

Manual	GOVERNANCE POLICY		POLICY
Section 5.0	Board Effectiveness – Governance Policy Framework		
Title	PRINCIPLES OF GOVERNANCE & BOARD ACCOUNTABILITY		
Issuing Body/ Prepared By	Governance and Nominating Committee		
Approved by	Board of Directors		Number: GOV 5.10
Effective Date Revised Date	O: January 2009	Version 1	File Name: "Lhgdata"(J:)/Dept'1/Admin/ CorpDev/Corp&Board Planning/ Governance Policy/5.10 Principles of Governance & Board Accountability
Controlled document. Any documents appearing in paper form must be used for reference purposes only. The on-line copy on the file server above must be considered the current documentation.			

1. The Board of Directors governs Bluewater Health through the direction and supervision of the business and affairs of the corporation in accordance with its articles of incorporation, its by-laws, vision, mission and values, governance policies and other laws and regulations.
2. The Board adheres to the *Modified Pointer and Orlikoff Governance Model*, (as referenced in the Roles and Responsibilities of the Board of Directors policy) a model of governance through which it provides strategic leadership and direction.
3. The Board acts at all times in the best interests of Bluewater Health, having regard for its accountabilities to its patients and the communities served, the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Ministry) and the Erie St Clair, Local Health Integration Network (ESC LHIN).
4. The Board maintains a culture of honesty and integrity, open debate, forthright examination of all issues and strives for a consensual approach to decision-making.
5. The Board maintains at all times a clear distinction between Board and management roles, while recognizing the interdependencies between them.
6. The Board is accountable to:
 - its patients and communities served to:
 - engage the communities served when developing plans and setting priorities for the delivery of health care;
 - advocate for and seek resources to provide appropriate health care;

- utilize its resources effectively to fulfill Bluewater Health’s mission and mandate;
- ensure the quality of the care and treatment of patients
- ensure the appropriate use of community contributions and resources;
- consider the diversity of needs and interests in its policy formulation and decision-making;
- work within its resources, monitoring their efficient and effective use consistent with Bluewater Health’s mission and mandate;
- measure Bluewater Health performance against accepted standards and best practices in comparable hospitals;
- inform the Ministry/ LHIN of any gaps between needs of the communities served and scope of services provided, based on resources allocated by the Ministry/LHIN to fulfill the Bluewater Health’s mission and mandate; and
- apprise the Ministry/ LHIN and the communities served of Board policies and decisions related to the Bluewater Health’s mandate that might be required to operate within its resources.

➤ the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (Ministry) and/or the Erie St. Clair LHIN to:

- comply with government regulations, policies and directions;
- ensure that Bluewater Health operates within:
 - ✓ the Ministry’s provincial strategic plan;
 - ✓ the LHIN’s integrated health service plan;
 - ✓ the service accountability agreement with the LHIN
- work within its resources, monitoring their efficient and effective use consistent with Bluewater Health’s mission and mandate;
- measure Bluewater Health performance against accepted standards and best practices in comparable hospitals;
- inform the Ministry/ LHIN of any gaps between needs of the communities served and scope of services provided, based on resources allocated by the Ministry/LHIN to fulfill the Bluewater Health’s mission and mandate; and
- apprise the Ministry/ LHIN and the communities served of Board policies and decisions related to the Bluewater Health’s mandate that might be required to operate within its resources.

7. Consistent with the Board commitment to good governance practices the Board will make available to the public:

➤ the statement of Board and Director roles, responsibilities and accountabilities;

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- a list of elected and ex-officio Directors and their participation in Board committees;
- the Board policies designed to allow the Board to function independently of management;
- policies governing Board standing committees; and
- an annual report on Bluewater Health performance.

Monitoring:

Method: Board Review

Frequency: Annually