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December 15, 2003 (Dec. 11, 2003 Board Meeting)

PHSA agency presentations

Dr. Gillian Fyles, medical leader of the Pain and Symptom Management/Palliative Care Program from the BC Cancer Agency's (BCCA) Centre for the Southern Interior, provided a presentation on how the BCCA improves quality of life for people living with cancer. Managing pain and symptoms to improve quality of life is one of three primary aspects of the BCCA's mission. Dr. Fyles highlighted the Kelowna Palliative Response Team, a partnership of the BCCA and Interior Health Authority (IHA). Specially trained registered nurses and social workers provide house calls throughout the night to support cancer patients choosing to spend their final days at home. Since creation of the team in 1994, there has been a significant increase in the number of people who have been able to die at home, with quality pain and symptom control.

Ms. Sharon Toohey, president of BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, provided a presentation on the role of Children's and Sunny Hill, which serve the needs of BC's most critically ill and injured children, and children with the greatest developmental and rehabilitation needs. Ms. Toohey provided an overview of the service and leadership mandates of Children's and Sunny Hill, as well as recent initiatives such as the Provincial Autism Program, cochlear implants, and the use of botox injections to eliminate the need for surgery for children with club feet.

Dr. Robert Halpenny, executive director of Cardiac Services for the PHSA, provided a presentation on his area. His presentation focused on the good - decreasing rates of heart disease, stroke and congestive heart failure - the bad - circulatory diseases are still the number one killer of British Columbians - and the ugly - how the build up of plaque in arteries reduces blood flow, leading to heart attack and strokes. Each day, 10 British Columbians are admitted to hospital because of cardiovascular disease. PHSA is working with other health authorities to improve equity of access to cardiac services.

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

Media Conference Call with Board Chair and CEO

PHSA board chair Wynne Powell, and CEO Lynda Cranston will be available to answer media questions related to the PHSA board meeting through a conference call on Tuesday, Dec. 16 from 11 - 11:30am.

Phone Communications at 604-675-7474 before 4:00 p.m., Monday, Dec. 16 for details on how to register for the call. A 1-800 number is available for the conference call throughout B.C.

CEO Update

As a result of the Provincial Mental Health Plan, 40 patients from Riverview Hospital transferred to the new South Hill Centre for Rehabilitation in Kamloops last spring. The Mental Patients Association conducted a patient satisfaction survey of the patients who transferred that showed **mental health residents have high levels of satisfaction with their care in the new facility**. The majority of residents (79 – 86 per cent) agreed somewhat or very much that they liked the food, had enough privacy, got a good night's sleep, felt safe and had enough living space. Almost all residents (83 – 97 per cent) agreed that staff were kind to them, treated them with consideration and respect, took their concerns and complaints seriously, took time to encourage them, recognized them when they did something well, and treated them as adults.

The Child Health Services Network of BC has been established to promote collaboration across facilities and ensure access to required services. Any child receiving health services in BC will be considered a patient of the Network.

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre (BC Women's), in partnership with the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and the BC Centre of Excellence for HIV/AIDS has completed an updated **service plan for women and children affected by HIV**.

The BCCA has established 11 provincial networks as a vehicle for facilitating tertiary-community-primary care practice oncology.

Board Committee Reports

The **Audit and Finance Committee** reviewed the report on operations for Period 8. As of Nov. 6, 2003, the PHSA is operating at a deficit of \$100,000 year-to-date, compared to a budgeted deficit of \$4.2 million (which is \$4.1 million favorable to plan). PHSA is now projecting a deficit of \$7.8 million, which is \$2.5 million better than budget.

The **Governance and HR Committee** reported on board orientation and recommended a number of articles on board governance. The Committee deferred until spring of 2004 its review of HR policies, given the PHSA has appointed a new Chief HR Officer.

The **Quality & Access Committee** reported on cardiac services, PHSA patient safety initiatives and patient satisfaction.

Other Business

Infant Mortality Rates

Recent Vital Statistics for BC show an increase in infant mortality rates in 2001 and 2002. BC Women's was asked to

review this finding to determine if it is a cause for concern. BC Women's found the increase in infant deaths is not statistically significant. In fact, BC has a better rate than the average Canadian rate and is among the top 10 rates in the world. Analysis of infant mortality rates shows the majority of infant deaths occur in very premature and/or under-weight infants and is linked to an increase in the number of premature births. The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Perry Kendall, has recommended BC adopt the goal of having the lowest infant mortality rate possible. BC Women's will provide leadership in working with other health authorities to develop a plan to improve the health of women, which has been clearly shown to improve the outcomes of infants.

Laboratory Reform

The PHSA is participating in the provincial laboratory reform being directed by the Provincial Laboratory Coordinating Office. PHSA has also been working within its own agencies to reform the laboratory services provided through the four PHSA laboratories, located at the BCCA, Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC, the BCCDC, and Riverview Hospital. Through a project involving medical leadership at all of these laboratories, a model for a consolidated laboratory enterprise for all of PHSA has been developed. The vision of the Laboratory Enterprise is to create a magnet laboratory that can continue to preserve both the services and the research/teaching mandate of the PHSA laboratories by reengineering work to respond to anticipated staff shortages.

Accreditation

Leslie Arnold, president of Mental Health for PHSA, reported on the recent accreditation survey of Riverview Hospital, the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission, and certain PHSA corporate functions. The survey by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation was the first accreditation survey of a PHSA agency since creation of the PHSA two years ago. While the formal accreditation report will not be available for several weeks, the initial feedback was very positive.

Mission, Vision, Values

The Board approved replacing the word "teaching" in the PHSA Mission to "learning". This change will be incorporated on future materials but existing materials will not be revised.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The Board announced its 2004 meeting schedule. Future dates are as follows (meeting locations will be confirmed at a future date): Feb. 19, April 15, June 24, Aug. 25 and Oct. 21, 2004. The Dec. 2004 date has yet to be confirmed.