

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting (Zoom)

Attendance: Tom Baumgartner, Nick Dibdin, Michel Vermette, Miriam Hunt, Bruce Brough, Jean Dunning, Mary Lou Pratt, Stephen Bird, Lesley Scharf

Regrets: Jan Paul-Barr, Carole Devine, Wayne Stryde, Gerry Van Loon

Staff: Sarah Sark, Becky Walker, Corrie Stewart (Resource)

Presentation: Kara Symbolic, Brenda Powers Ross, and Kacie Reneay presented on Health Promotion and answered questions.

1. **Welcome:** Jean called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.
 - 1.1 **Land Acknowledgement:** Tom Baumgartner provided the land acknowledgement.
 - 1.2 **Confirmation of quorum:** Quorum was confirmed.

2. **Approval of agenda:** Approved as presented, with the Generative Discussion moving to QRS report.
 - 2.1 **Conflict of Interest:** No conflict of interest was declared at any time. Thank you to Becky for sharing her screen.

3. **Approval of minutes:**
 - 3.1 **November 18, 2025, ConnectWell Board In-Camera minutes:** Board consented to an additional sentence be added to the minutes reflecting comments made by Miriam at the November 18th in-camera meeting. Miriam encouraged ConnectWell to consider a realignment of staffing and services going forward in consideration of current changes in health care.
 - 3.2 **January 28, 2025, ConnectWell Board meeting minutes:** A correction was noted. The minutes state that the Board needs to fill one vacancy this year. It should read 2 vacancies. Stephen and Tom will be leaving the Board. Jean (current Chair) will be moving into the Past Chair position.

3.3 January 28, 2025, ConnectWell Board In-Camera minutes: Consensus to approve achieved.

4. 4. Business: Business arising from minutes:

4.1 Corrections to QRS minutes from January 9, 2025: Typographical errors corrected.

4.2 Board meeting evaluation results (Stephen): Stephen reported-there were no areas of concern.

4.3 Update on Board Retreat: Tom, Sarah and Jean met with Liz Weaver and David Hartley, who have both agreed to present proposals to conduct an in person half day session. David will focus on governance leadership in the morning and Liz will focus on Board relationship building. The retreat will be held Saturday, May 24th at the Calabogie Peaks resort. The first session will take place from 09:00 to 12:00 followed by lunch and the second session will take place from 13:00 until 16:00. Jean and Sarah were approached by the Board of Rideau Community Health Services (RCHS) asking if there was a possibility they could join our Board retreat this year. Jean sought comments from Directors. Consensus was reached that the opportunity for Board-to-Board interaction might lead to good discussions but that the invitation should extend to the morning session only. David will be contacted to seek agreement on an increase in attendance. Once ConnectWell accepts the proposals, an invitation will be sent to RCHS and Country Roads.

5. 5. New Business:

5.1 MSAA Extending Letter:

5.2 MSAA New Schedules: The Board approved signing the agreement.

6. 6. Board workplan items for February:

- **Begin planning for Annual Meeting:** We have secured a speaker, Kevin Lamar who is an educator for the Algonquins of the Pikwakanagan nation located in Golden Lake, Renfrew County. His talk will speak-to differences in western and indigenous health beliefs and different approaches/interventions health care providers might consider. Appropriate venues in Renfrew County are being sought. The meeting will be held June 24, 2025.

7. **Report from the Chief Executive Officer:** Sarah reviewed the highlights of her report and answered questions.

****BREAK****

8. **Governance Committee report:**

8.1 February 5, 2025, meeting minutes: A review of the Vice Chair job description and the Contracting Services of Directors policy were deferred until the March meeting. Sarah responded to a follow-up question about whether government agencies consider accreditation reviews as mandatory for CHCs. She has not had a response from Ontario Health.

9. **Finance Committee Report:** No meeting held. Next meeting is March 19, 2025.

10. **Advocacy Committee Report:**

10.1 February 4, 2025, meeting minutes: Jean reviewed the meeting highlights and reported that the Board of RCHS, held a joint advocacy meeting with ConnectWell, Country Roads and Rainbow Valley CHCs. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible joint efforts to further advocate to end wage disparities. There was also a discussion about formalizing such a joint committee. There has been no further conversation.

11. **QRS Committee report:**

11.1 February 13, 2025, meeting minutes: Minutes were reviewed.

11.2 Generative discussion agenda: Tom reviewed the process to have a generative discussion. The question discussed was “If we were the best board we could be, what would we look like?” The comments covered: important skill sets, a skill matrix, a need for diversification of worldviews, board training and succession planning.

12. **Executive Committee Report:** No report

13. **Nominating Committee report:**

13.1 February 18, 2025, meeting minutes: Lesley reviewed the highlights of the minutes.

14. **Alliance Liaison report:** A Board liaison meeting was held January 30, 2025. Bruce reviewed the highlights of their continued advocacy work. Bruce encouraged Directors to sign the petition For Us, For You found on the Alliance website..
15. **Informational items:** Jennifer Murphy, Mayor of Bonnechere Valley township was a guest at the last Board meeting, Sarah sent her an email thanking her for attending and providing some additional information on ConnectWell services in Renfrew.
16. **Upcoming meetings:** Board Meeting: March 25, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m. via Zoom
17. **Meeting adjourned at:** 5:29 p.m.