



GOVERNANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ends	Ends #1	Global Ends Statement
	Ends #2	Specific Program/Function Ends Statements
Executive Limitations	EL #1	Global Executive Constraint
	EL #2a	Treatment of Service-Users, Family Members and Friends
	EL #2b	Treatment of Staff
	EL #2c	Compensation and Benefits
	EL #2d	Financial Condition and Activities
	EL #2e	Financial Planning and Budgeting
	EL #2f	Asset Protection
	EL #2g	Communication and Support to the Board
	EL #2h	Executive Succession
	EL #2i	Environmental Responsibility
	EL #2j	Unrestricted Funds
	EL #2k	Risk Management
Governance Process	GP #1	Global Governance Policy
	GP #2	Board as Owner-Representative
	GP #2a	Governing Style
	GP #2b	Board Job Description
	GP #2c	Code of Conduct
	GP #2d	Chairperson's Role
	GP #2e	Secretary-Treasurer's Role
	GP #2f	Board Committee Principles
	GP #2g	Board Committee Structure
	GP #2h	Agenda Planning
	GP #2i	Cost of Governance
	GP #2j	Director Qualifications
	GP #2k	Purposes of "Mentor" Role
	GP #2l	Election of Officers
	GP #2m	New Director Orientation
	GP #2n	Board Education Policy
	GP #2o	Past Chairperson's Role
Board-Management Delegation	BMD #1	Global Board-Executive Director Linkage
	BMD #2a	Unity of Control
	BMD #2b	Executive Director Job Description
	BMD #2c	Accountability of the Executive Director
	BMD #2d	Delegation to the Executive Director
	BMD #2e	Monitoring Executive Director Performance
	BMD #2f	Annual Review and Update of Salary Grid for Executive Director

REVIEWED May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: ENDS
POLICY TITLE: GLOBAL ENDS STATEMENT

Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound Branch is committed to hope and recovery through integrated mental health and addiction services. Using effective, safe innovative partnerships and practices, we provide the highest quality treatment, support, education and advocacy for the people of Muskoka-Parry Sound.

REVIEWED May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: ENDS
POLICY TITLE: SPECIFIC PROGRAM/FUNCTION ENDS STATEMENTS

The global ends of the service shall be met through the activity of its various programs and/or functions. The ends of these programs/functions are as follows:

The End Statements below were approved in their entirety at a Board meeting held January 18, 2023.

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

Adult Protective Services Program

Assist adults with developmental disabilities to achieve optimal quality of life, independence, and social inclusion.

Dual Diagnosis Court Case Management

Support individual with developmental disabilities to be diverted from justice system by accessing health and community services.

MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAMS

Assertive Community Treatment Team

Long-term intensive mental health supports assist adults to meet individual needs and improve quality of life.

Early Intervention

Reduce negative impact of psychosis through intervention in early stages of illness.

Crisis Intervention

Return to pre-crisis level of functioning.

Diversion and Court Support

Assist individuals with mental illness who are in the justice system to be diverted and access mental health supports.

Psychogeriatric/Seniors

Provide assessment and support for individuals with age related concerns and mental illness to maintain functioning.

Counselling and Treatment

Brief to long-term therapy for individuals with mental illness to reduce symptoms and improve functioning.

Community Homes for Opportunity Program

Assist individuals living with complex mental health issues by providing stable, affordable, and appropriate housing and support services.

CASE MANAGEMENT MENTAL HEALTH

Intensive Case Management

Long-term community support to assist adults with severe mental illness to meet individual needs.

Transitional Case Management

Brief to longer term support to adults with mental illness to meet individual needs.

Housing Case Management

Support to individuals to maintain adequate housing where mental health puts them at risk of homelessness.

Regional Dual Diagnosis

Support individuals with developmental disabilities and mental illness to meet individual needs.

COAST Dual Diagnosis

Intensive support for individuals with developmental disabilities and severe mental illness to meet needs.

CASE MANAGEMENT ADDICTIONS

Opioid Rapid Access Addiction Medicine

Rapid access to addiction medicine and follow-up to improve aspects of recovery from alcohol or opioid addiction.

Opioid Treatment Early Childhood

Support for pregnant and parenting individuals to reduce harm associated with addiction

Opioid Treatment - Methadone Maintenance

Support clients of methadone maintenance program through case management to improve aspects of recovery.

Pre Housing – Addictions

Support clients who are not adequately housed to prepare for success in housing program

Addiction Supportive Housing

Support individuals to sustain adequate housing where addiction puts them at risk of homelessness

ADDICTION TREATMENT

Adult Treatment

Support individuals in recovery from addiction through counselling, groups, and alleviation of symptoms

Elementary School Treatment

Provide education, support and counselling to students at risk of substance use.

Addiction Therapy

Support individuals in recovery from addiction through counselling, groups, and alleviation of symptoms

Problem Gambling Awareness

Provide public awareness to reduce harm from gambling-related activities.

Drug Awareness

Provide public awareness to reduce potential substance use

Youth Addictions

Provide counselling and education to youth who are using substances or at risk of using

B'SAANIBAMAADSIWIN

B'Saani Community Development

To respond to mental health needs of communities and their members.

B'Saani Crisis

To return to pre-crisis level of functioning.

B'Saani Counselling and Treatment

Individual, group counselling, and psycho-education to reduce severity of symptoms and improve functioning

B'Saani Addiction

Reduce harm associated with substance use including support and referral

B'Saani Early Intervention

Reduce negative impact of psychosis through intervention in early stages of illness.

B'Saani Opioid Strategy

Provide public awareness/education events related to substance/opioid use.

Mobile Withdrawal Management Services

Increase access to community withdrawal management services.

CONSUMER INITIATIVES

Family Initiative

Provide opportunities for family members to participate in group and individual support and education.

Peer Initiative

Peer support of recovery provides opportunity for social experiences, relationships, and vocational skill building

OTHER

Partner Assault Program

Provide education groups for offenders referred from justice system related to partner assault

REVISED January 17, 2024

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: GLOBAL EXECUTIVE CONSTRAINT

The Executive Director shall not cause or allow any practice, activity, decision, or circumstance which is either unlawful, imprudent, or in violation of commonly accepted business and professional ethics and practices.

REVIEWED May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: TREATMENT OF SERVICE-USERS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

With respect to interactions with service-users or those applying to be service-users, family members and friends, the Executive Director shall not cause or allow conditions, procedures, or decisions which are unsafe, untimely, disrespectful, unduly undignified, unnecessarily intrusive, which fail to provide appropriate confidentiality and privacy, or which fail to be caring, non-judgmental, open and professional.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) allow planning, development and delivery of services which does not involve service-users, family members and communities whenever appropriate
- (2) use methods of collecting, usage, and disclosure of service-user information that fails to protect against improper access of the information. This includes the operation of facilities or environment that fails to protect the privacy of service-users.
- (4) maintain facilities without appropriate accessibility and safety for service users
- (5) allow service-users, family and others to be unaware of what to expect from the services offered or to be unaware of how to voice complaints, or concerns if they feel they have not been provided reasonable protection under this policy

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: TREATMENT OF STAFF

With respect to treatment of paid and volunteer staff, the Executive Director shall not cause or allow conditions which are unfair, undignified, disorganized, or unsafe.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) operate without written personnel policies and procedures, which provide for effective handling of grievances, and which protect against wrongful conditions, such as nepotism and grossly preferential treatment for personal reasons;
- (2) retaliate against any staff member for non-disruptive expression of dissent;
- (3) prevent staff from grieving to the Board when:
 - (a) internal grievance procedures have been exhausted; and
 - (b) the employee alleges either:
 - (i) that Board policy has been violated to his or her detriment; or
 - (ii) that Board policy does not adequately protect his or her human rights;
- (4) allow staff with their protections under this policy;
- (5) employ staff without a job description or contract; and periodic performance appraisals;
- (6) allow staff to be unprepared to deal with emergency situations;
- (7) operate without adequate policies and procedures which protect the health and safety of staff and volunteers including psychological health and safety
- (8) allow staff to lack resources such as appropriate space and equipment to perform their duties.

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

With respect to employment, compensation, and benefits to employees, consultants, contract workers, and volunteers, the Executive Director shall not cause or allow jeopardy to fiscal integrity or public image.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) change his or her own benefits; except as those benefits are consistent with a package for all other employees;
- (2) promise or imply employment that cannot be terminated;
- (3) establish current compensation and benefits which deviates materially from the geographic or professional market for the skills employed; or
- (4) create obligations over a longer term greater than revenue can be safely projected, or which are not subject to continued funding.

REVIEWED May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: FINANCIAL CONDITION & ACTIVITIES

With respect to the actual, ongoing condition of the organization's financial health, the Executive Director shall not cause or allow the development of fiscal jeopardy.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) expend more funds than have been received in the fiscal year to date;
- (2) indebted the organization in an amount greater than can be repaid by certain, otherwise unencumbered revenues within 60 days;
- (3) access undesignated funds accumulated in previous fiscal years in excess of approved amounts;
- (4) conduct interfund shifting in amounts greater than can be restored to a condition of discrete fund balances by certain, otherwise unencumbered revenue within 30 days;
- (5) prevent payroll and debts to be settled in a timely manner;
- (6) allow tax payments or other government-ordered payments or filings to be overdue or inaccurately filed;
- (7) make a single capital purchase of greater than \$10,000;
- (8) acquire, encumber or dispose of real property;
- (9) fail to aggressively pursue receivables after a reasonable grace period;
- (10) allow commitment for new leases that, over the term of the lease, exceed an annual increase greater than the increase in the Consumer Price Index for Ontario, or 4%;
- (11) allow funds, which are not required for immediate use, to be invested in a manner which violates government directives, unnecessarily exposes the funds to risk, or fails to provide a competitive rate of return;
- (12) allow purchases to be performed in a way that leads to the personal benefit of an employee or Director, but to the detriment of the organization;
- (13) fail to utilize resources in an efficient manner

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: FINANCIAL PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Financial planning for any fiscal year or the remaining part of any fiscal year shall not deviate materially from Board Ends priorities, risk fiscal jeopardy, or fail to show a generally acceptable level of foresight.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not cause or allow budgeting which:

- (1) risks incurring those situations or conditions described as unacceptable in the Board policy “Financial Condition and Activities” (Policy EL #2d);
- (2) contains too little information to enable credible projection of revenues and realistic projection of expenses;
- (3) fails to separate capital and operational items;
- (4) plans the expenditure in any fiscal year of more funds than are conservatively projected to be received in that period; or
- (5) provides less for Board prerogatives during the year than is set forth in the Cost of Governance Policy (GP #2i)
- (6) does not consider the impact on quality, safety and client experience

Reviewed May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: ASSET PROTECTION

The Executive Director shall not allow assets to be unprotected, inadequately maintained nor unnecessarily risked.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) allow the organization to be uninsured against theft, fire, fraud and casualty losses to a prudent replacement value and against liability losses to Directors, staff, volunteers and the organization itself in an amount greater than the average for comparable organizations;
- (2) allow conditions that subject plant and equipment to improper wear and tear or insufficient maintenance;
- (3) unnecessarily expose the organization, its Board, staff or volunteers to claims of liability;
- (4) receive, process or disburse funds under controls which are insufficient to meet the Board-appointed auditor's standards;
- (5) make any purchase:
 - (a) wherein normally prudent protection has not been given against conflict of interest;
 - (b) of over \$2500.00 without having obtained comparative prices and quality; or
 - (c) of over \$5,000.00 without a method of assuring the balance of long-term quality and cost;
- (6) allow property, information and files to be exposed to loss, improper access or significant damage;
- (7) accept or solicit funds from tobacco, alcohol companies or from the proceeds of gambling.
- (8) endanger the organization's public image or credibility; or
- (9) compromise the independence of the Board's audit or other external monitoring or advice, such as by engaging parties already chosen by the Board as consultants or advisors.

Reviewed May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS

POLICY TITLE: COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT TO THE BOARD

The Executive Director shall not permit the Board to be uninformed or unsupported in its work.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) neglect to submit monitoring data required by the Board (see policy on Monitoring Executive Performance BMD #2e) in a timely, accurate and understandable fashion; directly addressing provisions of the Board policies being monitored;
- (2) allow the Board to be unaware of fail to provide the Board with a monitoring report in May providing sufficient detail to allow the Board to complete the Declaration of Compliance, which it has to submit and post (within 90 days of the agency's fiscal year end, i.e., in June) as a requirement of the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement; or
- (3) allow the Board to be unaware or fail to inform the Board of any failure to meet obligations in contracts with other funders.
- (4) let the Board be unaware of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, threatened or pending lawsuits, material external and internal changes; particularly changes in the assumptions upon which a Board policy has been previously established;
- (5) allow the Board to be unaware if, in the Executive Director's opinion, the Board is not in compliance with its own policies in Governances Process and Board-Management Delegation, particularly in the case of Board behaviour which is detrimental to the work relationship between the Board and Executive Director;
- (6) allow the Board to be without decision information required periodically by the Board or let the Board be unaware of relevant trends;
- (7) present information in unnecessarily complex or lengthy form, or in a form that fails to differentiate among information of 3 types: monitoring, decision preparation, and other;
- (8) allow the Board to be without an approved communications plan;
- (7) favour or privilege certain Board members over others or fail to deal with the Board as a whole except when (a) fulfilling individual requests for information, or (b) responding to officers or committees duly charged by the Board;
- (8) allow the Board to be unaware of an actual or anticipated non-compliance with any policy of the Board; or
- (9) fail to supply for the consent agenda all items delegated to the Executive Director; yet required by law or contract to be Board-approved, accompanied by the corresponding monitoring assurance.
- (10) allow the Board Chairperson to be unsupported in producing each Board meeting agenda to be posted on the agency's Board portal website two weeks prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting with the following exception. The Board meeting scheduled for the month of June will require an agenda posted to the Board portal website a one week prior to the Board meeting. Attachments related to the Board meeting agenda may be posted up until 3 days prior to the Board meeting following which that item will be deferred to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Reviewed May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: EXECUTIVE SUCCESSION

In order to protect the Board from the sudden loss of Executive Director's services, the Executive Director shall not operate without at least one individual familiar with Board and Executive Director issues and procedures, who could temporarily assume the role of Executive Director. In addition, the Executive Director shall not operate without an explicit line of temporary emergency succession.

In the case of a planned departure by the Executive Director:

With the support of the Executive Director and the Manager of Human Resources and Administration, the Board will seek a replacement for the Executive Director following, in as far as it applies, agency policies and procedures.

In the case of an unplanned vacancy of the Executive Director position:

- (1) the designated alternate for the Executive Director will assume the role on an acting basis
(This individual will have to enter into a Performance Agreement as required by the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement. The Board, with the assistance of the Manager of Human Resources and Administration, will develop a Performance Agreement using the one in effect under the previous Executive Director as a guide or template); and
- (2) with the support of the Manager of Human Resources and Administration the Board will seek a replacement for the Executive Director following, in as far as it applies, agency policies and procedures.

The Executive Director will ensure that the Manager of Human Resources and Administration maintains an active and up-to-date file on Executive Succession including the most current version of Marty, Dick, et al, Recruiting A Health Care CEO: The Definitive Guide For Boards, Ottawa: CHA Press and the sample CEO Employment Contract from an online seminar entitled Role of Board Members and CEO Relationships.

Reviewed May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

With respect to the environment, the Executive Director shall not fail to take action to reduce any negative impact the organization may have.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) allow unnecessary use of motor vehicles;
- (2) allow unnecessary energy to be consumed by agency facilities;
- (3) make purchases without considering means to minimize their negative environmental impact;
- (4) operate without appropriate use of, local recycling programs; or
- (5) invest in environmentally unethical financial vehicles.

Reviewed May 17, 2023

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

The Executive Director shall not use any unrestricted funds and allow the Board to be unaware of any change in the unrestricted funds of which they should be aware.

Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

1. Allow unrestricted to be non-interest bearing;
2. spend and provide accounting of, as part of the budgeting for the fiscal year, an amount greater than 10% of the total amount of unrestricted funds as of March 31st of the previous fiscal year;
3. Fail to ensure a there is a minimum balance in the unrestricted funds account of 5% of the agency's annual budget of the previous fiscal year.
4. Fail to inform the Board of Directors of expenditures of the unrestricted funds over and above the amount set forth in item 2.

Reviewed: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS
POLICY TITLE: RISK MANAGEMENT

The Executive Director shall not fail to maintain a risk management process and to notify the Board, in a timely manner, of any risks of which they should be aware. Accordingly, the Executive Director will not:

- (1) fail to notify the Board, in a timely manner, of any “...moderate or serious risk of impact on the achievement of the Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement”; [in order for the Board to meet its obligation to report same to Ontario Health (Central) formerly North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Network].

REVIEWED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TYPE: GLOBAL GOVERNANCE POLICY

The purpose of the Board is to:

- (1) Represent the interests of the moral ownership, defined as the people of Muskoka and Parry Sound. The Board will proactively pursue ownership input, not waiting for input to be initiated by owners;
- (2) Determine the benefits that the organization will provide, keeping a long term, strategic perspective, (the Ends policies) and;
- (3) Ensure that the operating organization accomplishes what it should (described in the Ends policies) in ways that the Board determines are acceptable (described in the Executive Limitations policies).

REVIEWED June 26, 2024

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: BOARD AS OWNER-REPRESENTATIVE

The Board, as a group, represents the ownership interest of the organization.

Accordingly:

- (1) although Directors are drawn from particular groups and/or geographic areas, they must distinguish between the interests of the ownership as a whole and the interests of the group or geographic area and must advance the former even when it conflicts with the latter; and
- (2) Directors' ethical obligation is to represent the entire ownership, not specifically the organizations or geographic areas from which they are drawn, and therefore;
 - (a) appropriate broad-based input from the moral ownership must be sought and assimilated; and
 - (b) the full range of the views of the moral ownership as to purpose and cost of the organization must be incorporated into Board deliberations, not just those points of view held personally by Directors.

REVISED February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: GOVERNING STYLE

The Board will govern lawfully, observing the principles of the Policy Governance model, with an emphasis on (a) outward vision rather than on internal preoccupation, (b) encouragement of diversity in viewpoints, (c) strategic leadership more than administrative detail, (d) clear distinction of Board and executive roles, (e) collective rather than individual decision, (f) future rather than past or present, and (g) proactivity rather than reactivity.

Accordingly:

- (1) the Board will cultivate a sense of group responsibility. The Board, not the staff, will be responsible for excellence in governing. The Board will be the initiator of policy, not merely a reactor to staff initiatives. The Board will not use the expertise of individual members to substitute for the judgement of the Board, although the expertise of individual members may be used to enhance the understanding of the Board as a body;
- (2) the Board will direct, control, and inspire the organization through the careful establishment of broad written policies reflecting the Board's values and perspectives. The Board's major policy focus will be on the intended long-term impacts outside the staff organization, not on the administrative or programmatic means of attaining those effects;
- (3) the Board will enforce upon itself whatever discipline is needed to govern with excellence. Discipline will apply to matters such as attendance, preparation for meetings, policy-making principles, respect of roles, and ensuring the continuance of governance capability. Although the Board can change its governance process policies at any time, it will scrupulously observe those currently in force;
- (4) continual Board development will include orientation of new Directors in the Board's governance process and periodic Board discussion of process improvement;
- (5) the Board will allow no officer, individual, or committee of the Board to hinder or be an excuse for not fulfilling group obligations;
- (6) the Board will monitor and discuss the Board's process and performance at each meeting. Self-monitoring will include comparison of Board activity and discipline to policies in the Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation categories.

REVIEWED February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: BOARD JOB DESCRIPTION

Specific job outputs of the Board, as an informed agent of the ownership, are those that ensure appropriate organizational performance.

Accordingly, the Board will provide:

- (1) authoritative linkage between the ownership and the operational organization; and
- (2) written governing policies that realistically, address the broadest levels of all organizational decisions and situations:
 - (a) *Ends*: organizational impacts, benefits, outcomes, recipients; beneficiaries, impacted groups; and their relative worth in cost or priority;
 - (b) *Executive Limitations*: constraints on executive authority that establish the prudence and ethics boundaries within which all executive activity and decisions must take place;
 - (c) *Governance Process*: specification of how the Board conceives, carries out and monitors its own task;
 - (d) *Board-Management Delegation*: how power is delegated and its proper use monitored; the Executive Director role, authority, and accountability;
- (3) assurance of successful organizational performance on Ends and Executive Limitations;
- (4) operational decisions not delegated to the Executive Director; and
- (5) systemic advocacy on behalf of the organization for adequate funding and government policy consistent with our values, visions and mission.

REVIEWED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: CODE OF CONDUCT

The Board commits itself and its members to ethical, businesslike and lawful conduct, including proper use of authority and appropriate decorum when acting as Directors. The following also applies, whenever appropriate, to all offices of the corporation, whether they are Directors or not. Ethical dilemmas will be resolved using the Ethics Framework.

Accordingly:

- (1) members must have loyalty to the ownership, unconflicted by loyalties to staff, other organizations, and any personal interest as a consumer;
- (2) members must avoid potential, actual and perceived conflicts of interest with respect to their fiduciary responsibility, and therefore:
 - (a) there must be no self-dealing or business by a member with the organization. Members will annually disclose their involvements with other organizations, with vendors, or any association that might be or might reasonably be seen as being a conflict;
 - (b) when the Board is to decide upon an issue about which a member has an unavoidable conflict of interest, that member shall withdraw without comment not only from the vote, but also from the deliberation;
 - (c) Directors must not use their Board positions to obtain employment in the organization for themselves, family members or close associates. A Director who applies for employment must first resign from the Board; that if the resigned Director, under GP#2c(2c), is not the successful candidate for a salaried position with CMHAMPS, they may, upon their request and upon an interview with the Nominating, Risk & Bylaw Committee; and, with a subsequent Motion from the Board on recommendation of this committee, be reinstated to the Board in order to complete their Board term(s) with full Board privileges and fiduciary responsibilities going forward. This request is allowed once during a Board Director's consecutive Board term(s).
 - (d) a Director is viewed as automatically being in a conflict of interest and should not be involved in debate, lobbying or voting on a personnel issue specific to a staff member who is directly serving or has directly served that Director or a close relative or friend of that Director; and
- (3) Directors may not attempt to exercise individual authority over the organization and therefore: Members' interaction with the Executive Director or with staff must recognize the lack of authority vested in individuals except when explicitly Board authorized;
 - (a) members' interaction with public, press or other entities must recognize the same limitation and the inability of any Director to speak for the Board except to repeat explicitly stated Board decisions;
 - (b) except for participation in Board deliberation about whether the Executive Director has achieved any reasonable interpretation of Board policy, members will not express individual judgments of performance of employees or the Executive Director;
 - (c) Board member interaction with the Executive Director and other staff within the organization must be directly related to matters pertaining to the Board. If a Board member has operational concerns, these concerns are to be vetted by the Board Chair, and if deemed appropriate, the Board chair will bring the concerns to the Board meeting. If warranted, the Executive Director will prepare a report within an appropriate time frame. Requests for direct inspection should be requested by the Board Chair at a Board meeting.
- (4) members will respect the confidentiality appropriate to issues of a sensitive nature;
- (5) members will be properly prepared for Board deliberation;
- (6) members will support the legitimacy and authority of the final determination of the Board on any matter, irrespective of the member's personal position on the issue;
- (7) members may make an annual financial contribution to the agency during the first quarter of the Board year (between the beginning of June and the end of August). The amount donated by individual members will be treated as confidential information;
- (8) the Board will determine how to deal with violation of Board policies by a Director.
- (9) while respecting the rights and dignity of all individuals, the Board will enforce upon itself and its members whatever discipline is necessary to govern with excellence. In consultation with the Board and at the discretion of the Chairperson, a Director may be asked to resign or take a leave of absence if they are unable to function in matters such as attendance, preparation, comprehension of role and policy-making principles. This will be handled in a caring, professional manner.
- (10) A copy of the latest version of the Ethics Framework is located on the CMHA Connects website and the Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound Branch's website. The Board approved and adopted the Ethics Framework September 23, 2014.

REVISED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS

POLICY TITLE: CHAIRPERSON'S and VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S ROLE

The Chairperson a specially empowered member of the Board, assures the integrity of the Board's process and, secondarily, occasionally represents the Board to outside parties.

Accordingly:

- (1) the assigned result of the Chairperson's job is that the Board behaves consistently with its own rules and those legitimately imposed upon it from outside the organization, and therefore;
 - (a) meeting discussion content will only be those issues which, according to Board policy, clearly belong to the Board to decide or to monitor;
 - (b) information that is for neither monitoring performance nor Board decisions will be avoided or minimized and always noted as such; and
 - (c) deliberation will be fair, open, and thorough, but also, timely, orderly and to the point;
- (2) the authority of the Chairperson consists in making decisions that fall within the topics covered by Board policies on Governance Process and Board-Management Delegation with the exception of (a) employment or termination of an Executive Director and (b) where the Board specifically delegates portions of this authority to others. The Chairperson is authorized to use any reasonable interpretation of the provisions in these policies and therefore:
 - (a) is empowered to chair Board meetings with all the commonly accepted power of that position, such as ruling and recognizing;
 - (b) has no authority to make decisions about policies created by the Board within Ends and Executive Limitations policy areas. Therefore, the Chairperson has no authority to supervise or direct the Executive Director;
 - (c) may represent the Board to outside parties in announcing Board-stated positions and in stating Chairperson decisions and interpretations within the area delegated to that role; and
 - (d) may delegate this authority, but shall remain accountable for its use.
- (3) specifically, the duties of the Board Chairperson are as follows:
 - (a) preside at all meetings of the Board and act as Chair of such meetings;
 - (b) preside at all meetings of the Corporation;
 - (c) report to the Members at the Annual General Meeting of the Corporation and at all such other times as the Chair may consider advisable or necessary, concerning the operations of the Corporation;
 - (d) have the right, in his/her discretion, to serve as an ex officio voting member of all standing and special committees;
 - (e) represent the Corporation at both public and other official functions; and
 - (f) assume and perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned by the Board.
- (4) further, the duties of the Board Vice-Chairperson are as follows:
 - (a) have all the powers and perform all the duties of the Chair during the absence or disability of the Chair; and
 - (b) perform such other duties, if any, as may be from time to time be assigned by the Board.

REVIEWED November 20, 2024

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
 POLICY TITLE: SECRETARY-TREASURER'S ROLE

The Board Secretary-Treasurer is an officer of the Board whose purpose is to ensure the integrity of the Board's documents.

Accordingly:

- (1) the assigned result of the Secretary-Treasurer's job is to see to it that all Board documents and filings are accurate and timely and therefore:
 - (a) policies will be current in their reflection of Board decisions. Decisions upon which no subsequent decisions are to be based, such as consent agenda decisions, motions to adjourn, and staff or Director recognitions need not be placed in policy;
 - (b) policies will rigorously follow Policy Governance principles;
 - (c) by-law elements necessary for legal compliance and for consistency with the principles of Policy Governance will be known to the Board;
 - (d) requirements for format, brevity, and accuracy of Board minutes will be known to the Executive Director;
 - (e) the Corporate Minute Book should be complete and accessible.
- (2) the Secretary-Treasurer will serve and will be the Chair on the Nominating, By-Law Review and Risk Management Committee;
- (3) the Secretary-Treasurer will authorize the expense claims of Directors and the Executive Director.
- (4) Review Volunteer hours submitted

Notification of the following will be completed by the Secretary-Treasurer or delegate as follows:

- (1) Ontario Business Registry will be notified as follows:
 - (a) within 15 days following every Annual General Meeting of changes/additions to the Board of Directors and;
 - (b) within 15 days following the Board meeting where changes/additions to the Board of Directors are announced. and;
 - (c) within 15 days of every AGM of changes/additions to the Board Bylaws
- (2) Revenue Canada will be notified of changes/additions to the Board of Directors as part of the Charity Return completed by the auditor. The Charity Return will be completed on or before September 30th each year.

REVISED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: BOARD COMMITTEE PRINCIPLES

Board committees, when used, will be assigned so as to reinforce the wholeness of the Board's job and so as never to interfere with delegation from Board to Executive Director.

Accordingly;

- (1) Board committees are to help the Board do its job, not to help or advise the staff. Committees ordinarily will assist the Board by preparing policy alternatives and implications for Board deliberation. In keeping with the Board's broader focus, Board committees will normally not have direct dealings with current staff operations;
- (2) Board committees may not speak or act for the Board except when formally given such authority for specific and time-limited purposes. Expectations and authority will be carefully stated in order not to conflict with authority delegated to the Executive Director;
- (3) Board committees cannot exercise authority over staff. The Executive Director works for the full Board, and will therefore not be required to obtain approval of a Board committee before an executive action;
- (4) Board committees are to avoid over-identification with organizational parts rather than the whole. Therefore, a Board committee that has helped the Board create policy on some topic will not be used to monitor organizational performance on that same subject.
- (5) committees will be used sparingly and ordinarily in an ad hoc capacity; and
- (6) this policy applies only to any group that is formed by Board action, whether or not it is called a committee and regardless of whether the group includes Director. It does not apply to committees formed under the authority of the Executive Director;
- (7) committees will comply with Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code and the Ethics Framework

REVISED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS

POLICY TITLE: BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

A committee is a Board committee only if its existence and charge come from the Board, regardless whether Directors sit on the committee. The only standing Board committees are those which are set forth in this policy. Unless otherwise stated, a committee ceases to exist as soon as its task is complete. Timely reporting to the Board shall be by submission of a written report, following each meeting, with appropriate verbal comment by the committee chair, (who, in all cases, will be chosen from among the Directors on the committee).

Accordingly Standing Committees are:

- (1) *Annual General Meeting Event Committee:*
 1. Annual General Meeting Event
- (b) **Composition:**
 1. membership shall consist of at least two Directors and others as deemed necessary by the Board.
- (2) *Nominating and By-Law Review Committee:*
 - (a) **Product:**
 1. properly screened potential Directors as required
 2. candidates for Board offices as required
 3. annually reviewed by-laws and recommended changes to be processed at the Annual General Meeting Event
 4. review of Letters Patent against by-laws and Board policies every five years
 5. review of Board Policies
 - (b) **Composition:**

membership shall consist of the Secretary-Treasurer and at least 1 other Director (who is in their 2nd or 3rd year of their first term or longer) the Executive Director in an ex officio, non-voting capacity) or designate and others as deemed necessary by the Board. The Secretary-Treasurer will be the Chair of the committee.
- (3) *Audit and Finance Review Committee:*
 - (a) **Product:**
 1. Review finances of the agency on behalf of the Board
 2. Review risk management reports
 - (b) **Composition:**

membership shall consist of at least two Directors, the Executive Director, and others as deemed necessary by the Board.
- (4) *Quality Assurance Committee:*
 - (a) **Product:**
 1. to provide board support to the agency in the awareness and trends of service delivery in conjunction with the agency's policy and process re quality assurance delivery of programs.
 2. Review and Report to the board Risk Management Reports which include the Quarterly Adverse Event Report and the Annual Quality Improvement Plan.
 - (b) **Composition:**

Membership shall consist of 2- 3 board directors and others as deemed necessary by the board. Meetings will be Quarterly or as required. Quorum shall consist of at least two directors. Decisions/voting will be made by consensus. A board director shall be the Chair of the committee.

Ad Hoc Committees are:

- (5) *Board Education Approval Committee:*
 - (a) **Product:**
 1. properly screened potential Board education opportunities
 2. recommendations to the Board regarding educational opportunities
 3. annual education expenses no greater than the amount allocated
 - (b) **Composition:**
 1. membership shall consist of at least 2 Directors with ideally, at least 1 Director who was a former member of the Board Education Approval Committee

(6) *Board Strategic Planning Committee*

(a) **Product:**

1. Agency's Strategic Plan is properly planned for and implemented on a three-five year cycle.
2. To achieve this, an Ad Hoc Board Strategic Planning Committee will be appointed at the start of the last year of the current strategic plan at the first meeting of the Board following the AGM in order to develop for implementation by the Board and the ED, the Organization's Strategic Plan; the four years rotation shall be determined by the end of the Organization's Strategic Plan, whereby the committee will be established one year prior to termination of the Organization Strategic Plan.
3. In conjunction with the Executive Director review of Annual Quality Improvement Plan as it relates to the agency's Strategic Plan

(b) **Composition:**

1. membership shall consist of the Executive Director, and at least 2 Directors which ideally includes at least 1 Board Director who was a previous member of this committee, and others as deemed necessary by the Board. Quorum shall consist of at least 2 Board Directors. A Board Director will be the Chair of the committee.

(7) *Executive Director Performance Review Committee*

(a) **Product:**

1. The ED Performance Review Committee will form annually beginning in April to prepare and deliver the ED Performance Review in June and prior to the AGM.
2. The committee will engage the Board as a whole by email as well as In-Camera when preparing the review.

(b) **Composition:**

1. Membership shall consist of the Chair and Vice Chair and at a minimum 1 to 2 Directors (who are in their 2nd or 3rd year of their first term or longer). Quorum shall consist of at least 2 Directors. The Board Chair shall be the Chair of the committee.

The Board of Directors may strike an Ad Hoc Committee from time to time.

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: AGENDA PLANNING

To accomplish its job outputs with a governance style consistent with Board policies, the Board will follow an annual agenda that (a) completes a re-exploration of the Ends policies annually; and (b) continually improves Board performance through attention to Board education and to enriched input and deliberation.

Accordingly,

- (1) in May, the Board will develop its agenda for the ensuing one-year period;
- (2) the cycle will start with the Board's development of its agenda for the next year, and therefore:
 - a. consultations with selected groups in the ownership or other methods of gaining ownership input will be determined and arranged in the first quarter, to be held during the balance of the year;
 - b. governance education and education related to Ends determination (presentations by futurists, demographers, advocacy groups, staff and so on) will be arranged in the first quarter, to be held during the balance of the year; and
 - c. a Director may recommend or request an item for Board discussion by submitting the item to the Board Chair no later than five days before the Board meeting;
- (3) throughout the year, the Board will attend to consent agenda items as expeditiously as possible;
- (4) when Board authorization is required for a matter consistent with Board policy and agenda strategic direction and time constraints do not permit the issue to be brought before the Board as a whole, the Director with signing authority are authorized to sign on behalf of the Board. The issue would then be submitted to the Board as a whole at the next meeting for ratification, usually as a consent agenda item;
- (5) Executive Director remuneration and professional development funding will be decided – after a review of monitoring reports received in the last year – during the month of May

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
 POLICY TITLE: COST OF GOVERNANCE

Because poor governance costs more than learning to govern well, the Board will invest in its governance capacity.

- (1) Board skills, methods, and supports will be sufficient to assure governing with excellence and therefore:
 - (a) training and retraining will be used liberally to orient new Directors and candidates for Directorship, as well as to maintain and increase existing Director skills and understanding.
 - (b) outside monitoring assistance will be arranged so that the Board can exercise confident control over organizational performance. This includes but is not limited to fiscal audit.
 - (c) outreach mechanisms will be used as needed to ensure the Board’s ability to listen to owner viewpoints and values;

- (2) 0.49% of the operational funding of the agency will be allocated for Board expenses and:
 - (a) of this sum 25% will be allocated for the Annual General Meeting Event. Gifts to Directors and staff in recognition of length of service will be covered by this allocation.
 The spending on such gifts is as follows:

Board Director	6 years	\$100.00
Staff	5 years	\$50.00
	10 years	\$100.00
	15 years	\$150.00
	20 years	\$200.00
	25 years	\$250.00
	30 years	\$300.00 (see Agency policy III-180)

For the purpose of Board recognition, a year is defined as a Board year (June-May);

 - (b) of this sum, 10% will be allocated for the annual Board orientation/reorientation retreat.
 - (c) of this sum, 40% will be allocated for Board and committee meeting expenses.
 - (d) of this sum, 20% will be allocated for training, including attendance at conferences and workshops.
 - (e) of this sum, 5% will be allocated for additional Board expenses including Director recruitment advertising, Board Leadership newsletter, etc.; and

- (3) A Board Director must complete a Board Director expense claim form (available on the website) and submit it to the Secretary-Treasurer at or before the Board meeting immediately following incurring the expense. Expenses incurred but not claimed by the end of the January Board meeting will not be reimbursed.

- (4) as of the end of the January Board meeting, any of the allocated funds not projected to be spent on Board expenses by the end of the fiscal year (April 1st – March 31st) are available to be used by the Executive Director for agency expenses at her/his discretion.

REVISED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
 POLICY TITLE: NEW DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS

Directors will be chosen with care for their ability to participate constructively in the process of governing.

Accordingly:

- (1) In order to preserve Board diversity and strength, it will be more important that the Board is comprised of individuals with various backgrounds and experiences rather than filling a vacancy simply because it exists;
- (2) a nomination or search process will determine that any potential Director process or can develop qualities appropriate for the Board's task, therefore:
 - (a) understands the Board's approach to governance and accept the stringent Board discipline, including attendance requirements and participation in ongoing retraining;
 - (b) is able to join assertively in the debate of Board issues, with no reluctance to express dissent;
 - (c) is willing to commit time for official community functions that may include ownership/partnership for focus groups, committee work, community public relations, and possibly fundraising;
 - (d) is prepared to stand behind Board policies regardless of personal stands taken prior to the vote; and
 - (e) is willing to support the Executive Director when he/she has acted in compliance with reasonable interpretation of Board policies;
 - (f) must live at a primary permanent address in The District Municipality of Muskoka or District of Parry Sound, and resign, upon moving from the District Municipality of Muskoka or District of Parry Sound
 - (g) pay to the Corporation such Membership fee as is from time to time required;
 - (h) submit to the Corporation a completed application, resume and references;
 - (i) participate in a selection interview
- (3) although individual Directors may choose to volunteer their specific talents to the Executive Director, they will not be chosen on the basis of this optional, non-governance activity.
- (4) Prior to an interviewee being nominated by the committee to the Board, the committee must have received and reviewed the potential nominee's Police Information Check (CPIC) – Level 2. A Director must at all times have on file with the agency a Police Information Check – Level 2 which is provided upon joining the Board and that is no older than six months old and the results of which have been deemed acceptable to the Nominating, By-Law Review and Risk Management Committee. Annually, prior to the Board's annual review performance, the Directors will certify in writing there has been no changes to their Police Information Check – Level 2.
- (5) New members will have on file a signed Confidentiality Agreement prior to a nomination to the Board; New members will be oriented thoroughly to the Board's process of governance within 6 months of their appointment. (see Board Policy New Director Orientation (GP #2m))

REVISED: February 12, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: PURPOSES OF THE MENTOR ROLE

The aim of this policy is to raise comfort levels and facilitate the development of a sense of belonging in new members in order to increase their participation and reduce the likelihood of resignation. New Directors are assigned a veteran director (who has been a director for a minimum of two years) designated as her/his "mentor". The purpose of this mentoring duty is to provide an experienced contact person in order to:

- (1) help new members with questions and concerns during the often disorienting and intimidating initiation period of service;
- (2) establish an informal channel for two way feed-back;
- (3) monitor a new member's comfort level and welfare.

The role of "mentor" will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (1) contacting the individual nominated for election at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) beforehand and introducing yourself as that person's "mentor";
- (2) going out of your way at the AGM, Board orientation sessions, and subsequent meetings to greet the new Director, preferably seating him/her beside you, and providing them with guidance at the meetings in regard to anything appearing to cause confusion or that might do so;
- (3) communicating with the individual prior to each Board meeting following receipt of the Board package and answering any questions, or arranging for the appropriate person such as the Executive Director or Board Chair to address any issues which the mentor cannot;
- (4) dealing with any anxieties you detect the person may be experiencing in regard to the package or upcoming meetings;
- (5) talking with the person after each Board meeting, judging if any problems or concerns have arisen, and if so, addressing them as appropriate;
- (6) checking with the member if they miss a meeting without explanation in order to ascertain the reason and, if the cause is such the Board or the agency can assist in avoiding a recurrence, raising the issue with the appropriate Board officer, the Board, or the agency as soon as possible; and

REVISED February 12, 20

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board will elect from amongst themselves those Directors deemed best qualified to fill the office to which they are elected.

Accordingly:

- (1) the Nominating and By-Law Review Committee will solicit interest in standing for office from existing Director, who have been a member of the Board for a minimum of one year, two months prior to the Annual General meeting;
- (2) the Nominating and By-Law Review Committee will confirm such expressions of interest one month prior to the Annual General meeting;
- (3) should insufficient directors voluntarily express interest in standing for office one month prior to the Annual General meeting, the Nominating and By-Law Review Committee will assertively pursue commitment to stand from among those directors the Nominating and By-Law Review Committee deems best qualified to fill the office(s) for which there are no candidates;
- (4) the call for candidates will be deemed closed two weeks prior to the Annual General Meeting Event – unless a candidate or candidates withdraws leaving no candidate for a particular office – and this slate will be presented to those directors eligible to vote at the first meeting of the annual Board work cycle;
- (5) should a candidate or candidates withdraw prior to the first meeting of the annual work cycle the Nominating and By-Law Review Committee will resume pursuit of an appropriate Director until such time as someone is identified;
- (6) should there be only one candidate for a given office, that Director will be viewed as elected to that office by acclamation; effective at the outset of the first meeting of the annual work cycle;
- (7) should there be more than one candidate for a given office, a vote by secret ballot shall be held at the outset of the first meeting of the annual work cycle; and
- (8) the Past-Chairperson will chair the meeting during the election of the Chairperson. If there is no Past-Chairperson, then the most long-serving Director not running for Board Chairperson of the Board will chair the meeting during the election of the Board Chairperson

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
 POLICY TITLE: NEW DIRECTOR ORIENTATION

Orientation of New Directors will be completed by the Executive Director or delegate as follows:

- (1) New Directors to be elected at the Annual General Meeting:
 - (a) the Executive Assistant will prepare the Board Background Binder (contents noted below) and the Board Minutes Binder (contents noted below) and make arrangements for the two binders to be delivered to the potential new Director, ideally two weeks before the Annual General Meeting or next Board meeting if elected interim
 - (b) before the Annual General Meeting the Executive Director or delegate will make arrangements to meet with the potential new Director and review the following documents/videos:
 1. Board Background Binder which includes:
 - Mission, Values and Vision Statements
 - Legal Documents
 - Letters Patent
 - By-Law/Special Resolution passed June 10, 2011 re: number of Directors
 - By-Law/Special Resolution passed September 23, 2014 re: change of name
 - By-Law 2010
 - Policy Governance
 - Policy Governance in a Nutshell
 - Material in Board Library
 - Historical Material
 - Board Minutes from the Past Two Years
 - Financial Statements (latest version)
 - Annual General Meeting Reports and Auditors Reports from the past year
 - Agency Specific Information
 - Agency Brochure
 - Agency Overview
 - Ends Monitoring Reports (latest version)
 - Multi-Sector Service Accountability Agreement
 - Policy Documents
 - Changing Directions Changing Lives – The Mental Health Strategy for Canada
 - Open Minds, Healthy Minds: Ontario's Comprehensive Mental Health and Addiction Strategy
 - Integrated Health Service Plans [Northeast and North Simcoe Muskoka Local Health Integration Networks]
 - "The Guide to Better Meetings for Directors of Non-profit Organizations"
 2. Board Minutes Binder which includes:
 - Board Policy Document
 - Board Annual Work Plan for Current Year (Distinguish between Annual Work Cycle and Annual Work Plan)
 - Acronym List
 - List of Key Staff and Their Positions
 - Board Meeting Self Evaluation
 3. Agency Orientation Package
 4. Book – Robert's Rules of Order (paperback)
 5. Expense/Mileage/Volunteer form
 - (c) Interim New Director to be appointed by the Board of Directors mid-Board year:
 1. Arrangements will be made to deliver the above noted Board Background binder and Board minute binder to the interim Director as soon possible after approval of the Board of Directors has been received at a Board meeting.
 2. The Executive Director or delegate will make arrangements to meet with the interim Director one week after the above-noted binders have been delivered.
 3. The Executive Director or delegate will review with the interim Director the above noted binders, orientation package and video.
- (d) In addition to reviewing the above noted binders the following subjects will be covered during the

orientation session with new Board Directors:

1. review access to join CMHA Connects (instructions in Board background binder)
2. mileage/expense reports
3. board package arrival and expectations
4. board workplan
5. where to go with questions and the mentor role
6. monitoring reports and their purpose
7. Board Policy Code of Conduct GP #2c:
 - review item #2c – apply for work within the organization
 - review item #3c – board member interaction with the Executive Director and staff within the organization
8. quality and safety principles
9. principles of client and family centered care

REVIEWED November 20, 2024

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: BOARD EDUCATION POLICY

The Board of Directors of Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound are best served by a Board of Directors comprised of individuals who are well versed in modern principles of policy governance and other subject matters relevant to Board service and who thoroughly comprehend the role and responsibilities of an effective Board in the oversight and management of Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound.

To this end, all Board Directors of the Board are encouraged to attend such Director education programs as they deem appropriate (given their individual experiential backgrounds) to stay abreast of developments in policy governance and best practices relevant to their contribution to the Board generally as well as to their responsibilities in their specific committee assignments.

Accordingly:

- (1) every Director shall receive formal education/training in Policy Governance within the first year after they are elected to the Board;
- (2) each Director will be expected to attend at least **one** education event per year as per the Board's fiscal budget (April 1st – March 31st) allotment per Director. Such events could be arranged in-house or externally. Directors who have already attended an educational event that year will be eligible to attend additional events if other Directors who are eligible cannot attend;
- (3) educational events will be in accordance with the Board Annual Workplan for the current year with the following standing items included:
 - a. Board Governance (Carver) training;
 - b. Canadian Mental Health Association, Ontario and National conferences (please note: the Branch agreement requires at least one delegate, representing the Board, attend both the CMHA, Ontario conference and the CMHA National conference).
 - c. Ministry-sponsored events for Directors
 - d. Addictions Mental Health Ontario (AMHO) Annual General Meeting and Conference – priority to be given to new Directors and/or other Directors who have not attended;
 - e. Virtual events for Board members
- (4) priority may be given to in-house education or virtual training opportunities
- (5) final decisions for Board of Director attendance at education events will be done at a Board meeting based on the recommendation of the Board Education Approval Committee; and

Further:

- (6) Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound will reimburse Directors for all costs of attending one educational event per year including travel, meals and accommodation. If requested, a Director will be pre-paid for approximate costs and the Director will give an accounting on the pre-paid amount including all receipts accumulated for the event.
- (7) the Director will write a brief report about the course/event attended, highlighting any trends/new learning as well as any other resources that may be available. The report is to be circulated prior to the board meeting that follows the event. If required, the report can be discussed at the following Board meeting.

Additionally, Board Education Events will be decided upon, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Directors will bring to the Board Education Approval Committee Chair's attention educational opportunities that they feel the Board could benefit from and are in accordance, but not limited to, the Board's Annual Work Plan;
- (2) Directors will let the Board Approval Education Committee Chair will contact the members of the Committee with the request and the members will agree or disagree with the request using the Criteria Matrix Scale to determine appropriateness. Ideally, no more than two Directors will attend the same event at the same time. However, should there be more than two Directors interested in the same event the matter will be decided upon by the Committee;
- (3) over the course of the agency's fiscal year (April 1st to March 31st) Directors who wish to attend an educational event will be required to submit to the Board Education Approval Committee Chair (with a cc to the Board Executive Assistant) a fully completed Board Education Event Request Form in order that the Committee may process, approve or disapprove and track event requests over the fiscal year.
- (4) If a Director or the Executive Director becomes aware of an educational event where time does not permit bringing the event to the next Board meeting for announcement of the event, they will send an email communication to all the directors to inform them of the event. Those Directors wanting to attend are to notify the Board Education Committee Chair within 24 hours of the original email being sent. The Committee Chair will, in consultation with the Executive Director, decide the appropriateness of the event as per the Criteria Matrix Scale as well as the number of Directors who should attend.
- (5) Directors may ask for help in booking an educational/training event including the booking of the hotel, travel arrangements, registration for the event, etc. from the Board Executive Assistant assigned to the Directors.

MATRIX SCALE TO DETERMINE APPROVAL OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

QUESTIONS	NOTES	ANSWERS	TOTAL FOR SECTION
RELEVANCE 1. Is the course/event relevant to the duties and responsibilities of a Director? 2. Is the course Policy Governance related? 3. Is the course general knowledge specific to mental health and/or additions (e.g.): a. Legislation b. Advocacy c. Social determinants of health d. Recovery e. Anti-Stigma 4. Is the event/course offered by CMHA, Ontario /National		1. 5 2. 5 3. 5 a. 5 b. 5 c. 5 d. 5 e. 5 4. 5	40
BOARD IMPROVEMENT 1. Will the information be useful to the Board as a whole? 2. Is the course related to the current Board Annual Workplan? 3. Will the Board's cohesiveness be stronger as a result of the course?		5 10 5	20
BOARD DIRECTOR IMPROVEMENT 1. Will the course assist/improve the individual in their role on the Board? Examples (assertiveness training, mediation, public speaking, critical thinking skills, fundraising skills)		10	10
JUSTIFICATION 1. Is the request from a new Director or other Director who has not attended events/courses prior to this request? 2. Does it fall within the total budgetary allotment for education? 3. Is it equitable with respect to prior courses taken within the budgetary period? 4. The event will not require accommodation/meals. 5. Is the travel to the event justified? 6. In-house event?		1. 10 2. 5 3. 5 4. 5 5. 5 6. 10	40

COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATION:

HIGH SCORE: 110

MINIMUM SCORE: 55

*If score is below minimum the event may be brought before the Board of Directors at a regular Board meeting for approval by the Director requesting to attend the event. The Director will give additional rationale as to the event's importance.

BOARD EDUCATION EVENT REQUEST

Note to the Board Director: If you wish to attend an educational event over the current Board fiscal year (April-March) please complete this form and email it to the Board Education Approval Committee Chair along with a cc to the Board Executive Assistant.

1. Date of Request_____
2. Director's Name_____ Email_____
3. Name of Event_____
4. Have you attended this event in the past? Y__ N__ If yes, how long ago/which year?_____
5. Date(s) of the Event - please include travel day(s)_____
6. Location - please include city/venue e.g. hotel_____
7. Cost – please include Registration fee \$_____ / approx. Accommodation fee - # of nights_____ at \$_____ per night=total fee\$/approx. Travel k's_____ / # of Meals not included in registration fee B___/L___D___ please note CMHAMPS's maximum meal allowance: Breakfast \$ 15.00
Lunch \$ \$20.00 D\$ 30.00
8. Will you be seeking other funding to attend this event? e.g. a bursary / subsidy from other organization(s) / Other

9. Board Director's Comments e.g. additional information_____
10. Approved_____ Disapproved_____ Date_____ Reason_____

Note to the Chair of Board Education Approval Committee: Upon completion of the Committee's processing of this request please send a copy to the Board Director and keep a copy for your Committee's records. At the end of the board fiscal year please send the compiled requests to the Board's Executive Assistant to be filed in each Director's volunteer file.

POLICY TYPE: GOVERNANCE PROCESS
POLICY TITLE: PAST CHAIRPERSON'S ROLE

The Past-Chairperson is a specially empowered member of the Board, who assures the integrity of the Board's process as a result of experience being the Board Chairperson, and, additionally, occasionally represents the Board to outside parties.

Accordingly the Past-Chairperson will:

- (1) Participate in the orientation of new Directors to the Board process; and
- (2) participate in the Nominating and By-Law Review committee

REVIEWED October 18, 2023

POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGEMENT DELEGATION
POLICY TITLE: GLOBAL BOARD-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINKAGE

The Board's sole official connection to the operational organization, its achievements and conduct, will be through the Executive Director.

REVIEWED June 26, 2024

POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGEMENT DELEGATION
POLICY TITLE: UNITY OF CONTROL

Only decisions of the Board acting as a body are binding on the Executive Director...

Accordingly:

- (1) decisions or instructions of individual Directors, officers, or committees are not binding on the Executive Director;
- (2) in the case of Directors or committees requesting information or assistance without Board authorization, the Executive Director can refuse such requests that require, in the Executive Director's opinion, a material amount of staff time or funds, or are disruptive. (Individual requests made of a staff member by a Director, who is receiving service from that staff, will be dealt with as would a request from any service-user.)

REVIEWED June 26, 2024

POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGEMENT DELEGATION
POLICY TITLE: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB DESCRIPTION

As the Board's official link to the operating organization, the Executive Director is accountable for all organizational performance, and exercises all authority transmitted to the organization by the Board Executive Director performance will be considered to be synonymous with organizational performance.

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGEMENT DELEGATION
POLICY TITLE: ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Executive Director is the Board's only link to operational achievements and conduct, so that all authority and accountability of staff, as far as the Board is concerned, is considered the authority and accountability of the Executive Director.

Accordingly:

- (1) the Board will never give instructions to persons who report directly or indirectly to the Executive Director;
- (2) the Board will refrain from evaluating, either formally or informally, any staff other than the Executive Director; and
- (3) the Board will view Executive Director performance as identical to organizational performance, so that organizational accomplishment of Board-stated Ends and avoidance of Board-proscribed means will be viewed as successful Executive Director performance.

REVIEWED October 16, 2024

POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGEMENT DELEGATION
POLICY TITLE: DELEGATION TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board will instruct the Executive Director through written policies that prescribe the organizational Ends to be achieved, and proscribe organizational situations and actions to be avoided, allowing the Executive Director to use any reasonable interpretation of these policies.

Accordingly:

- (1) the Board will develop policies instructing the Executive Director to achieve specified results, for specified recipients, at a specified cost. These policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels, and will be called Ends policies. All issues that are not ends issues as defined here are means issues;
- (2) the Board will develop policies that limit the latitude that the Executive Director may exercise in choosing the organizational means. These limiting policies will describe those practices, activities, decisions, and circumstances that would be unacceptable to the Board even if they were to be effective. Policies will be developed systematically from the broadest, most general level to more defined levels, and they will be called Executive Limitations policies. The Board will never prescribe organizational means delegated to the Executive Director;
- (3) as long as the Executive Director uses *any reasonable interpretation* of the Board's Ends and Executive Limitations policies, the Executive Director is authorized to establish all further policies, make all decisions, take all actions, establish all practices and develop all activities. Such decisions of the Executive Director shall have full force and authority as if decided by the Board; and
- (4) the Board may change its Ends and Executive Limitations policies, thereby shifting the boundary between Board and Executive Director domains. By so doing, the Board changes the latitude of choice given to the Executive Director. But as long as any particular delegation is in place, the Board and its members will respect and support the Executive Director's choices.

REVIEWED November 20, 2024

POLICY TYPE: BOARD-MANAGEMENT DELEGATION

POLICY TITLE: MONITORING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE

Systematic and rigorous monitoring of Executive Director job performance will be solely against the only expected Executive Director job outputs: organizational accomplishment of Board policies on Ends and organizational operation within the boundaries established in Board policies on Ends and organizational operation within the boundaries established in Board policies on Executive Limitations.. Decisions regarding the Executive Director's eligibility for compensation progression and professional development will be based on the outcome of such monitoring.

Accordingly:

- (1) monitoring is simply to determine the degree to which Board policies are being met. Information that does not do this will not be considered to be monitoring information;
- (2) the Board will acquire monitoring information by one or more of three methods:
 - (a) by internal report, in which the Executive Director discloses compliance information to the Board;
 - (b) by external report in which an external, disinterested third party selected by the Board assesses compliance with Board policies;
 - (c) by direct Board inspection, in which a designated member or members of the Board assess compliance with the appropriate policy criteria;
- (3) in every case, the Board will judge (a) the reasonableness of the Executive Director's interpretation and (b) whether data demonstrate accomplishment of the interpretation;
- (4) the standard for compliance shall be *any reasonable Executive Director's interpretation* of the Board policy being monitored. The Board is final arbiter of reasonableness, but will always judge with a "reasonable person" test rather than with interpretations favoured by Directors or by the Board as a whole; and
- (5) all policies that instruct the Executive Director will be monitored at a frequency and by a method chosen by the Board. The Board can monitor any policy at any time by any method, but will ordinarily depend on a routine schedule.

<i>POLICY</i>	<i>METHOD</i>	<i>FREQUENCY</i>	<i>MONTH</i>
Global Executive Constraint	Internal Report	Once per year	June
Treatment of Service-Users	Internal Report	Once per year	May
Treatment of staff	Internal Report	Once per year	May
Compensation and Benefits	Internal Report	Once per year	October
Financial Condition and Activities	Internal Report	Once per year/ As situation changes	May
	External Report (audit)	Once per year	June
Financial Planning and Budgeting	Internal Report	Once per year	January
Asset Protection	Internal Report	Once per year	January
	External Report (audit)	Once per year	June
Comm'n & Support to Board	Board Direct Inspection	Once per year	May
Emergency Executive Succession	Internal Report	Once per year	September
Environmental Responsibility	Internal Report	Once per year	October
Ends Policy	Internal Report	Once per year	May
Unrestricted Funds	Internal Report	Once per year	March
Risk Management	Internal Report	Once per year	March

REVIEWED May 21, 2025

POLICY TYPE: BOARD MANAGEMENT DELEGATION

POLICY TITLE: ANNUAL REVIEW AND UPDATE OF SALARY GRID FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The salary grid for the Executive Director of Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound will be reviewed and updated annually each May as follows:

- (1) in April,
 - (a) the Human Resources Coordinator will identify community mental health organizations with annual revenues no more than 25% more than Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound revenues, and no less than 25% less than Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound revenues, (available from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Health Data Branch Web Portal Health Indicator Tool) to use as comparator organizations;
 - (b) the Human Resources Coordinator will determine the most up-to- date Executive Director (ED) salaries for the comparator organizations (available from the “Sunshine List” published by the Ontario Ministry of Finance);
 - (c) the CEO/ED salaries are then to be adjusted based on 35 hours per week, and the average is to be calculated by adding all of the CEO/ED salary amounts for the comparator list and dividing by the total number of comparator organizations;
 - (d) the salary grid for the Canadian Mental Health Association, Muskoka-Parry Sound’s Executive Director will be adjusted so that the mid-point (i.e. level 3 of 5) is no lower than the average salary for the comparator organizations outlined above. (The Executive Director’s salary grid will have 5 steps, with 2% between each step);
 - (e) the results of this process (showing current scale and any revision resulting from the process) will be submitted to the Board with the package for the May meeting.:
- (2) it is understood that any adjustment to the Executive Director salary grid as a result of the above information will be made at the same time as (or retroactive to) the date agreed to during the Executive Director performance review (usually April). It is also understood that in no circumstance will the Executive Director salary grid be reduced as a result of this annual exercise. The Executive Director movement on the grid will follow agency practice established for all employees. The required Pay-For-Performance agreement with the Executive Director will be dealt with in a process separate from the process of determining the salary grid for the position;
- (3) the lowest step in the Executive Director’s salary grid shall be at least 10% higher than the highest step of the next highest paid staff member’s grid (excluding physicians, if any) in the organization. In any situation where an adjustment to the next highest paid staff member pay grid results in the lowest step of the Executive Director salary grid being less than 10% above the next highest paid employee, then the Executive Director salary grid will be adjusted upward accordingly at the same time as the next highest paid staff member salary grid is adjusted; and
- (4) any changes to the Executive Director’s salary grid are contingent on funding being available.

REVIEWED: February 12, 2025