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June 20, 2003 (**June 12, 2003 Board Meeting**)

CEO Update

In July 2003, BC's Children's Hospital will **close its cardiac sciences inpatient unit for much-needed renovations.**

The unit will reopen in January 2004 and will include the physical merger of the renovated 3G space with the adjacent 3H space in order to create a larger, more flexible inpatient unit. During the renovations, cardiac inpatients will be accommodated in the 3A inpatient unit, which has excess bed capacity.

The BC Cancer Agency is currently engaged in a **process to resolve the source, supplier and costs for the cytotoxic drug, paclitaxel.** The issue arises from a recent court decision regarding the continuing availability of the "generic" paclitaxel from Biolyse (at a contract cost of \$1.9 million per year). As a result of a decision in favour of Bristol Myers Squibb, market price costing for paclitaxel will be \$6.7 million with a negotiated contract price for three years of \$2.8 million per year. Health Canada is reviewing the decision to permit continued availability of the Biolyse product.

The PHSA is moving forward with developing a **Population Health Surveillance and Disease Control Planning** capability within the organization to create an enhanced information capability for its agencies and the province, and to support its involvement in chronic disease management and primary care.

PHSA's implementation of **PeopleSoft Business Systems is moving forward on time and on budget.** General ledger/accounts payable systems were implemented in April, and human resources/payroll have been implemented and are being used at BC's Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre. Project teams are being developed for the implementation of the supply chain management applications.

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, June 24 from 11 – 11:30 am.

Phone Communications at 604-675-7474 before 4:30 p.m., Monday, June 23 for details on how to register for the call. A 1-800 number is available for the conference call throughout B.C.

Several **important initiatives related to Cardiac Services are underway:**

- Review of the mandate of the Cardiac Registry
- Review of surgery/catheterization capacity at each site
- Assessment of the need for expanded cardiac services in Kelowna
- Assessment of pacemaker and electrophysiology needs for the province
- Review of proposed introduction of drug eluting stents for angioplasties as the cost of these stents are five times the current stent technology
- A plan to undertake extensive consultation with the health authorities in June regarding the future of cardiac services.

Board Committee Reports

The **Finance and Audit Committee** recommended and the board approved the audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2003. The board also approved revised terms of reference for the Audit and Finance Committee and approved the Internal Assurance Charter, which provides clarification of the role and responsibilities of the Office of Internal Assurance. A copy of the Charter is available on the PHSA website at www.phsa.ca/About/RolesResponsibilities/internalassurance.

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended and the board approved a revised board policy on PHSA board meetings. The revised policy specifies that every scheduled meeting of the Board will, unless the Board determines otherwise, be a combination of an “open” session and “in camera” session. The full board policy is located on the PHSA web site at www.phsa.ca/About/Leadership/Board/BoardMeetings. The board also approved the committee’s recommendation to accept various patient representation committees already in place in PHSA agencies as meeting the spirit of the board’s requirement for patient care committees to ensure patient/client input into care.

Presentations

The board received a presentation from Dr. Johann Brink, Director of Research, on **research at the Forensic Psychiatric Services (FPSC)**. FPSC has had an international leadership role in developing risk assessment tools, and has recently evaluated the implementation of a smoking ban on a locked psychiatric assessment unit.

The board also received a presentation from Dr. B. Honner, Director of Research, on the structure supporting **research at Riverview Hospital** and on recent research activities, including research regarding a new type of antipsychotic drug (atypical) first introduced in 1993.

Leslie Arnold, President of Mental Health at PHSA, made a presentation to the board regarding **the redevelopment plan for Riverview Hospital**, which will result in new facilities with stronger links to the surrounding community, and increased capacity within the health authorities. To date, 84 Riverview patients have transferred to new specialized mental health beds located in Prince George, Victoria and Kamloops.