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CATEGORY: Part V-A – Ensure Board Effectiveness

SUBJECT: **PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE AND BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Board of Directors (Board) governs Health Sciences North (HSN) through the direction and supervision of the business and affairs of the Corporation in accordance with its articles of incorporation, By-Laws, purpose, commitments and values, governance policies, and all relevant legislation.

- A. The Board adheres to a model of good governance through which it provides strategic leadership and direction to the Hospital by establishing policies, making governance decisions and monitoring performance related to the key dimensions of the Hospital's commitments and mandate, as well as its own effectiveness.
- B. The Board acts at all times in the best interests of the Hospital, having regard for its accountabilities to its patients, families and the community served, the Ministry of Health (Ministry), Ontario Health (North), its staff and volunteers, and health system partners. The Board understands the best interests of the Hospital to include the organization's place within the health system and the benefit to patients and the community of an improved continuum of care arising from collaboration and integration with other health service providers.
- C. The Board maintains a culture based on the values as approved by the Board and strives for a consensual approach to decision-making, based on evidence and best practice, while respecting and valuing dissenting views.
- D. The Board maintains at all times a clear distinction between the governance and operation of the Hospital, while recognizing the interdependencies between them.
- E. When considering conflicting issues, the Board acts at all times in the best interests of the Corporation, having regard for its accountabilities to its patients, families and the communities served, Ontario Health (North), the Ministry, its staff and volunteers, health system partners and members of the Corporation.
- F. The Board is accountable to:
 - i. its patients, families and community for:
 - the quality of the culturally competent care and safety of patients; patient- and family-centred care and best practices;
 - engaging the community when developing plans and setting priorities for the delivery of hospital-based health care;

- integrated risk management (ex. regulatory compliance, financial, contractual, legal, reputational, quality, resources, etc.)
 - operating in a fiscally sustainable manner within its resource envelope and utilizing its resources efficiently and effectively across the spectrum of care to fulfill the Hospital's commitments and mandate;
 - transparent processes, advocacy and expectation management;
 - the appropriate use of community and donor contributions and resources;
- ii. Ontario Health (North) for:
- building relationships and collaborating with Ontario Health (North), other health service providers and the community to identify opportunities to integrate the services of the local health system for the purpose of providing appropriate, coordinated, effective and efficient services;
 - participation in Ontario Health led initiatives
 - ensuring that the Hospital operates in a manner that is consistent with provincial policies, Ontario Health (North) Services Plan and its Hospital Services Accountability Agreement (HSAA) with Ontario Health (North);
 - achieving the goals, objectives and performance targets as negotiated in the HSAA and measuring the Hospital's performance against accepted standards and best practices in comparable organizations;
 - providing an evidence-based business plan in support of requests for resources that are required to fulfill the Hospital's commitments and mandate; and
 - apprising Ontario Health (North) and the community of Board policies and decisions which are required to operate within its HSAA;
- iii. the Ministry for:
- compliance with applicable legislation, government regulations, policies and directions and implementation of Ministry-approved capital projects;
- iv. staff and volunteers for:
- establishing and communicating expectations and providing a safe work environment;
- v. health system partners for:
- engagement, cooperation and collaboration; and to
- vi. members of the Corporation for:
- complying with the By-Laws and applicable legislation as it governs the Corporation;
 - the achievement of its purpose and commitments in a manner consistent with its values and accountabilities.

- G. Consistent with the Board's commitment to good governance practices and ensuring transparency, the Board will make available to the public:
- i. Any information required to be disclosed under the *Broader Public Sector Accountability Act* and the *Excellent Care for All Act*;
 - ii. Key operational information which may include, but is not limited to, the information posted on the external website;
 - iii. Information related to Board processes including, but not limited to:
 - the statement of Board and Director roles, responsibilities and accountabilities;
 - a list of the members of the Board of Directors and Board committees and their attendance records;
 - processes for identifying new Board members;
 - policies governing the Board and Board Standing Committees;
 - the roles and responsibilities of the Board Chair;
 - the process to assess the Board's performance;
 - the approach to the orientation and education of Board members;
 - practices of public disclosure;
 - a report on the Hospital performance as part of the Hospital annual report.

References and Related Documents

OHA Guide to Good Governance
Accreditation Canada

Policy Review Log

Date	Action
July 8, 2003	Issued
January 27, 2026	Revised