by the Board. Stephen noted that Jean has volunteered to head the ad hoc committee for accreditation; he asked that anyone interested in joining the committee contact Jean directly.
- 10.2 Policy 6.01.20 Committee Membership Process: The Board reviewed the changes and approved the revised policy (with one small edit; Becky to incorporate as directed).

11.0 Alliance Board Liaison report: Deferred to May meeting.

12.0 Correspondence

- 12.1 Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund: Sarah announced that the Therapeutic Riding Program received a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation Resilient Communities Fund.

13.0 Informational items: Informational items were reviewed. Sarah mentioned the upcoming TRP fundraiser.

14.0 Availability for cheque signing: Tom confirmed he would be unavailable to sign cheques May 16-19.

15.0 Generative discussion: Primary Care in Renfrew County: Richard opened the discussion on challenges with obtaining funding, recruiting and retaining primary care staff. Sarah indicated that ConnectWell works with our partners in the area on a Renfrew County strategy. She outlined the efforts that have been made to build connections with government representatives and other organizations. Efforts are being made to bring in residents and recruit people who come from the area so they are more inclined to remain when their training is complete.

Recruiters have been hired to assist with the process of attracting physicians to the area. The group discussed whether there is a wider doctor shortage across Canada, or is this a rural issue? In rural areas, doctors often work more than one job (family physician as well as anesthesiologist or therapist or emergency room coverage) and patient loads have increased. Morgan indicated that medical students at the Lanark clinic have expressed concern about being a jack of all trades when working in rural areas. In addition, there is a lack of specialists to refer patients to for more complex needs. Client expectations have grown exponentially as more people are able to access health information. The question was raised: if ConnectWell received funding to hire more staff, would there be adequate space? Brenda said staff in Renfrew County have been very strategic with space and can work to come up with innovative solutions. She pointed out that there are a number of rural areas in Ontario also vying for funding, so we are in competition with other jurisdictions. Carole pointed out that there are many factors involved in the current situation in Renfrew; she commended John, Brenda, and Sarah for their diligent work to build partnerships and maintain a connection with our provincial representative. William suggested that the best option would be for ConnectWell to continue fostering those positive relationships, and to support the Ottawa Valley OHT by being active members on committees. Brenda agreed and said that the focus of the OVOHT is to bring in more physicians for the area. ConnectWell is well positioned with a strong voice. She suggested continuing to work with our partners at the OHT to best optimize our resources. The Board agreed, and asked that regular updates be provided as part of the Operations Report. Sarah suggested holding discussions in the future about pressures in other sectors as well, to provide the Board with a well-rounded view of the challenges ConnectWell is facing.

16.0 In-camera session: The Board went in-camera to receive an update on funding application. Following discussion, the Board came out of camera. Staff to keep Board informed of any further developments.

17.0 Next meeting: May 24, 2022 @ 3:00 on Zoom
Staff presentation to take place @ 2:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Board decisions:

- Approval of amended Letters Patent (resolution to be presented to membership at Annual Meeting)
- Approval of policy 3.01.11 Mileage rate reimbursement
- Approval of LEIP financial statement
- Approval of ConnectWell insurance renewal



- Approval of policy 6.01.20 Committee Membership Process

Action items:

- Maddy to follow up with Climate Network Lanark
- Committee chairs to submit their annual reports to Becky by May 31
- Board members to complete annual evaluation survey by mid-May
- Becky to change “May” to “February” under item 1 in Procedure section of policy 6.01.20
- Any Board members interested in joining the ad hoc accreditation committee to contact Jean

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deborah Duffy", written in a cursive style.

Deborah Duffy
Board Chair