

Minutes of the Hunter New England Local Health District Board

One hundred and thirty sixth meeting

15 November 2023

**Venue: Meeting room 4021, Mater Mental Health, Edith Street,
Waratah | MS Teams**

Present

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

Apologies**In attendance**

Ms Tracey McCosker (MS Teams), Dr Mary Morgan and Kylie O'Meagher (MS Teams).

BUSINESS OF THE MEETING

A tour of the Mater Mental Health facility at Calvary Mater Waratah was given to the Board by Dr Anand Swamy, Executive Director, Mental Health and Mr Jonathan Holt, General Manager, Mental Health.

The Board THANKED Dr Swamy and Mr Holt for the extensive and insightful tour.

1. By consent item registration

The Board DISCUSSED if there were any items for attention from the Board committee reports.

2. Acknowledgement of country, declaration of conflicts of interest, welcome invitees/executive

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

Ms Meagan Hudson DECLARED a potential conflict of interest advising of her affiliation with Telstra Health. Ms Hudson also advised of the consulting company Mego Consulting that may have potential conflicts of interest. It was CONFIRMED there were no other new conflicts of interest to be declared.

3. Confirmation of previous minutes, review of action log

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October 2023 had been circulated. The Board resolved that the minutes are a true record of the meeting, inclusive the below amendment to agenda item 15 within the minutes:

**15. Notice of motion
Local Health Committees**

A notice of motion had been circulated in the business papers. The Board DISCUSSED the motion, and the role of the Board to govern local health committees. It was CONFIRMED the District remains committed to community engagement, and there is a District contact that has been appointed to advance the local health committees reinstatement.

The minutes were adopted, by Dr Stephen Pryde and seconded by Ms Wendy Wilks. The minutes will be published on the Hunter New England Local Health District internet site.

ACTION: Ms Kylie O’Meagher

Previous action items were DISCUSSED and NOTED by the Board.

4. Chief Executive update

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

- Senior Executive Forum
- Special Commission of Inquiry into Healthcare Funding
- Appointment of Executive Director, Mental Health
- Minister visit to HNELHD
- CHEF program
- Time for Care

5. Board Chair report

The Board Chair, Dr Martin Cohen, provided a verbal update to the Board in relation to the meeting structure for 2024. It was CONFIRMED at the Board off-site, the frequency of Board meetings will be amended, and streamlining the process of information between meetings with the Board sub-committees will take place.

The Board DISCUSSED the Board off-site for 2024, which will be held one day prior to the October Board meeting. It was CONFIRMED there will also be a Board development session held in February or March 2024 for a 2-3 hour period.

6. Presentation

Dr Ramsey Awad provided a presentation to the Board in relation to the John Hunter Health & Innovation Precinct Medi-Hotel, as well as medical staff engagement.

The Board DISCUSSED the medi-hotel and medical staff engagement, and THANKED Dr Awad for his very informative presentation. The presentation was NOTED by the Board.

The presentation is to be uploaded to diligent for Board member reference.

ACTION: Ms Kylie O’Meagher

The Board DISCUSSED protocol in relation to referencing of deceased personnel by name.

STANDING ITEMS – COMMITTEE REPORT (by exception discussion)

7. Finance and performance

The Finance Management reports for the month ending 31 October 2023 have been circulated in the business papers.

Ms Anita Kauffmann provided a verbal update to the Board covering off:

- District budget.
- Local capital report.
- Setting of budget and KPI targets.
- Performance framework.
- Board reporting framework.

The update was NOTED by the Board.

8. Health Care Quality Committee

Ms Elizabeth Nicol provided a verbal update to the Board, including:

- Combined meeting of Health Care Quality Chairs, and Directors of Clinical Governance across NSW.

The update was NOTED by the Board.

9. Medical Staff Executive Council

Dr Mary Morgan provided a verbal update to the Board covering off:

- ICU transition from ERIC to EPIC.
- Sharing of information.
- Staff Specialist award reform.
- Working group meetings.
- MSEC quarterly meeting update.

The Board DISCUSSED junior medical staff engagement.

10. Report by exception only: Discussion items

- Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory Committee
- Audit and Risk Management Committee
- District Clinical Council
- Community and Patient Partnership Committee
- Aboriginal Health Committee
- Sustainability Committee

11. Items without notice

The Board DISCUSSED processes in smaller outreach facilities across the District, and ensuring these processes lead to the best patient outcomes. It was CONFIRMED there will be patient stories tabled at future Board meetings, to enable Board members to follow the patient journey.

FOR INFORMATION

14. Finance and Performance Committee meeting minutes

A brief and minutes from the meeting held on 17 October 2023 had been distributed in the Board papers. The brief and minutes were NOTED by the Board.

15. Medical and Dental Appointments Advisory Committee meeting

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

16. Audit and Risk Management Committee

A brief and minutes from the meeting held on 11 October 2023 had been distributed in the Board papers. The brief and minutes were NOTED by the Board.

17. Revised NSW Health Performance Framework 2023

A memo, framework and brief had been distributed in the Board papers. The memo, framework and brief were NOTED by the Board.

The Board Chair, Dr Martin Cohen closed the meeting at 1:25pm.