

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Governance Committee

DATE: October 4, 2021

SUBJECT: 7.2 2021 Board and Committee Self Evaluations

For Decision

For Information

Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To provide a status update on the upcoming 2021 Board and Committee Self-Evaluations.

Background:

The College of Opticians of Ontario Board of Directors is committed to continuously improving the quality of board governance and the process of formally evaluating its own performance and effectiveness. On October 5, 2020, the Board adopted the Ontario Hospital Association Tool for Non-Profit Organizations as a way the Board could enhance its own effectiveness and to clearly address the specific goals and objectives they want to achieve through evaluation in the best possible way.

The 2020 Board and Committee Self-evaluation Report was well received along with the Governance Committee's action plan to the Board that addressed key takeaways and growth opportunities.

For Consideration:

The College has received notice from the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) that it will be pausing the offering of this tool for 2021 in order to work on improvements and enhancements.

The Board was encouraged to continue to self-evaluate and was granted permission by the OHA to re-use the 2020 questions to administer its own self-evaluation for the 2021 year. This means that the College's administrative team will run the self-evaluation process in house, using an anonymous survey that will preserve board and committee member anonymity. The process will include:

1. An easy-to-read report of the Board and committee results. This report will not, however, be able to compare the Board's scores to other organizations across the sector and/or province.
2. No loss of continuity from last years' results with a side-by-side comparison
3. Flexibility with scheduled times (Evaluations starting after December Board Meeting)

Public Interest Considerations:

The Board's mandate includes ensuring that Board self-assessments strengthen how the College operates, which has a strong relationship to how they govern. Board self-assessments bring value to board directors, committee members, the College and ultimately the public.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Considerations:

The Board is encouraged to consider whether Board and Committee self-evaluation is consistent with the COO's organizational values relating to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Action Required:

This update has been provided for information only. The Governance Committee will revisit the administration of Board and Committee self-evaluations in 2022, and in the event that the OHA tool remains unavailable, an updated proposal will be brought to the Board.