

- Present:** Irene Thompson, Board Chair
Julia Borges, Board Member
Neil Dunsmore, Board Member (virtual)
Dana Hardy, Board Member at Large
Somkene Igboanugo, Board Member
Deanne Metzloff, Board Member (virtual)
- Helen Fishburn, CEO
Jennifer Prior, Director People & Culture
Jeff Stanlick, Director of Services
Krista Sibbilin, Director of Services
- Guests:** Camille Quenneville, CEO CMHA Ontario
- Recorder:** Heather Snider, Team Lead Administration
- Regrets:** Mariah Blake, New Professional on Board
- Brooke Billings, Board Member
Sean Bradley, Board Member
Julia Goyal, Board Member
Lisa Hood, Board Member
Katharina Markowiak, Treasurer
Pia Williams, Board Member
- Michael Buchert, Director of Finance
Alison DeMuy, Director Strategy & Community Engagement
Jeff Hoffman, Executive Director, The Grove
Mark Walton, CEO Guelph General Hospital

Agenda Item	Discussion and Actions
<p>Board Education Session – The State of the Healthcare System</p>	<p>Camille Quenneville, CEO CMHA Ontario and Mark Walton, CEO Guelph General Hospital presented on the current state of the healthcare system, with a subsequent discussion.</p> <p>Hospital Sector and Guelph General Hospital (GGH)</p> <p>Mark shared that we are experiencing very challenging times in healthcare. While historically GGH has enjoyed relative stability within the system, since the pandemic they have seen a large shift in staff retention and funding pressures. An internal rebuild is taking place but this coincides with funding instability in the healthcare system. Mark noted that the hospital sector has received 3 rounds of Bill 124 compensation, while to date community based agencies have not. Despite this, most Ontario hospitals are in deficit.</p> <p>Major pressures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternate Level of Care beds for patients waiting to move to other healthcare facilities (e.g., long term care) make up one-third of occupied beds, and patients are remaining in hospital much longer due to lack of beds available elsewhere. • Emergency department is majorly over capacity. • Conflicting direction from funders. <p>GGH Board discussions are focused on how to manage these risks, and what type of direction to provide.</p> <p>Mental Health & Addictions (MHA) Sector</p> <p>Camille shared that she is immensely proud of CMHA WW and consistently shares our stories when advocating and working with politicians. We are the second-largest CMHA in Canada, and among the most innovative.</p> <p>While we have seen community MHA gain traction in recent years, major pressures in this sector exist, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health human resources pressures, compounded by only one base budget increase in 11 years. • A much more complex client base.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioid crisis, which will be affected by the upcoming closure in consumption treatment services (CTS) sites. HART Hubs cannot offer harm reduction services. • Homelessness has increased by 50% in the last five years. <p>Provincial Election</p> <p>Healthcare is not featuring prominently on any agendas, if at all. Candidates are currently focusing on tariffs, US relations and infrastructure. Camille noted that issues often ebb and flow throughout a campaign. As well, it's important to remember that announcements about investments in primary care and additional HART Hubs are not anchored in an actual provincial budget at this time.</p> <p>CMHA Ontario has hired a Government Relations Firm to focus specifically on achieving a minimum 5 % base budget increase for community MHA.</p> <p>Advocacy and Action during the Election Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caretaker Mode – the government is currently in caretaker mode and cannot make any decisions related to any additional funding before year end. • Financial strategy – Advisable to follow a cash management strategy to year end, wait to see what is promised during and after the election. • Continue communicating – Continue sharing our stories, innovative programming, and messaging about the need for more base budget funding with candidates, which Helen has been doing. Use social media to share our stories and amplify advocacy work being done by CMHA Ontario and across the system. • Shared advocacy – It's important to continue our shared advocacy with GGH and North Wellington Healthcare Alliance. We have the opportunity to stand together, present a shared platform, and amplify each other's messages. When community services shut down or are overwhelmed, people end up in the emergency department. We can also work with OPSEU to advocate together. • Other advocacy – As we are precluded from specific activities during this election period, we can rely on professional associations such as CMHA Ontario or Ontario Hospital Association to advocate on our behalf. CMHA Ontario is working on specific social media content around the election. Guelph Green Party candidate Mike Schreiner also consistently advocates for strengthening healthcare. • Ascribe to our mission – Continue to provide safe, quality care to our clients. <p>Advocacy and Action after the Election Period</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We can resume funding discussions with our funders to continue sharing our specific agency pressures and the need for increased base budget funding. • The Board can communicate directly with Ontario Health West to share concerns as stewards of the organization. • It will be important for Helen to receive clear direction and ongoing support from the Board on these issues. <p>Irene thanked Camille and Mark for their insightful presentations and discussion.</p>

Agenda Item	Discussion and Actions
1.0 Welcome; Call to Order	Irene welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order. Welcome to Jennifer Prior, Director People & Culture. Jennifer started with CMHA WW on January 20 th .
2.0 Territorial Acknowledgement	<p>Camille shared an acknowledgement and reflected on the work CMHA Ontario is doing to develop anticolonial practices.</p> <p>Irene encouraged the Board to continue supporting and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion, particularly in the current political climate.</p>
3.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest	No conflicts were declared.
4.0 Approval of Agenda	It was duly MOVED and SECONDED to approve the January 30, 2025 CMHA WW agenda (Neil Dunsmore, Lisa Hood). CARRIED .
5.0 CMHA Ontario Branch Agreement	<p>The CMHA Collaboration Agreement is a compendium to our division branch agreement. The collaboration agreement covers all 27 branches across the province, and is a practical, day-to-day guide around the principles and standards we all adhere to. It also strengthens the CMHA brand.</p> <p>One focus of the current agreement is strengthening CEO succession plans and recruitment. Camille shared that this has been a respectful, thoughtful, and supportive process between the CEOs and the Ontario branch.</p> <p>The agreement will be undergoing legal review, after which it will require sign off from each provincial CMHA CEO and Board. It is reviewed every three years.</p> <p>Irene noted that she has reached out to Camille in the past for guidance, and has been grateful for this support.</p>
6.0 In Camera Meeting 6:45 pm – 7:45 pm	<p>It was duly MOVED and SECONDED to move in camera for the Resources Committee Report and a financial update (Brooke Billings, Deanne Metzloff). CARRIED.</p> <p>It was duly MOVED and SECONDED to close the in camera meeting (Neil Dunsmore, Pia Williams). CARRIED.</p>
7.0 Approval of Consent Agenda	<p>It was duly MOVED and SECONDED to approve the December 19, 2024 CMHA WW Board minutes (Deanne Metzloff, Pia Williams). CARRIED.</p> <p>It was duly MOVED and SECONDED that the consent agenda be approved (Deanne Metzloff, Neil Dunsmore). CARRIED.</p>
8.0 Strategic Plan – Final Approval	<p>Alison DeMuy presented the 2025-28 Strategic Plan, which has gone through an extensive engagement process with varied stakeholders over the last number of months.</p> <p>The Board discussed our ability to execute the mission given the funding pressures we are under. We will achieve this within the means that we have, and the details will be laid out in our annual operating plans. We are currently undergoing an agency-wide redesign, and this will continue regardless of how we receive funding.</p> <p>It was duly MOVED and SECONDED to approve the 2025-28 CMHA WW Strategic Plan, as modified (Julia Goyal, Neil Dunsmore). CARRIED.</p>
9.0 Wrap Up and Closing Remarks	The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.