

Manual	GOVERNANCE POLICY		Policy
Section 6.0	Fostering Relationships		
Title	COMMUNITY ADVISORY PANELS		
Issuing Body/ Prepared By	Governance and Nominating Committee		
Approved by	Board of Directors		Number: 6.30
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Purpose

As part of its responsibility for fostering relationships and ensuring program quality and effectiveness, the Board of Bluewater Health recognizes the importance of community engagement so that members of the community can be informed of and appropriately involved in planning and decision-making processes for health care services.

Bluewater Health's community engagement strategy includes a variety of processes, mechanisms and initiatives. The hospital's community advisory panels, the Community Advisory Panel (CAP) and Rural Health Advisory Panel (RHAP) are an integral part of that strategy. This policy establishes those panels and sets out the guiding principles governing them.

Policy

The community advisory panels will serve as two-way communication mechanisms between the hospital and the communities, and from informed representatives of these communities to the hospital. The panels will consist of individuals who are broadly representative of the community, reflecting many backgrounds and experiences and the diverse communities and viewpoints that make up the Bluewater Health catchment population. The process for selection of panel members is outlined in the CAP and RHAP Terms of Reference. The RHAP's focus will be on rural health issues with the panel members being drawn from the rural communities served by Bluewater Health. The hospital's CEO and a member of the Board will serve as adjunct panel members. Other hospital staff and Professional Staff will participate on a regular basis or may be invited as guests to address issues identified by the panels. The panels will be led by a facilitator who is independent of the hospital and its affiliates (e.g. Foundations).

The panels will each meet four times per year and will act in an advisory capacity, providing the senior leadership of Bluewater Health with community specific issues, questions and suggestions related to hospital operations and health service delivery. The CEO will respond to panel advice and input and keep the panel apprised of the status of issues discussed by the Panel and actions taken. The panels will report through the President/Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to the Board.

Meetings of the panels will be open to the public with public participation guidelines outlined in the CAP and RHAP Terms of Reference.

The effectiveness of the panels will be evaluated annually, based on a review of their purpose and outcomes.

Monitoring:

Method and Frequency:

1. Review of policy (every 3 years)
2. Terms of reference review (annually)
3. CAP and RHAP evaluations (annually)
4. Community Engagement Strategy review (annually)