

## Patient & Family Advisory Council

September 20, 2021 ~ 3:00pm - 5:00pm

### Minutes

	Sept 20/21	Oct 18/21	Nov 15/21	Jan 17/22	Feb 28/22	Mar 21/22	April 25/22	May 16/22	June 20/22
Sue Tkachuk(Co-Chair)									
S. Monzavi-Bacon (Vice-Chair)									
Peggy Chapman	X								
H. Hamilton									
Linah Hegazi									
Jan Kasperski									
Brian Cooke									
Julia Boyd									
Martha Ronalds									
Mackenzie M.									
Susan Lohin									
Debra Leah Hartman									
Angelo M.									
Cheryl Williams (Chief Nursing Executive)									
D. Pitt (Coordinator Patient Relations)									
J. Loncke	X								
E. Doherty	X								
F. Wilson (Manager, Patient & Family Collaborative Support Services)	X								
B. Sunstrum (Knowledge Translation Specialist, Forensic Psychiatry)									
E. O'Connell (Co-Chair, Nurse Management Council)									
M. Joyner (Director, Quality Dept)									
V. Constantinescu (Patient Experience Consultant, Quality Dept)	X								
S. Mondoux (Quality Lead, Emergency Dept)	X								
J. Williams (Resource)									

X = Regrets

 = Not a current member

#### Abbreviation List:

PFAC = Patient and Family Advisory Council

PFA = Patient and Family Advisor

SJHH = St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Item	Topic	Presenter
<b>1.0</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1	<p>Call to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agenda for the September 20 2021 meeting was approved.</li> <li>The minutes from the June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved.</li> </ul>	<i>S.Tkachuk</i>
1.2	<p>Land Acknowledgement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PFAC opened the meeting with the SJHH Land Acknowledgement.</li> </ul>	<i>S.Tkachuk</i>
1.3	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Welcomed guests: Dr. Zain Chagla, B. Carmichael, newly recruited PFA's M. Walz, F. Hassim</p>	<i>S.Tkachuk</i>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	
2.1	<p><b>New Vice-Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>S. Monzavi-Bacon will be the new Vice-Chair of PFAC for the 2021-2023 term</li> </ul>	<i>S.Tkachuk</i>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>PRESENTATIONS</b>	
3.1	<p><b>COVID-19 – Regional Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of September 20<sup>st</sup>, there are 13 active COVID facility outbreaks in the city. Outbreaks are mainly seen in educational institutions</li> </ul> <p><b>COVID-19 – St. Joe's Updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of September 20<sup>st</sup>, we are caring for 12 patients with COVID, 8 patients are in the ICU and 4 are in the acute care unit</li> <li>Re-establishing the COVID Inpatient unit and re-opening the ICU West unit</li> <li>COVID numbers are stable however we have had to increase our ICU beds to meet capacity</li> </ul> <p><b>Q: How many patients in the ICU are fully vaccinated?</b> A: The majority of ICU patients are unvaccinated, there are a few patients who have received one COVID vaccine and some who are fully vaccinated. Due to privacy of our patients, that information is not released to the Public.</p> <p><b>Q: How are you communicating with ICU patients re: Vaccine Status?</b> A: All patients who are admitted to St.Joe's are screened for COVID symptoms. We also ask patients if they have been vaccinated as this helps how best to manage patients when they require hospital admission.</p>	<i>C. Williams</i>
3.2	<p><b>Vaccine Update– St. Joe's:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vaccines working to help reduce the numbers of COVID positive cases</li> <li>Vast majority of patients in the region ICU's are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated</li> <li>There was an increase in cases observed in Hamilton during August 2021, due to family events and institutional settings, however numbers have stabilized over the last two weeks</li> <li>Ontario is offering people at "highest risk" third vaccine shots. Those eligible include long-term care residents, transplant recipients, patients with hematological cancers undergoing treatment, and recipients of certain medications</li> <li>Booster shots may eventually be required, however it is too soon tell whether this should be within the general population</li> </ul> <p><b>Q: When is the third COVID vaccine given?</b> A: A person receives the third dose of vaccine six month's after they have receive the second.</p> <p><b>Q: Will children who are immunosuppressed receive a third dose of the COVID vaccine?</b> A: Research recommends that those with autoimmune conditions, immunodeficiency conditions or those immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment in the age group 12 years and older who have been immunized should receive a 3rd dose of the vaccine.</p>	<i>Dr. Z. Chagla</i>

	<p><b>Q: Is there a way to test a person's immunity to COVID?</b> A: The lab offers an antibody test which detects antibodies reactive to COVID. This test can be used to assess recent or previous infection with COVID. This test is most accurate 3-4 weeks after onset of symptoms or 3-4 weeks after exposure. At this time, it is not known if the presence of antibodies to COVID means you are immune to the virus and protected from re-infection or how long antibody response to COVID virus lasts.</p> <p><b>Q: I heard that mixing vaccine brands such as Pfizer and Moderna offers better immunity?</b> A: Studies revealed that mixing vaccine brands resulted in a stronger immune response than having two doses of same vaccine.</p> <p><b>Q: Do you think that we will need to get the COVID vaccine on a yearly basis?</b> A: It is not yet determined whether or not we will need to receive the COVID vaccine yearly. Many new variants of the COVID strain are emerging all the time. Vaccine manufacturers are already planning to develop new versions of their products to deal with the variants. . For now, the currently approved vaccines continue to provide some level of immunity.</p> <p><b>Q: Should we get the flu vaccine this year?</b> A: A potentially early flu season could result as the Province opens up and of people's reduced immunity to the flu after months of limiting social gatherings, remote work/school etc. where viruses can spread easily. In order to reduce the risk of serious flu-related illness, everyone should get the influenza vaccine.</p> <p><b>Q: Are there more hospital staff getting the COVID vaccine?</b> A: As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, the hospital has implemented a vaccine policy that requires all staff physicians, learners and volunteers to provide proof of vaccination. We hope that with this policy in place, vaccination rates will increase.</p>	
	<p><b>Vaccine Requirements for Volunteers</b></p> <p><u>Mandatory Disclosure of Vaccination Status</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The provincial Directive 6 requires that all staff, physicians, learners and volunteers provide proof of one of three things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full vaccination against COVID-19</li> <li>A medical reason/human rights exemption for not being vaccinated against COVID-19</li> <li>Completion of a COVID-19 vaccination educational session</li> </ul> </li> <li>All staff, physicians, learners and volunteers are required to declare their vaccination status with Occupational Health and Safety by completing the attestation form and submit their vaccination receipts by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2021</li> <li>All new hires to St. Joe's are required to be fully vaccinated effective Sept. 7, 2021</li> <li>Those who are unvaccinated or have not provided vaccine status/proof of vaccination will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete a required education module on COVID-19 vaccination.</li> <li>Self-administer a rapid antigen test supplied by St. Joe's every Monday and Thursday of their work week</li> </ul> </li> <li>Those who are unable to be vaccinated due to medical or human rights reasons will be required to provide proof to the Human Resources and Occupational Health and Safety departments</li> </ul> <p><b>Q: Volunteers were required to submit the attestation however this occurred prior to the hospital's implementation of the formalized process. How do we know if the hospital received our vaccination status ?</b> A: Volunteers can call the Occupational Health and Safety department to ensure they have received your attestation.</p>	<p><i>B. Carmichael</i></p>

	<b>PFAC 2021/2022 Work Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved</li> </ul>	<i>M. Joyner</i>
3.3	<b>PFAC Terms of Reference (TOR)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved in principle</li> <li>Wording adjustments will be completed and the TOR will be brought back to the October meeting for final approval</li> </ul>	<i>M. Joyner</i>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>STANDING ITEMS</b>	
	<b>Project Assignments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An update on all active projects to date was presented</li> <li>There were 9 project requests for Patient &amp; Family Advisor (PFA) participation between the months June 10 2021 to September 10 2021.</li> </ul>	<i>M. Joyner</i>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>CONCLUDING ITEMS</b>	
5.1	Date of Next Meeting - Held Virtually via ZOOM <b>Monday, October 19, 2021 3:00pm – 5:00pm</b>	