

# **Algoma Nurse Practitioner LED Clinic**

## **Chair Report 2020-2021**

Welcome to the 11<sup>th</sup> AGM for the Algoma NPLC. I am presently the elected chair for 2020 – 2022. New to the chair position, I found it challenging and more work than expected. I wish to thank my fellow board members and the staff, for their help and patience while I learned the job.

I also wish to thank all board members for dedication to their positions on the board and staff including our Executive Director Dominic Noel and the staff during these difficult times.

### **Board Membership**

The board members worked very hard this year and shown a commitment to attend all the meetings. All meetings were virtual because of the COVID 19 rules and safe guards. The virtual meeting made things very difficult but the board members pulled to together and made it happen. Thank you.

#### **New Board members**

- Lil Stefano
- Theresa Scott
- Susan Schnikofsky

#### **Retiring Board members during the year**

- Wendy Payne (Chair)
- Cathy Nichols (Nominating Committee)

#### **Retiring Board Members at the end of this season**

- Brenda Warnock (Governance Chair)
- Christena Laitinen (Vice Chair)

#### **Leave of Absent for one year – Stephen Hussey (Chair of Finance Committee)**

Stephen will be part of finance committee meetings during his absent from the board.

I would like to thank Wendy for helping me settle into the chair position. Cathy for the many years of devoted service. Stephen for keeping a close eye on our financial health. Brenda for doing a spectacular job as our governance chair. And Christena giving Dom , myself and the board sound advice and guidance as vice chair. You people will be missed.

## Remaining Members

- Lil Stefano – Finance Committee
- Theresa Scott -Nominating Committee
- Susan Schikofsky
  - a. Governance Committee
  - b. Capital Expansion Project
- Lyndsay Suurna –
  - a. Strategic Planning Committee
  - b. Secretary
  - c. Executive Committee
  - d. Nominating Committee

## Officers in 2020-21

- Doug Abbott – Chair
- Christena Laitinen – Vice Chair
- Stephen Hussey – Treasurer
- Lyndsay - Secretary

## New Members

- Deborah Greystone – was the inaugural board chair of the clinic Nurse Practitioner
- Kay Vallee – Nurse  
Professor at Sault College in BSCN Program

I welcome our new board members and look forward to working with them this coming season.

That brings our total board members to seven persons as per our Bylaw # 1.

## **Board Accomplishments**

The 2019 – 2022 strategic plan was reviewed and the board felt that it could be still used for the 2021 & 2022 season. This decision was made because of the Covid 19 rules & regulations preventing us to meet with all the staff of the clinic to come up with a new plan. I feel this should be an important item this coming season.

The Governance Committee worked very hard this season and presented seven policies to the board for approval:

- 1) Credit Card Policy update
- 2) Duties, Obligations, and Expectations of Directors updated
- 3) Code of Conduct updated
- 4) Statement of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board
- 5) Accountability Statement update
- 6) Position Description – Board Officers updated
- 7) Conflict of Interest updated

The Capital Project started with help of the local architect firm - Idea Inc. A selection process for suitable locations for a new clinic was examined. A space was selected and we are waiting for the Ministry of Health to approve our plan. An increase in our budget to afford the extra cost of a larger space was not approved by the Ministry. We had to find the money within our present budget. A plan was worked out that if we eliminated the cost of the doctor, and finding surplus money in our budget, we could afford the extra cost.

A large surplus forecast was reported by the Financial Committee during the later half of the season. The board decided to spent this surplus on much needed equipment and services.

#### Acquired

- 1) New website for the clinic
- 2) EKG machine
- 3) Additional PPE to protect our staff and clients
- 4) Purchased the Services from the Group Health Center for a Covid Vaccine Coordinator
- 5) Two Covid Rapid Test Readers
- 6) Covid Rapid Test Kits

Brenda Warnock was our nominated representative for Alliance For Healthier Communities. Since Brenda is leaving us, Susan Schikofsky has been nominated to be our new representative. She will be attending their AGM this month.

#### **Clinic Operations**

Our Ed /NP Lead Dominic Noel did a great job managing the clinical operations, keeping the board informed and advised during the season. I want to express my thanks for the help and support in new chair position.

The Covid Rules and Regulations made running the clinic very difficult for staff and management. Maximum of 10 patients were seen in clinic each day and the balance of patients were seen virtually. The board thanks all the staff for forging ahead and making it happen.

To support staff, the board approved an “10-day Sick Leave Protocol “during the pandemic. This gave staff the ability to stay home if anyone in their house hold was sick.

HR is a continual challenge. Christena was great asset for Dom to help any HR matters. The board thanks her very much for taking the time. Dom has been able to fill many employment gaps with contract workers.

The clinic’s number of patients is about 2127 at last month’s record and has approximately 589 people on the waiting list.

## **Algoma Health Team**

Dominic has been updating the board each month on the OHT. The board supports this organization. The OHT does a very poor job of involving the board of directors in their decision making and workings. If the local OHT wants our continued support, then it is time to reach out.

The OHT structured around two priority target populations:

- 1) Individuals living with chronic disease
- 2) Frail elderly

Community Outreach Wellness Bus Program was initiated.

## **Conclusion**

Everyone in the province is anxiously waiting for the province to lift the “Rules & Regulations” and our board is no different. Many of the board members, I have not been able meet in person. One of the reasons for being on a board is to meet and socialize. Meeting board members only on ZOOM is not good or healthy. I do believe that virtual meetings will become the norm. I can see in the future, that we will be offering board members the option to attend board meeting virtually when they are not able to attend physically. I also believe that most or all committee meetings will become virtual. But I am going to recommend that in person board meetings happen as soon as possible.

A lot of work is to be done this coming season. 2022-23 Strategic planning needs to start right away. What is health care going to look like once the pandemic is over, and how is it going to affect our clinic operations and board decisions. A review of our "Risk Management" will need to be assessed to meet these new health care challenges.

I wish everyone a great summer. I am looking forward to meeting everyone in person this coming fall.

Doug Abbott

Chair Algoma NPLEDC