



MINUTES

Board of Directors Meeting

Date/Time: August 11, 2021, 2:00-3:30 - via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Scott Semple Chair, Jennifer Foster, Emily Leslie, Dr. David Messenger, Brian Devlin, Pytor Hodgson  
Marie-Line Jobin, Betty Jo Dean, Carol Ravnaas

Regrets: Dr. Kim Morrison

Guests: Bruce Swan

Item	Topic	MRP
1.	<b>Welcome and Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b>  S. Semple welcomed Board members to the meeting and indicated that a resignation from the AMHS Board of Directors was received from I. Kerr. No conflicts of interest were declared.	Scott Semple
2.	<b>Approval of Agenda</b>  <b>Moved by B. Devlin, seconded by M. Jobin</b> <b>Motion: That the agenda be approved.</b> <b>Carried</b>	Scott Semple
3.	<b>Consent Agenda:</b> a) Board Meeting Minutes of June 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2021 b) Joint Executive Leadership Report c) Joint Executive Directors Organizational Plan and Quality Improvement Report Q1  <b>Moved by J. Foster, seconded by B. Devlin</b> <b>MOTION: That the Consent Agenda items of August 11, 2021, be approved.</b> <b>Carried</b>	Scott Semple
4.	<b>Approval of In-Camera Minutes of July 8, 2021</b>  <b>Moved by B. Devlin, seconded by Dr. Messenger</b> <b>MOTION: That the in-camera minutes of July 8, 2021, Board meeting be approved.</b> <b>Carried</b>	Scott Semple
5.	<b>Generative Discussion: Board Role for Advocacy</b>  Bruce Swan facilitated the generative discussion. Board members can advocate for AMHS by leveraging their personal influence and networks. The key topics for discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does advocacy look like?</li> <li>• Identify Key issues Facing AMHS</li> <li>• Identify Key Stakeholders Who Share a Similar Position</li> </ul>	All

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Plan going forward</b></li> </ul> <p>A document entitled: “The Power of Board Advocacy” was pre-circulated to stimulate conversation on how the Board can advocate for AMHS.</p> <p>Suggestions made regarding advocacy for AMHS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Must be cognizant of Board member voices and who members represent.</li> <li>○ Always be true to what we believe but also keep in mind provincial priorities.</li> <li>○ Board Chair should be speaking on behalf of the AMHS Board in coordination with Board members and JEL.</li> <li>○ Be clear on messages.</li> <li>○ As a new Board, need to have discussions on what advocacy looks like, how to align with each other, and have a clear strategy, process and structure to know what to advocate for clients and management.</li> <li>○ Need to know when it is appropriate for the Board Chair to formally advocate and when members can informally advocate such as with members of other boards who have similar issues.</li> <li>○ Important to have key messaging for Board members.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion document providing environmental, financial, and organizational factors was provided to Board members. Key issues facing AMHS were listed which could be advocacy topics going forward. A list of stakeholder partners was also provided for each key issue.</p> <p>Discussion ensued regarding the top items to advocate for and suggestions made were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Advocating for the success of the OHT and integration of services across the sector.</li> <li>○ Addiction, Mental Health, and Housing are all interrelated, and working with one issue can help to support each of the others.</li> <li>○ OHT is important for the Board to advocate for but agencies have to prove a willingness to work together.</li> <li>○ Advocate and have a voice with other agencies to create policy change regarding opioid and overdose supports. Opioid use and overdose are a crisis and an important issue to advocate for. AMHS is working with KHSC and other partners and have submitted a recommendation for providing a detox solution.</li> <li>○ Create partnerships with agencies with similar concerns to provide a stronger advocacy team for important issues. The diversity of the AMHS Board with cross-representation from other boards creates a unique opportunity to have a voice in advocacy with shared priorities which will create an impact.</li> <li>○ The Board has to identify what the community expects AMHS to do primarily and if not done by AMHS it wouldn't get done.</li> <li>○ Housing ties closely with AMHS' mission as it is the basics of human needs.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Board can provide autonomy to senior leaders and staff to carry advocacy forward for the clients we serve. Staff can advocate but people will listen to Board members rather than staff to institute policy change. Multiprong approach, JEL, staff, board members discuss issues with partners when the opportunity arrives.</li> <li>○ Challenge for Board members is not being aware of significant policy issues. Board needs to be briefed by JEL at Board meetings on what are significant policy issues at the local/provincial level that impacts the operation of AMHS or the clients it serves within the mission of AMHS.</li> <li>○ Need to be aware of needs in the community that policy is not addressing.</li> <li>○ Awareness of what is happening in other counties/municipalities and share success stories.</li> </ul> <p>After discussion, the Board identified three top areas for advocacy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ontario Health Teams</li> <li>2. Opioid and Overdose</li> <li>3. Housing</li> </ol> <p>Extra steps to move an advocacy agenda forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Perform an environmental scan on issues in the community and resources available. Obtain Community Safety and Wellbeing plan from municipalities and invite a speaker from each to explain priorities and how the plan was developed.</li> <li>○ Educating the public on AMHS' mission and role.</li> <li>○ Develop a list of people to invite to the AGM and have Board members attend other agency AGM's.</li> <li>○ Communicate with other agencies to assess where they are at and where AMHS is at using one of the areas for advocacy as a discussion point.</li> <li>○ Add advocacy as a standing agenda item.</li> <li>○ Need to understand as a Board what are the priorities, where is it most important to make a difference and how to provide advocacy.</li> <li>○ Explore and be clear about the two types of advocacy - formal such as providing letters of support to partners and informal such as having conversations with others regarding common interests.</li> </ul> <p>Advocacy will be added to the Agenda of the November 2021 Board Meeting.</p>	
6.	<p><b>AGM Planning</b></p> <p>A Briefing Note was provided with a proposed agenda for the virtual AGM to be held on September 22, 2021</p>	All

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	<p>Suggestions for a panel speaker were on the topic of Housing.</p> <p>It would be important to develop a list of other agencies to invite to the AGM.</p> <p><b>Moved by E. Leslie, seconded by M. Jobin</b></p> <p><b>MOTION: That the proposed agenda for the September 22, 2021, AGM be approved.</b></p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>	
7.	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><b>On a motion by J. Foster, seconded by E. Leslie, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30</b></p>	Scott Semple
8.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>September 22, 2021 – AGM</b></p>	

Board Portal: <https://board.amhs-kfla.ca/wp-login.php>

Board email: [board@amhs-kfla.ca](mailto:board@amhs-kfla.ca)

Chair: Scott Semple

Vice-Chair: Jennifer Foster

Secretary: Emily Leslie

Treasurer: Dr. David Messenger