

March 27, 2025

Board of Directors – Public Minutes

Credit Union Place, Summerside

10:00 to 11:30 am

Chair: Ms. Diane Griffin

Members: Mr. Peter MacDonald (Virtual), Dr. Richard Wedge (Vice Chair), Ms. Colleen Parker, Ms. Mona O'Shea, Ms. Jennifer Evans, Dr. William Montelpare, Mr. Matt Vaughan, Ms. Ouma Cuniah and Mr. Ryan Fahey

HPEI Staff: Ms. Melanie Fraser, CEO
Ms. Jessica Bruce, Senior Communications Officer
Ms. Gina Beeley, Assistant to the Board (recorder)

Regrets: Ms. Megan Cheverie, Dr. William Montelpare & Ms. Jennifer Evans.

Guests: Jenny Knox, PCH Foundation: Heather Matheson, Derek Bondt; PCH Auxiliary: Mary Francis Perry, Marilyn Ramsey, Betty Robertson and Louise Fabean;
Mayor: Dan Kutcher, Jamie Derosiers, Norma McColman, Bruce MacDougall, Stephanie Kelly, Sharon & Vernon Harris.

1.0 CONVENING THE MEETING

Ms. Diane Griffin, chair, welcomed our guests and the meeting was convened at 10:02 am.

1.1 Declaration of Conflicts

There were no conflicts declared.

1.2 Review of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the public session.

MOTION: It was moved by Ryan Fahey and seconded by Colleen Parker to approve March 27, 2025, agenda

MOTION CARRIED

2.0 CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 Correspondence

There is an invitation from the QEH to attend the Marjorie Vessey Awards, Mona O'Shea will attend on behalf of the Board.

2.2 Health PEI Board Minutes

December 13, 2024, public meeting minutes have been circulated to the Board.

MOTION: It was moved by Matt Vaughan and seconded by Peter MacDonald to approve the minutes from December 13, 2024, as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

3.0 BUSINESS ITEMS

3.1 CEO Report to Islanders

Ms. Mel Fraser, CEO, thanked everyone for taking the time to attend this public meeting. The highlights were as follows: -

- Mel has completed her first year as CEO, and she feels it has been incredible. She feels we are in a much better position and thanks staff for all their efforts, the collaboration and guidance from Unions, Management, foundations and communities. It has been a learning experience, and she has tried her best to listen and take advice on board
- She feels there is something very special about serving a small island where communities are an integral part of the services provided, she feels everything is now aligned and is starting to move forward
- More Physicians have been hired this year than ever before, and more patients have been assigned Primary Care physicians, bring the registry down. There is still work to do
- New Patient Medical Homes (PMHs) will be opening soon and affiliating a further 10,000 patients with Primary Care providers
- Staffing has increased at PCH, ensuring a more sustainable service. Health PEI is aligning with needs and listening to staff at the front line. The PCU will be returning to ICU status
- Rural stabilized health care system is the ultimate goal
- Congratulations to Heather Matheson & Derek Bondt from PCHF for securing the additional funding to build an accommodation/ daycare facility onsite at PCH
- She is looking forward to the opening of the Faculty of Medicine and the promotion of Health PEI as a learning system is paramount
- Mel shared the positive results from Phase 1 of the Transformation Office and explained the expectations as we move to Phase 2. Data driven resources are key

Bruce MacDougall asked when the ICU is expected to be re-opened. Mel feels that everything needs to be in place before this happening, we need to ensure staff levels and staff training needs to be in place. Recruitment is still in progress. We are hoping for the Summer; the ED capacity is also a focus. Norma McColman asked if there was a hard date, Mel responded that once we have the staff in position and augmented training. She does not want to say a hard line, we are building capacity and

staff confidence levels, the benchmark will be met, they are currently behaving as an ICU, just not as an official capacity. Norma encouraged the level of transparency that has been employed. Bruce raised his concern over his local Family Physician, Dr. Ron Nicholson, who retired recently. He tried Maple once and was not satisfied. Mel feels that recruitment is key, Nurse practitioners may be key. We are working hard on the reducing the Registry, and creating an environment where people want to work.

Dan Kutcher spoke about the Town Hall held 18 months ago. He would like to applaud the Board on recruiting Mel as CEO and supporting her in the changes she has made so far. This gives the Municipality the opportunity to return to the work they do, instead of defending healthcare in the region. Mel feels that results are slow, but we are all heading in the right direction, and this has been aided by the collaboration, understanding and communication with the stakeholders local to PCH.

The Chair thanked Ms. Fraser for the report, and for her and her Team's hard work this first year.

MOTION: It was moved by Colleen Parker and seconded by Mona O'Shea to approve the CEO Report to Islanders.

MOTION CARRIED

3.2 Board Chair Report

The Chair delivered her report, the highlights were

- The Chair welcomed everyone in attendance, each time we come to Summerside, we get more public in attendance.
- Strategic Planning 2025-2028 is underway, and we have been busy seeking input from across the Island
- The UPEI Faculty of Medicine will be welcoming their first students to the building, in coordination with Memorial University, NFL. This historic liaison is very exciting for the Island
- In December 2024 the CEO and Chair toured the Alberton & O'Leary healthcare centres. The Chair was impressed by the level of dedication from all staff. The new facilities she feels are phenomenal.

MOTION: It was moved by the Chair to accept her report, seconded by Ryan Fahey.

MOTION CARRIED

4.0 RESOLUTIONS/ MOTIONS

4.1 Resolutions and Motions from the Public & in-camera sessions:

1. *It was moved by Ryan Fahey and seconded by Colleen Parker to approve March 27, 2025, agenda*

2. *It was moved by Matt Vaughan and seconded by Peter MacDonald to approve the minutes from December 13, 2024, as circulated.*
3. *It was moved by Colleen Parker and seconded by Mona O'Shea to approve the CEO Report to Islanders.*
4. *It was moved by the Chair to accept her report, seconded by Ryan Fahey.*
5. *Colleen Parker moved to adjourn at 11:35 am.*
6. *It was moved by Peter MacDonald and seconded by Dr. Richard Wedge to take the meeting in-camera in accordance with the Health Services Act 7.1 (3).*
7. *It was moved by Ryan Fahey and seconded by Dr. Richard Wedge to approve March 27, 2025; agenda as presented.*
8. *It was moved by Colleen Parker and seconded by Jennifer Evans that the minutes of December 13, 2024, be approved as presented.*
9. *It was moved by Matt Vaughan and seconded by Ryan Fahey to accept draft ELT Structure as presented.*
10. *It was moved by Jennifer Evans and seconded by Peter MacDonald to accept the OE 2.2 Treatment of Employees, Other Professionals and Volunteers as presented.*
11. *It was moved by Jennifer Evans and seconded by Colleen Parker to accept the OE 2.3 Compensation & Benefits as presented.*
12. *It was moved by Jennifer Evans and seconded by Mona O'Shea to approve the HR Report.*
13. *Matt Vaughan moved to approve OE 2.4 Financial Condition & Activities Q3, seconded by Peter MacDonald*
14. *Matt Vaughan moved to approve the 2.5 Financial & Operational/ Capital Planning, seconded by Peter MacDonald.*
15. *Matt Vaughan moved to approve the OE 2.6 Asset Protection, seconded by Peter MacDonald.*
16. *Matt Vaughan moved to approve the updated Terms of Reference, seconded by Ouma Cuniah.*
17. *Peter MacDonald moved to appoint Ouma as Board Secretary, seconded by Colleen Parker.*
18. *Matt Vaughan moved to approve the ARP Committee Report, seconded by Ouma Cuniah.*
19. *Dr. Montelpare moved to approve OE 2.10 Program Delivery as presented seconded by Colleen Parker.*
20. *It was moved by Dr Montelpare and seconded by Ryan Fahey to approve the Quality & Safety Report.*
21. *It was moved by Colleen Parker and seconded by Ryan Fahey to approve the CHEC Report as submitted.*
22. *Dr. Richard Wedge moved to accept the CEO Risk Report, seconded by Colleen Parker.*
23. *Colleen Parker moved to adjourn at 4:05pm, meeting adjourned.*

All Motions were carried

5.0 MINISTERIAL DIRECTIVES

No Ministerial directives received.

6.0 QUESTION PERIOD

6.1 Local Stakeholder Questions

Jenny Knox asked during the capacity issues that began in January , some physicians stopped sharing messages from Health PEI, citing it as unhelpful to patients . What was the reasoning behind the messaging to Islanders and what has been learned that will be carried forward? Mel explained that we have been in Level 4 Over-Capacity for the past 13 weeks, therefore the hospital has ranged between 100 – 120% of its beds. This gridlock triggers an emergency response, involving meeting daily to ensure every islander who needs a bed has one. No one wants to have long waiting times. The communication that was sent to explain the protocols put in place by the emergency response. More beds have been opened in the past 13 weeks than ever before. ALC patients are being moved on from the hospitals and asking the public to seek alternatives such as virtual care, to create additional bed availability and lessen the burden on the Emergency Departments. Moving forward, we are continuing to campaign for Islanders to seek healthcare options available to them, and heed preventative health. We now have a dedicated Team for Patient Flow to be more proactive year-round.

The Chair brought attention to the Throne Speech – securing our Healthcare – was a part of it, she encourages the attendees to read it. Mel shared a new initiative that is being used in other jurisdictions and was part of the Throne Speech, that of the ‘Practice Ready Assessment program.’ The College of Physicians & Surgeons will create a program to train and qualify internationally trained graduates within 14 weeks from credential to practice.

PEI has more Nurse Practitioners per capita than any other province in Canada.

Jenny asked when a community health facility is considered a PMH. The PMHs relate to needs of the local community. As regards staffing, generally each PMH has a Family Physician, an RN, an LPN and office assistant at the core. Taking account of the local community, Health PEI align allied health care providers as appropriate. They are not all the same, each PMH reflects the local needs and network resources/ social supports

Marilyn Ramsey is concerned over the high numbers of ALC patients. Mel agreed that these numbers need to come down, the Patient Flow Team are mandated to reduce these levels.

Dan asked when the downtown Summerside PMH will be open, this will be soon.

The Chair thanked the guests for their time and attendance.

ADJOURNMENT of the Public Meeting

Colleen Parker moved to adjourn at 11:35 am.

The next board meeting will be held at the Kings County Memorial Hospital June 26, 2025.

<i>Date Approved:</i>	<i>Chair Signature:</i>
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June 26 / 25	P. Weale A/chair
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