

Holland Bloorview Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 21, 2025
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
150 Holland Bloorview, Toronto ON
5th Floor Executive Boardroom – Room: 5E100

Attendance

Present: Irene Andress; Alycia Calvert, Treasurer; Michelle Caturay; Jonathan Davey; Megh Gupta; Julia Hanigsberg; Heather Watt, Helen Hayward, Secretary and Interim Vice-Chair; Alysha Ladha; Jean Lam; Rhonda McEwen; Golda Milo-Manson; Catherine Roche, Chair; Suzan Schneeweiss; Paul Spafford; Michael Wasserman

Sr. Management: Evdokia Anagnostou; Enza Dininio; Sandra Hawken, Joanne Maxwell; Tracey Millar, Stewart Wong

Regrets: Sarah Kramer; Ivona Novak

1.0 Call to order

Chair's remarks

The Chair C. Roche, called the meeting of the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Board of Directors to order at 5:30pm. She welcomed everyone to the meeting, including virtual attendees and thanked the coordinators for organizing today's meeting.

The Chair asked members who had not yet attended a Family Advisory Committee meeting for the current Governance year to hold September 25th as a tentative date.

A new Ministry of Health governance directive effective January 1, 2025, requires all board members to complete a volunteer sector check (VSC) upon their start date and every three years later. The Chair advised that further information and next steps will be provided in the Directors' Annual Information package that will be circulated by the Governance Lead in August.

The Chair extended congratulations to Alysha Ladha on her recent appointment as Medical Director, Inpatient Units effective September 2025.

E. Anagnostou, Vice President, Research and Director, Bloorview Research Institute (BRI) supported the land acknowledgement with a reflection on the challenges and opportunities related to interpretation and commitment to reconciliation with respect to research in pediatric disability.

1.1 Approval of agenda

The Chair then requested approval of the agenda.

MOTION: It was MOVED by H. Hayward, and seconded by J. Lam, that the Board of Directors approve the agenda as pre-circulated.

Hayward/Lam

CARRIED

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

The Chair asked whether anyone wished to declare a conflict of interest on any of the items slated for discussion at this Board meeting, and there were none.

1.3 Board Education

The Chair invited Melissa Prokopy, Vice President, Policy and Advocacy, Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) to introduce her colleagues Emitis Moshirzadeh, Network and Analytics Advisor in Strategic Policy and Hospital-Enabled Research and Kumarie Perera, Manager, Corporate Communications & Brand Strategy.

For the benefit of new board members, M. Prokopy provided an overview of the relationship between the Ministry of Health, Ontario Health and the OHA.

The presentation on leadership and change in Ontario's Healthcare System focused on reviewing and defining healthcare activities with respect to the current political environment – landscape and government priorities; where we are headed; how we define our role and the path forward in achieving our goal.

As we continue to push for further government funding, members were reminded that the status quo is no longer the norm, and hospitals will need to think of how to double down on the promotion of research and innovation to find new ways of doing things.

2.0 Discussion Agenda

2.1 Caring Safely Update

2.1.1 Client Story

J. Maxwell introduced M. Sandles, Family Leader and Co-Chair, Family Advisory Committee and informed members that the Client Story is an annual event that allows a family leader to share a story of their experience with Holland Bloorview.

M. Sandles shared a client story on the benefits of Advocating for Safety with clients and families as partners.

Her presentation exhibited her personal experience as a client of Holland Bloorview and demonstrated the importance and value of being recognized as a contributing partner in the process.

Holland Bloorview's error prevention training for families program was applauded as a significant tool in supporting families to better deal with overwhelming diagnosis, navigating new and unfamiliar territory, information overload from various sources, dealing with grief and acceptance, communicating with friends and family and eventually finding a supportive community that allowed her to speak up as a contributing partner.

The takeaway from this presentation was the significance of empowering families to feel that they are partners in their child's healthcare team and the advantage of parents teaching kids to advocate for themselves.

2.1.2 Medical Advisory Committee Report

G. Milo-Manson provided the Medical Advisory Committee report for February 2025 and confirmed that this report has been approved by the Quality Committee. From the medication incidents, there were no incidents with harm. Infections were down compared to the previous year.

G. Milo-Manson highlighted a particular case to illustrate the complexity families and clinicians may face in addressing serious behavioural challenges exhibited by some clients that may make it difficult to safely access in person care.

2.2 Accreditation Governance Committee Action Plan

In preparation for the hospital's October 2025 accreditation, the Board of Directors completed the Governing Body Assessment (GBA) survey as required by Accreditation Canada. Based on feedback received from this survey, the Accreditation Governance Committee Action Plan was developed to provide an overview of the planned actions required to meet the Governance standards as set out by the Health Standards Organization (HSO).

H. Hayward drew attention to the Accreditation Governance Action Plan presented for the Board's approval. The plan provided a status update on work that has been done and the items that Management has addressed in preparation for October's accreditation.

MOTION: It was MOVED by H. Hayward, and seconded by P. Spafford, that the Board of Directors of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital approve the 2025 Accreditation Governance Committee Action Plan, as presented.

Hayward/Spafford

CARRIED

2.3 Q3/Q4 Quarterly Performance Report

J. Maxwell presented and provided an overview of the Q3/Q4 Quarterly Performance Report related to the indicators on the Balanced Scorecard which was approved at the May Quality Committee meeting.

MOTION: It was MOVED by M. Wasserman, and seconded by H. Watt, that the Board of Directors of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital approve the Q3/Q4 Quarterly Performance Report, as presented.

Wasserman/Watt

CARRIED

2.4 Director Recruitment

H. Hayward provided an update on the interview process for new directors. Two candidates were interviewed by the J. Hanigsberg, President and CEO and C. Roche, Board Chair. Based on experience, expertise, competence and suitability, Sonya Fraser was put forward as the recommended candidate.

MOTION: It was MOVED by H. Hayward, and seconded by A. Calvert, that the Board of Directors of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital approve the Governance Committee's recommendation to appoint Sonya Fraser as a member of the Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital at the June 11, 2025, Annual General Meeting.

Hayward/Calvert

CARRIED

2.5 Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility and Anti-Racism Update

J. Maxwell, VP, Experience Transformation & Social Accountability collaborated with her colleague L. Maxwell, manager, Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility and Anti-Racism (IDEAA) to provide an update on IDEAA's 18-month plan and Holland Bloorview's commitments to Truth and Reconciliation.

The IDEAA team focused on 2024-25 accomplishments, on-going activities and opportunities and our look forward for 2025-26. Truth and Reconciliation structures have been created as a separate component for specific focus guided by the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) Indigenous Health Action Network. L. Thomas emphasized the significance of the need for this work to be continuous.

In response to the Board's question on what additional support can be impactful, J. Maxwell suggested that making connections with other organizations who have already done this work well could be helpful.

2.6 Strategic Plan Progress

J. Hanigsberg drew attention to the information provided in the briefing note around learnings, risk and opportunities and how the first 18 months of the strategy work revolved around infrastructure and building new foundational work.

2.7 Environmental Sustainability

S. Wong provided an update on Environmental Sustainability. The update looked at tangible manifestations of actions to our planet and sustainability activities that can be implemented to reduce the impact of our actions by combining our efforts.

For Earth Day activities, staff were encouraged to fill more water bottles and use reusable plates available in the cafeteria. Environmental sustainability activities implemented by Holland Bloorview included reducing our air vac usage, saving water by transitioning to waterless urinals; replacing paper towel dispensers with motion detected dispensers and replacing bulbs to LED lightings. Staff volunteered to do a light-garbage pick-up on the external areas of the hospital for a collection of 14kilograms.

The hospital's efforts are estimated to save approximately 40,000 liters of water, a 30% savings of paper towel usage

Holland Bloorview's next steps

- Continue drive towards a reduction in energy consumption and demand management goals:
 - 20 per cent reduction in electricity consumption
 - 8 per cent reduction in natural gas consumption
 - 14 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions
- Environmental sustainability report
- Waste bin and landfill diversion initiative

2.8 President and CEO Report

J. Hanigsberg provided an overview of the current financial landscape and the importance of pediatric service in healthcare drawing attention to the challenge of receiving a budget late in the fiscal year. The budget did not include any base funding for the Extensive Need Service (ENS) except for an additional one time 1-year funding extension. The President and CEO maintained that the hospital continues to remain in a good financial position overall

Dame Rachel de Souza, United Kingdom Children's Commissioner for England visited Holland Bloorview as her first stop on a North American tour. This provided a welcome opportunity to showcase work that we do. Among the positive feedback received, the comment that resonated the most was, 'I have never been to a hospital before where I felt joy'.

3.0 Consent Agenda

The Chair noted the following items under the Consent Agenda requiring Board approval.

3.1 Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting – March 26, 2025

3.2 Appointment of Credentialed Professional Staff

3.3 Joint Hospital/Foundation Annual General Meeting Timing 2025

3.4 Hospital Nominees to Foundation Board of Directors

3.5 Foundation Nominees to Hospital Board of Directors

3.6 Full Slate of Directors

3.7 Forced Labour Report

3.8 Quality Committee Terms of Reference

3.9 Governance Policies

1. Accountability for Use of Funds Directed to BRI received from the HBKRH Foundation
2. Advocacy Initiatives
3. Appointment of Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation Representative
4. Board and Board Committee Relationship Attestation and Disclosure
5. Directors and Community Representatives Commitment to Confidentiality
6. Truth and Reconciliation, Inclusion Diversity Equity Accessibility and Anti-Racism
7. President and CEO Succession Plan

MOTION: It was MOVED by A. Calvert and seconded by J. Davey that the Board of Directors approve the Consent Agenda.

Calvert/Davey

CARRIED

4.0 Adjournment

There being no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Catherine Roche
Chair, Board of Directors
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