

## **Minutes of the Hunter New England Local Health District Board**

**One hundred and twenty seventh meeting**

**15 February 2023**

**Venue: meeting room 2, District Headquarters Building**

**Present**

Dr Martin Cohen (Chair), Mr Kevin Dupè, Dr Patrick Farrell, Mr Robert Hawes, Ms Meagan Hudson, Ms Anita Kauffmann, Dr Kirsten Molloy, Ms Elizabeth Nicol, Prof Peter O'Mara, Dr Stephen Pryde, Ms Lyn Raines, Prof Penelope Paliadelis (MS Teams) and Mrs Wendy Wilks.

**Apologies****In attendance**

Dr Paul Craven, Dr Rob Pickles (MS Teams) and Ms Kylie McNamara.

## **BUSINESS OF THE MEETING**

### **PRELIMINARY**

#### **1.1 Welcome, apologies and acknowledgment of country**

The Chair, Dr Martin Cohen opened the business meeting at 10:15am. The Chair ACKNOWLEDGED the traditional owners of the country on which members were participating, and paid respects to Elders past, present and future.

The Chair welcomed the acting Chief Executive, Dr Paul Craven and Dr Rob Pickles representing the Medical Staff Executive Council.

#### **1.2 Conflicts of interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared by Board members.

#### **1.3 Adoption of minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2022 had been circulated. The board resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting, and the minutes were adopted by Dr Kirsten Molloy and seconded by Ms Lyn Raines. The minutes will be published on the Hunter New England Health internet site.

ACTION BY: Board Secretariat

#### **1.4 Action list**

Previous action items were DISCUSSED and NOTED by the Board.

#### **1.5 Board chair report**

The Board Chair DISCUSSED the below, which was NOTED by the Board:

- Caretaker period commences on 3 March 2023. Professional practice document released by the NSW Ombudsman is to be distributed to the Board.

ACTION: Board Secretariat

- Mr Bob Hawes ADVISED the Board that Business Hunter released their election platform, which included John Hunter Health and Innovation Precinct, stage 2 as a priority.
- The Board REQUESTED Prof Adrian Dunlop presenting to the Board in later 2023 in relation to Funding for the review of ice.

#### **1.6 Chief executive's report**

The Chief Executive's report had been circulated in the business papers and were DISCUSSED. Matters included:

- Surgical access performance
- ED access performance. The Board DISCUSSED the placement of doctors into regional areas of the District, including:
  - single employer model for rural and regional sites. It was CONFIRMED an application has been submitted by the District.
  - accommodation shortages/options in regional areas.
  - community support.
  - end to end recruitment.
- Private hospital arrangements
- 2022 rural midwifery program
- Paediatric education day
- Maitland hospital

- VaxTracker
- NSW Health Excellence in Allied Health awards
- Palliative care enhancement for Tamworth Hospital
- New Tresillian centres
- Manning stage 3 development
- Forster private hospital
- Future health strategy
- Regional health plan
- Funding for the review of ice

The Board DISCUSSED the District's submission of a proposal to enhance clinical treatment programs in response to the NSW Government's Special Commission Inquiry into the drug methamphetamine. The proposal seeks to:

1. enhance services already provided into the district through increases in workforce (ie. medical, nursing, allied health and aboriginal health)
2. improve accessibility of services to those in rural areas
3. expand access to hospital based alcohol and drug consultations services in major hospitals

Funding across the state was allocated as per below:

- \$163.8 million to increase and enhance access to evidence-based treatment, support and early intervention services, especially in rural and regional areas
- \$96.2 million to provide more integrated and coordinated approaches to care
- \$11.7 million to enhance digital capability and virtual healthcare
- \$66 million to expand the alcohol and other drug workforce
- \$20.2 million to improve the use of data and evidence to inform system priorities, management, monitoring and evaluation
- \$141.1 million to expand justice initiatives including the MERIT program (\$35.1 million), Circle Sentencing (\$4.2 million), Justice Reinvestment (\$9.8 million), the Youth Koori Court (\$5.8 million), and the Drug Court (\$82 million)

The Board Chair THANKED Dr Paul Craven for his extensive knowledge and the information provided to the Board.

## **PRESENTATION**

There was a presentation given by Dr Robert Tait, Paediatrician, John Hunter Children's Hospital, in relation to Maple Leaf House, the trans and gender diverse specialist health service for young people to 25 years. The Board THANKED Dr Tait for his presentation.

It was CONFIRMED that Dr Tait will present further in relation to the service provided by Maple Leaf House, at the September 2023 Board meeting.

## **PRESENTATION**

There was a presentation given by Dr Ramsey Awad, Executive Director, Infrastructure, Planning and Sustainability and Ms Elissa Klinkenberg, Manager, Sustainability, in relation to Sustainability. The Board THANKED Dr Awad and Ms Klinkenberg for their presentation, and their hard work in relation to the sustainability initiatives across the District.

Mr Bob Hawes left the meeting at 12:30pm.

Dr Rob Pickles left the meeting at 12:55pm.

It was CONFIRMED there is currently an independent review underway initiated by the Ministry of Health, in relation to surgery categorisation and coding for the District.

The Board DISCUSSED processes at Maitland Hospital in relation to accreditation.

## **RESOURCES**

### **2.1 Finance and performance report**

The Finance Management reports for the month ending January 2023 had been circulated in the business papers. The report was NOTED by the Board.

### **2.2 Finance and performance committee**

A brief and minutes from the meeting held on 13 December 2022 had been distributed in the Board papers. The brief and minutes were NOTED by the Board.

### **2.3 Audit and risk management committee**

There were no papers for this meeting.

### **2.4 Work, health and safety report**

A report had been distributed in the business papers. The report was NOTED by the Board.

It was CONFIRMED moving forward, in addition to the WHS report already provided to the Board the Chief Executive Report will include WHS as an item in their report.

The Board Chair, Dr Martin Cohen left the meeting at 1:45pm. Deputy Board Chair, Dr Kirsten Molloy commenced as Chair of the meeting.

### **2.5 New business**

There was no new business relating to RESOURCES.

### **2.6 For information**

There was no new information relating to RESOURCES.

## **COMMUNITY**

### **3.1 Community and patient partnership committee**

There were no papers for this meeting.

### **3.2 Aboriginal health committee**

There were no papers for this meeting.

### **3.3 New business**

There was no new business relating to COMMUNITY.

### **3.4 For information**

#### **3.4.1 Aged care code of conduct**

A brief and code of conduct for aged care had been distributed in the Board papers. The brief and code were DISCUSSED and NOTED by the Board.

## **SERVICE**

### **4.1 District clinical council**

A verbal update was given to the Board by Dr Patrick Farrell.

It was CONFIRMED the most recent Closing the Gap report is to be added to the resource centre within diligent.

ACTION: Board Secretariat

#### **4.2 Medical staff executive council**

There were no papers for this meeting.

#### **4.3 New business**

There was no new business relating to SERVICE.

#### **4.4 For information**

##### **4.4.1 Oral health service profile: activity**

A report had been distributed in the Board papers. The report was NOTED by the Board.

### **SAFETY, QUALITY AND PATIENT EXPERIENCE**

#### **5.1 Health care quality committee**

A brief and patient safety report had been distributed in the Board papers. The brief and report were DISCUSSED and NOTED by the Board.

#### **5.2 New business**

There was no new business relating to SAFETY, QUALITY AND PATIENT EXPERIENCE.

#### **5.3 For information**

There was no new information relating to SAFETY, QUALITY AND PATIENT EXPERIENCE.

### **POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE**

#### **6.1 Sustainability**

There were no papers for this meeting. Dr Patrick Farrell provided a verbal update to the Board.

The Board DISCUSSED environment, social and governance (ESG) principles and incorporation into the sustainability policy. Clarification will be sought and reported back to the Board March 2023.

ACTION: Dr Paul Craven

#### **6.2 New business**

There was no new business relating to POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE.

#### **6.3 For information**

There was no new information relating to POSITIONING FOR THE FUTURE.

### **OUR STAFF AND WORKPLACE CULTURE**

#### **7.1 Medical and dental appointments advisory committee**

A brief from the meeting held on 24 January 2023 had been distributed in the Board papers. The brief was NOTED by the Board.

#### **7.2 New business**

There was no new business relating to OUR STAFF AND WORKPLACE CULTURE.

#### **7.3 For information**

There was no new information relating to OUR STAFF AND WORKPLACE CULTURE.

### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT**

#### **8.1 Board performance report**

Correspondence and the quarterly board report had been distributed in the Board papers. The correspondence and report were NOTED by the Board.

## **8.2 New business**

There was no new business relating to BOARD DEVELOPMENT.

## **8.3 For information**

There was no new information relating to BOARD DEVELOPMENT.

## **MEETING REVIEW AND FEEDBACK**

### **9.1 Member's issues not covered elsewhere**

There were no papers for this meeting.

Dr Martin Cohen returned to the meeting at 2:25pm.

The Board Governance Working Group was DISCUSSED by the Board. It was CONFIRMED the terms of reference have been approved by the Board and scope of work has been created.

The Board Governance Working Group terms of reference are to be uploaded to Diligent resources.

ACTION: Board Secretariat

### **9.2 Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 March 2022 at meeting room 2, District Headquarters Building / MS Teams.

The Deputy Board Chair, Dr Kirsten Molloy closed the meeting at 2:41pm