	POLICY	On-Line System Category N/A	Code No Not applicable	Page 1 of 2
Subject: Board Code of Conduct			Date Effective: March 29th 2016 Date Reviewed: June 2019, Oct 2022 Date Revised: August 2019	
Issued by: Governance Committee		Approved by: OSMH Board of Directors		

PURPOSE:

The Hospital is committed to ensuring that in all aspects of its affairs it maintains the highest standards of public trust and integrity.

POLICY

This code of conduct applies to all Directors, including *ex-officio* Directors, and non-board members of Board committees. The policy addresses code of conduct specific to the functions of board members.

As volunteers at OSMH, Directors are also required to comply with the Hospital’s standard code of conduct policy for employees, credentialed staff, board members, contracted staff, volunteers, students, and contractors.

DIRECTOR’S DUTIES

All Directors of the Hospital stand in a fiduciary relationship to the hospital corporation. As fiduciaries, directors must act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of the hospital corporation.

Directors will be held to strict standards of honesty, integrity and loyalty. A Director shall not put personal interests ahead of the best interests of the corporation.

Directors must avoid situations where their personal interests will conflict with their duties to the corporation. Directors must also avoid situations where their duties to the corporation may conflict with duties owed elsewhere. Where conflicts of interest arise, Directors will comply with the requirements of the Hospital’s by-laws and applicable legislation.

In addition, all Directors must respect the confidentiality of information about the corporation.


BEST INTERESTS OF THE CORPORATION

Directors must act solely in the best interests of the corporation. All Directors, including *ex-officio* Directors, are held to the same duties and standard of care. Directors who are nominees of a particular group must act in the best interests of the corporation, even if this conflicts with the interests of the nominating party.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Directors and committee members owe a duty to the corporation to respect the confidentiality of information about the corporation whether that information is received in a meeting of the Board or of a committee or is otherwise provided to or obtained by the Director or committee member. Directors and committee members shall not disclose or use for their own purpose confidential information concerning the business and affairs of the corporation unless otherwise authorized by the Board.

It is recognized that the role of the Director may include representing the hospital in the community. However, such representations must be respectful of and consistent with the Director’s duty of confidentiality.

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In addition, the Chair is the only official spokesperson for the Board. Every Director and committee member shall ensure that no statement not authorized by the Board is made by him or her to the press or public unless authorized by the Board.

A Director is in breach of his or her duties with respect to confidentiality when information is used or disclosed for other than the purposes of the Hospital operation.

BOARD SPOKESPERSON

The Board has adopted a policy with respect to designating a spokesperson on behalf of the Board. Only the Chair or the designate may speak on behalf of the Board. The Chief Executive Officer or the Chief of Staff, or their designate may speak on behalf of the organization.

No Director shall speak or make representation on behalf of the Board unless authorized by the Chair or the Board. When so authorized, the Board member's representations must be consistent with accepted positions and policies of the Board.

MEDIA CONTACT AND PUBLIC DISCUSSION

News media contact and responses and public discussion of the hospital's affairs should only be made through the Board's authorized spokespersons. Any Director who is questioned by news reporters or other media representatives should refer such individuals to the appropriate representatives of the Hospital.

RESPECTFUL CONDUCT

It is recognized that Directors bring to the Board diverse background, skill and experience. Directors will not always agree with one another on all issues. All debates shall take place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy.

The authority of the Chair must be respected by all Directors.

CORPORATE OBEDIENCE – BOARD SOLIDARITY

Directors acknowledge that properly authorized Board actions must be supported by all Directors. The Board speaks with one voice. Those Directors who have abstained or voted against a motion must adhere to and support the decision of a majority of the Directors.

OBTAINING ADVICE OF COUNSEL

Request to obtain outside opinions or advice regarding matters before the Board may be made through the Chair.