



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

May 31, 2010

### **Summary - Board of Directors Meeting – May 26, 2010**

#### **Chesley, Durham, Kincardine and Walkerton**

Board members were thankful to have been afforded the opportunity for the full Board to meet with the Friends of the Kincardine Hospital group to hear first hand a summary of the report on Governance that was commissioned by the Friends in March of this year. Barb Fischer provided an overview of areas where it was felt that opportunities for improvement exist. The Board has committed to discussing the Report and presentation further, and responding to the group as to what further considerations will be given to addressing the recommendations. Commitment to a timely response was expressed.

Members received a briefing on new proposed legislation that is currently before the Provincial Government, the *Excellent Care for All Act*. The Act includes several components designed to help guide the health system towards greater accountability, transparency and assurance of quality and safety. Components include a board-led quality committee, patient relations process, restructured provincial health quality council, patient and employee surveying, annual quality improvement plans, critical incident reporting and performance-based compensation linked with improvement plans. Accompanying regulations are not yet available. It was noted that the Bill contains provision, through regulation, to include any organizations receiving public funding. As well, related proposed amendments to *Regulation 965* of the *Public Hospitals Act* set out new requirements for governance structure that moves towards smaller, skills-based boards, and superseding local hospital By-laws.

Word has been received that the South West LHIN has endorsed the business case for the redevelopment of the Kincardine site. Their support has been indicated for Phase One of a staged approach to redeveloping the site - - Phase One includes the Emergency department and Ambulatory Care areas. The LHIN's recommendation has been forwarded on to the Capital and Planning branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, which is the final step in the business case approval process required to allow the project to proceed to design. The Hospital sees this support as a very positive step and is hopeful that approval from the Ministry will not be far behind.

Representatives of the Hospital were on hand for a recent announcement that funding will be forthcoming for expansion of the medical clinic building in Durham. The application for provincial infrastructure grant funds was put forth by Durham and Community Health Care Foundation earlier this year. The expansion will house physicians currently working in temporary space as well as members of the Brockton and Area Family Health Team. Further opportunity for discussion between the Hospital and Foundation regarding planning for the expansion has been scheduled.

South Bruce Grey Health Centre's volunteer program is becoming more firmly established. With several new volunteers on board, the program has expanded to provide support in the

Emergency department at the Durham site. The Health Centre hosted 15 co-op students this past year and has realized opportunity to assist recently unemployed individuals to gain valuable workplace skills. Cooperation with community has been a crucial part of the program's success.

The Health Centre is pleased to have acquired the services of an obstetrical/gynecological surgeon who has committed to provide regular clinics at the Walkerton site. The service will enhance women's health care in the area. The first clinic is scheduled to occur by the end of May.

Walkerton will again host MedQuest students for one week in July. The program, aimed at providing secondary school students with front line experience in rural medicine, will include an emergency measures exercise around chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) involving municipality and county. The students will also have opportunity to closely follow local physicians in their practice.

The point of care testing initiative will be expanding to include urinalysis at the end of May. The implementation of point of care testing has improved the turnaround of results availability.

As an interim measure, following several attempts to recruit a pharmacist, pharmacist services are being contracted with Northwest Tele-pharmacist.

A very dedicated clinical staff have been busy in 2009/10 in the area of education and skills upgrade. The Health Centre now boasts four in-house CPR instructors who have been a great addition to the training team. Online shared learning programs have expanded opportunities to increase expertise with less need for travel.

The Health Centre ended the 2009/10 fiscal year with a surplus of \$125,000 before funds reserved for capital (\$344,396 including funds reserved for capital). The audited financial statements revealed no significant changes to the Hospital's statements.

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**For More Information, contact:**  
Paul Davies, President and CEO  
South Bruce Grey Health Centre  
(519) 370-2417