

## **Board**

- The Board received an education session from the organization's Chief Privacy Officer regarding privacy legislation and responsibilities under the Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA), the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), and the Quality of Care Information Protection Act (QCIPA). The session reviewed safeguards in place to protect patient information and the role of the Board in overseeing privacy risk management. Five minor privacy breaches occurred in 2025, all of which were addressed immediately with corrective actions implemented.
- The Board received updates from the Governance Committee including review of the Board Skills Matrix, Director attendance tracking and ethics activities. The Committee will also review recent Ontario Hospital Association governance guidance at its next meeting.
- The Board received updates from the Quality, Risk and Safety Committee including the Emergency Department dashboard, quarterly Quality Improvement Plan reporting, patient feedback summaries, and updates to the Patient Safety and Accessibility Plans.
- Through the Resources and Audit Committee, the Board reviewed quarterly financial and human resources reporting including updated financial projections submitted to the Ministry of Health as part of the Hospital Sector Stabilization Plan.
- An opportunity for Indigenous Awareness training, in collaboration with Ottawa Valley Ontario Health Team (OVHOT), was shared with the Board. The organization is coordinating three dates in April, one specifically for the Board, to enhance knowledge on indigenous health needs, equity, and local history and health needs.
- The Board received an annual update on activities and progress on the organization's multi-year Equity, Diversity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism (EDI-AR) Plan and Indigenous Health Action Plan. Both plans cover the years 2024-2027 and identify actions across the organization to improve health equity and access to care for everyone at DRDH.
- The Board approved the refreshed 2026-2028 Communication Plan, outlining key activities and strategies the organization will use to engage and inform stakeholders.
- The Board also received and approved both the 2026-2028 Accessibility Plan and 2026-2028 Patient Safety Plan, following endorsement from the Patient and Family Advisory Council and the Quality, Risk and Safety Committee.

## **Capital Development:**

- The Board received a report on the Long-Term Care Development Project:
- Construction is progressing on track, with interior framing and window installation now underway. Enbridge Gas has indicated that upgrades to reinforce the main gas line serving the site are expected to be completed in Spring 2026, though a specific timeline has not yet been confirmed.
- Finalization of the philosophy of care for the new long-term care home has occurred with the care team, partners, and Residents' Council representative, identifying the need for a dedicated memory care neighbourhood.
- Planning for operational readiness and occupancy has begun with an interdisciplinary internal team including leadership and subject matter experts. The first major milestone for the operationalization team will be development of the Long-Term Care Occupancy Plan, required for submission to the Ministry of Long-Term Care by July 31, 2026.

## **DRDH Foundation Updates**

- The Foundation's Board of Directors representative, Jeremy Tyrell, provided an update from the DRDH Foundation regarding the *Breakfast and Bonspiel* fundraising event on March 7, 2026. Proceeds will support the Foundation's mini-campaign "*Get On Board: Connecting Community.*"

## **DRDH Auxiliary Updates**

- The Board received a written report from the DRDH Auxiliary President, Eileen Burke, noting that the Auxiliary Annual Meeting has been scheduled for May 7, 2026 with invitation extended to DRDH's CEO and CFO to provide a report on the long-term care and hospice developments along with the update on the Emergency Department Modernization Project. It was stated that a Silent Auction will be held at the Annual Meeting with proceeds to go to Four Season Lodge recreation program. The report also stated that Whistle Stop operations and sales hold strong.

## **Health Campus Updates**

### Diagnostic Imaging

- Ultrasound services have resumed with the return of one of the full-time sonographers from a leave of absence. Ultrasound capacity will continue to increase in the coming weeks, as the other full-time sonographer also returns from leave.

### Emergency Department

- Phase One of the Emergency Department Modernization Project began in early February. This phase includes redesign of the registration area to improve patient privacy, expansion of the waiting room, and replacement of flooring throughout the waiting and hallway areas.
- Temporary adjustments to patient flow, signage, and location of registration have been developed with the Emergency Department Team to maintain operations during construction.

### Emergency Preparedness

- DRDH hosted Incident Management System 200 in-person training onsite in February, provided by Emergency Management Ontario. Potential Incident Management Team members and back-ups from across DRDH participated alongside partners including long-term care homes across Renfrew County and municipal representative from Petawawa.

### Four Seasons Lodge (FSL)

- In-service education was hosted for the Four Seasons Lodge team with Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) focused on Personality Disorders in long-term care. This session was open for anyone who interacts with residents in FSL, including nurses, PSWs, housekeeping, laundry, dietary, recreation, and support services. Topics included understanding personality disorders in the long-term care setting, how personality traits can influence communication and care, common myths and misconceptions, person-centred approaches, practical strategies for responding to distress, as well as behaviours and supports for staff well-being and teamwork.

### Human Resources

- Training continues in preparation for the March go-live of the new scheduling system, with sessions underway for managers, supervisors and frontline staff.

### Infection Prevention and Control

- Following the norovirus (gastroenteric) outbreak on the Medical Inpatient Unit and then later the Four Seasons Lodge in early January, a formal debrief occurred. Opportunities for improvement related to specimen collection and testing protocols were identified, with additional education specific to enteric illness planned in collaboration with regional Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) partners. Based on resident feedback, a review of visiting

policies have been updated to ensure that clergy visits are maintained throughout outbreaks on FSL.

#### Medical Affairs & Recruitment

- DRDH hosted another Rural Medicine Program lunch and learn with medical learners from across the County, highlighting opportunities for physicians to practice in the community. The organization continues to host medical learners including residents from Queen's University and an international medical student.

#### Organizational & Workforce Development

- Following a call for Expression of Interests from current team members to participate in the Long-Term Care Management Training program, two team members (one RPN and one RPN currently completing an RPN-to-RN bridging program) have been selected for this round of the program. A further opportunity is planned for one additional team member in the October 2026 cohort.
- Results from the fall workforce engagement survey were shared, celebrating the improvements since the last survey in 2023 and the positive opportunities and culture of DRDH.
- The annual Employee Recognition Event was hosted in late February, celebrating team members who have reached a milestone in service, as well as awarding the annual peer nomination award.

#### Regional Partners

- The Chief Nursing Executive attended a celebration at Algonquin College's Pembroke Campus celebrating 50 years of nursing education. A special panel discussion, reception and tour of nursing training facilities, including spaces that will support the new BScN (Honours) program, was included.
- The Amendment to the Master Service Agreement for the Atlas Alliance has been complete to welcome new partners into the Alliance, as of February 1, 2026, supporting new arrangements with partners joining the shared instance of Epic.
- The agreement between Deep River Police Services and DRDH related to transfer of mental health patients was renewed. The annual review resulted in minor points of clarity to the agreement, and a productive discussion on safety goals for both patients, police, and team members in the Emergency Department.

#### Quality

- The organization is currently undertaking its annual review of the Risk Assessment Checklist progress through the insurance provider, HIROC. Results will be uploaded to the HIROC portal to support the ongoing discounted insurance rates, as well as planning for mitigation actions in 2026-2027. The full report will be presented, along with progress in 2025-2026 and recommendations for top risks for 2026-2027 to the next Quality, Risk and Safety Committee.