Board Brief summarizes the board meetings of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). It is shared with PHSA agencies, services, divisions, government, media and other stakeholders to keep them informed about the activities of PHSA.

- PHSA Board Briefs are available online at: phsa.ca/AboutPHSA/PHSAboard/board-briefs/default.htm
- Media contact: PHSA Communications at 604-871-5699

Summary of June 27, 2013 Board Meeting

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) Board has six scheduled open board meetings per year. As a health authority with a province-wide mandate, PHSA is committed to holding open board meetings outside the Lower Mainland twice a year. The June 27, 2013 open board meeting was held in Coquitlam.

Question & Answer / Public Presentation Period

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the board of the Provincial Health Services Authority provides opportunities for the public to schedule presentations and to ask questions of the board prior to the beginning of every open board meeting. No questions were received prior to the meeting.

Representatives from the Myalgic Encephalomyelitis & Fibromyalgia Society of BC (MEFM), Susan MacLean and Kati Debelic, presented an overview of their organization’s mandate, advising that these severe, disabling illnesses affect almost 100,000 British Columbians. Discussion ensued around the daily challenges faced by those impacted, many of whom have been misdiagnosed. The MEFM Society commended PHSA for opening the BC Complex Chronic Disease Clinic housed at BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre as a positive step. A teaching facility, the clinic will serve as a resource to physicians in the community to help them better understand and treat patients with myalgic encephalomyelitis and fibromyalgia.

Presentations (available on request)

Aboriginal Health Update
Presenter: Leslie Varley, Director, PHSA Aboriginal Health Program

Ms. Varley provided an overview of the three main areas of focus within the Aboriginal Health portfolio:
- Aboriginal Patient Liaison / Patient navigator program supports First Nations individuals to access specialized care and ensure that it is culturally appropriate.
- Indigenous Cultural Competency Training is a facilitated, online training program to increase knowledge, enhance self awareness and strengthen skills of those working with Aboriginal people. Over the past three years, more than 10,000 health care professionals across the province have taken this training and provided positive feedback.
- “Cuystwi” is an online training program for youth ages 10-13 that explores the Aboriginal traditions of culture in relation to wellness, personal relationships and the effects of colonization. This is currently a pilot program which will be evaluated later this year.

Ms. Varley also presented a status update about the newly formed First Nations Health Authority, the service delivery arm of the BC First Nations Health Governing Structure, recently devolved from the Federal government.

The Inherited Heart Arrhythmia Clinic: Concepts and Opportunities
Presenter: Dr. Andrew Krahn, Sauder Family and Heart & Stroke Foundation Chair in Cardiology, UBC

Dr. Krahn provided the context for the new provincial cardiogenetics program, the BC Inherited Arrhythmia Program (BCIAP), which is offered at two clinics in BC; in Vancouver and Victoria, stating that if a family member dies suddenly of cardiac arrest, you are twice as likely to die of this cause.
Through a concurrent clinical, research and teaching agenda, the main goals of the BCIAP are to:

- Streamline and improve access to cardiogenetics services for BC patients and family members
- Develop and implement evidence-based best practice strategies
- Initiate a privacy-protected web-based patient database to inform clinical practice
- Enhance the education of trainees, general practitioners and specialists across the province
- Create opportunities for research aimed at improving overall care in cardiogenetics

Board Committee Reports

The Quality and Access Committee presented a status update on PHSA’s imPROVE program (continuous, patient-centred process improvements based on “LEAN” principles). To date, staff in the organization have completed approximately 150 Rapid Process Improvement Workshops, and of these, approximately 80% have sustained the outcomes one year post implementation.

The Patient Safety Culture Survey was provided to PHSA employees and medical staff between January 14 and February 8, 2013. The previous survey, in 2010, was conducted using a different survey instrument, so this must be taken into account as the results are analyzed. The overall response rate, however, rose from the previous survey, and has exceeded Accreditation Canada’s minimum response rate threshold.

The Governance and Human Resources Committee conducted its annual review of its terms of reference, and the PHSA Bylaws. This resulted in minor changes to both documents which were approved by the Board. The recruitment process to replace PHSA’s President & CEO was discussed. The goal is to complete this undertaking by the end of fiscal year 2013.

The Finance Committee

An update on the BC Children’s and BC Women’s Hospital Redevelopment Project had been received by the Committee. The procurement process is now underway for Phase 2, and is progressing well. The Committee was briefed on the savings plan for the Clinical & Systems Transformation Project (CST). The total savings target for the 13/14 fiscal year is $8.83 million, to support the development and implantation of the new patient care information system over the next 3 years.

PHSA was advised that the Ministry of Health has planned $28 million in capital funding over the next six years to complete the conversion from analogue to digital screening mammography. Two million dollars of those funds will be provided in the current fiscal year to upgrade equipment in three hospitals in Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health.

The Audit Committee met on May 16 to review the annual audited financial statements which detail a balanced budget position. This is the first year that PHSA has adopted the new Public Sector Accounting Standards and the transition has gone smoothly. The statements for the branch societies under PHSA’s jurisdiction were approved by the Board, with one exception, those of the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA). Due to a minor adjustment necessitated by the new accounting standards, the BCCA financial statements will be presented for approval at the August meeting.

The Committee also reviewed the Internal Audit (IA) Annual Report, which summarized IA activities for the previous fiscal year. On consideration of the report, Management has been requested to expand their processes to monitor compliance with financial statutory and regulatory and obligations, including government regulations. This will be effective from the October 2013 board meeting.

The Research Committee received a presentation from Dr. Peter Watson, Director of the BC Cancer Agency’s Tumour Tissue Repository; a bank of harvested, then frozen, tumour tissue samples from cancer patients to be used in research. As part of this process, Dr. Watson has created a Patient Partnership Program, to allow patients to feel part of the research program and embed research into patient care.

Next Meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Thursday, August 22, 2013 in Vancouver.