

Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care

Tuesday, October 28, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

Olde Town Hall - Verity Room

Accessibility of Documents:

Documents are available in alternate formats upon request. If you require an accessible format or communication support, please contact the Clerk's Department at 519-235 -0310 or by email at clerk@southhuron.ca to discuss how best we can meet your needs.

Pages

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

Recommendation:

That the Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care approves the Agenda as presented.

3. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and the General Nature thereof

4. Prior Meeting Notes

1

Recommendation:

The Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care adopts the meeting notes of June 25, 2025 as printed and circulated.

5. Delegations

6. Member Updates

7. Business (including correspondence)

7.1 HHS Master Planning: Community Engagement Session Notes

4

Huron Health System - Master Planning webpage

7.2 Grand Bend Area Community Health Centre

Link to Services and Programs

7.3 Huron Perth & Area Ontario Health Team

Link to OHT Strategic Priorities

7.4 Discuss Report to Council

8. Next Meeting

9. Adjournment

Recommendation:

That the Mayor's Regional Health Task Force hereby adjourns at [insert time], to meet again at the Call of the Chair.

**Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care
Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m.
Olde Town Hall - Verity Room**

Members Present: Wendy McLeod-Haggitt, Member
Marissa Vaughan, Member
Ted Oke, Chair

Staff Present: Rebekah Msuya-Collison, CAO/Deputy Clerk

1. Call to Order

The CAO called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Appoint Chair

Member McLeod-Haggitt nominated Member Oke and Member Oke agreed to stand. There were no other nominations brought forward.

Motion: MTF#01-2025

Moved: W McLeod-Haggitt

Seconded: Marissa Vaughan

That the Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care appoints Member Oke as chair to the end of Council term.

Disposition: Carried

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion: MTF#02-2025

Moved: W McLeod-Haggitt

Seconded: Marissa Vaughan

That the Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care approves the Agenda as presented.

Disposition: Carried

4. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests and the General Nature thereof

None.

5. Prior Meeting Notes

None.

6. Delegations

None.

7. Member Updates

Chair Oke advised that the HHS Recruitment and Retention Committee meeting originally scheduled for June 24 was cancelled and will be rescheduled for September unless something pressing arises. Chair Oke advised that he would be attending the HHS annual meeting to be held in Blyth on June 26, 2025. The Task Force members were provided a link to the agenda so they had access to the agenda. Member McLeod-Haggitt advised that she would connect with the organizer of the community meeting held on May 15 to see if the Task Force would be able to obtain the results of that session. It was noted that all Task Force members attended the first HHS master planning session.

8. Business (including correspondence)

8.1 Review of Terms of Reference (TOR)

There were no changes noted.

8.2 Discussion/Summary of Recommendations

The Task Force discussed its role and identified information gathering and monitoring to keep Council informed, to serve as a conduit for community feedback and to solicit effective communication between the community, Council and the HHS Board. The Task Force also noted the importance of also keeping communication lines open with the other municipalities in the region as well as identification of key times and milestones to report on. The Task Force noted that they would like to get a better understanding of the Hospitals and the clinics and that it would be nice to have a tour of both South Huron and Goderich. The Task Force would like to know if a meeting date has been set for the next community session for the Master Planning.

The Task Force discussed wanting to ensure that HHS had a copy of the Terms of Reference and the CAO responded that she had forwarded the ToR for the Task Force to both HHS CEO and Town of Goderich CAO.

8.3 Next Steps

- HHS agenda to be circulated to Task Force members
- HHS CEO to be contacted for a request for tour of the hospitals and medical centres
- Results of the Community meeting of May 15 to be requested for future Task Force meeting

9. Next Meeting

To be set at the Call of the Chair.

10. Adjournment

Motion: MTF#03-2025

Moved: W McLeod-Haggitt

Seconded: Marissa Vaughan

That the Mayor's Task Force on Regional Health Care hereby adjourns at 10:06 a.m., to meet again at the Call of the Chair.

Disposition: Carried

Ted Oke, Chair

Rebekah Msuya-Collison, CAO/Deputy Clerk

Master Planning: Community Engagement Session Notes

Date: June 11, 2025

Location: Bayfield Community Centre

Introduction

This summary reflects what we heard directly from community members, hospital staff, and local partners about what is working, what is not, and what needs to change regarding healthcare in the regions served by Alexandra Marine and General Hospital (AMGH) and South Huron Hospital (SHH).

While many of the comments focused on healthcare needs like upgrading our Emergency Departments, bringing in more physicians, and making care easier to access locally, the feedback also included important thoughts about how decisions are made, how the hospitals are working together through the Huron Health System partnership, and how leadership can be more transparent and responsive.

1. Infrastructure Needs

Care Close to Home: A shared community sentiment emphasized the desire for services to be accessible locally, reducing the burden of travel for essential healthcare. Additionally, participants stressed the importance of thinking beyond Huron County, recognizing that many patients come from neighbouring municipalities.

Emergency Department Expansion: Community members and former staff identified the need to expand the Emergency Department at SHH to improve patient privacy, increase treatment capacity, and enhance efficiency. A dedicated safe room was also suggested to ensure the safety of staff and patients during high-risk situations.

Diagnostic Imaging Upgrades: There is a pressing need to expand diagnostic imaging facilities to accommodate a CT scanner at SHH, which is essential for timely and accurate diagnoses.

Strategic Infrastructure Planning: In addition to identifying immediate needs, community members emphasized the importance of taking a data-informed approach to infrastructure planning. They requested a clearer understanding of the current conditions of our hospital buildings and systems.

2. Workforce and Resource Allocation

Physician Recruitment: Expanding the workforce is a top priority, with an emphasis on recruiting more physicians to address current shortages and enhance hospital services.

Utilization of Nurse Practitioners: The integration of nurse practitioners into our Emergency Departments was proposed to alleviate the workload on physicians and improve patient care.

Preventive Care and Chronic Disease Management: There is a need for increased focus on preventive care and education to address chronic diseases such as cancer, Alzheimer's, and diabetes. Community members stressed the importance of teaching better health choices and preventive measures.

3. Organizational Leadership and Planning

Leadership Accountability: Concerns were raised about the current leadership's ability to deliver on key projects, with specific mention of delays in the CT project at SHH and dissatisfaction with communication and decision-making.

Clarity in Huron Health System Partnership: Community members requested greater transparency around the structure, financial arrangements, and roles within Huron Health System, especially how decisions are made and how resources are shared across sites.

Physician Involvement in Decision-Making: Physicians and staff members expressed frustration about limited involvement in the planning processes. They urged leadership to focus on immediate infrastructure priorities (such as the CT scanner and Emergency Department upgrades) over long-term master planning.

Master Plan Development and Community Voice: Community members requested transparency and community inclusion in developing each hospital's master plan. A suggestion was made to form a community committee to ensure diverse perspectives are considered in planning and prioritization.

Conclusion

Huron Health System's Common Board of Directors and President and CEO have listened closely and carefully considered the full spectrum of community concerns. We remain fully committed to ongoing transparency, collaboration, and taking decisive action that truly reflects the voices and needs of our communities.

We recognize and share the passion our communities have for their local hospitals. Our goal is not to reduce access to care, but to strengthen and sustain it. This report is part of an ongoing conversation, and we remain committed to working alongside our communities to ensure our hospitals remain strong and responsive to the needs of everyone in Huron County and the surrounding municipalities—now and in the future.