

	Policy/Procedure Name:	Principles of Governance and Board Accountability
Manual: Governance	Number:	
Section: Relationships	Effective Date:	12 DEC 2007
Pages: 1 of 2	Revision Date:	11 MAR 2022

Purpose

This policy outlines the principles of governance and the Board’s accountabilities.

Scope

The policy pertains to Muskoka Algonquin Healthcare (MAHC) Board of Directors.

Policy

The Board governs the Corporation through the direction and supervision of the activities and affairs of the Corporation in accordance with its articles, mission, vision, and values, its governance policies, and applicable laws and regulations.

The Board adheres to a model of governance through which it provides strategic leadership and direction to the Corporation by establishing policies, making governance decisions, and monitoring performance related to the Corporation’s mission and mandate, as well as its own effectiveness.

The Board acts in the best interests of the Corporation, having regard for its accountabilities, including but not limited to: (i) its patients and communities served; (ii) Ontario Health; (iii) the Ministry of Health; (iv) the Foundations; (v) its staff, volunteers, and physicians; and (vi) partners. The Board understands the best interests of the Corporation to include the Corporation’s place within the health system and the benefit to patients and the community of an improved continuum of care arising from collaboration and integration with other health service providers.

The Board maintains a culture of honesty and integrity, informed and knowledgeable Directors, open and respectful debate and forthright examination of all issues. The Board strives for a consensus approach to decision-making, on the understanding that a decision will be made by majority resolution. Directors must support Board-approved policies and Board decisions.

The Board maintains a clear distinction between Board and management roles, while recognizing the interdependencies between them.

The Board has regard for its accountabilities, including but not limited to:

- its patients and communities served for:
 - ensuring the quality of the care and safety of patients;
 - engaging the communities served when developing plans and setting priorities for the delivery of health care;
 - advocating for and seeking resources to provide appropriate health care;
 - operating in a fiscally sustainable manner within its resource envelope and utilizing its resources efficiently and effectively across the spectrum of care to fulfill the Corporation’s mission;
 - the appropriate use of community and donor contributions through the Foundations;

Last Reviewed Date: 03/11/2022 00:00:00	Signing Authority: Board of Directors
Next Review Date: 09/12/2027 00:00:00	Version: 2.0
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- Ontario Health for:
 - building relationships and collaborating with Ontario Health, other health service providers, and the community to identify opportunities to integrate the services of the health system to provide appropriate, coordinated, effective, and efficient services;
 - ensuring that the Corporation operates in a manner that is consistent with provincial plans and its Hospital Service Accountability Agreement with Ontario Health;
 - achieving the goals, objectives, and performance targets as negotiated in the Hospital Services Accountability Agreement and measuring the Corporation’s performance against accepted standards and best practices in comparable organizations;
 - apprising Ontario Health and the communities served of Board policies and decisions which are required to operate within its Hospital Services Accountability Agreement;
- the Ministry of Health for:
 - compliance with government regulations, policies and directions;
 - implementation of Ministry of Health approved capital projects;
- to the Foundations for:
 - communicating the Corporation’s mission, vision, and values and strategic direction;
 - making reasonable efforts to ensure effective communication and collaboration;
 - supporting Foundation fundraising activities and donor stewardship;
- to staff, volunteers, and credentialed staff for:
 - promoting transparency and collaboration in the Board’s relationship with management;
 - ensuring the ongoing evaluation of the President and Chief Executive Officer and Chief of Staff;
 - providing equal employment and volunteer opportunities to the best qualified candidates;
 - providing a supportive and safe work environment where staff, volunteers, and physicians are treated fairly and with respect; and
- to partners for:
 - demonstrating goodwill and collaboration through the establishment of strategic alliances, joint ventures, networks, and coalitions to integrate the health system.

Notes

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