

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

700 – 1380 Burrard St.
Vancouver, BC
V6H 2H3 Canada

604 675 7400 tel
604 708 2700 fax
www.phsa.ca web

Summary of April 27, 2006 Board Meeting held in Vancouver

Public Presentations and Question and Answer Period

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the board of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) provides opportunities for the public to schedule presentations and ask questions of the board prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

The Provincial Health Services (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.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Anne Junker, Associate Director for Clinical Research at the Child & Family Research Institute provided a presentation on clinical research at BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals.

Improved coordination and support for research applications is resulting in **more research projects successfully attracting funding.**

Don Henkelman, PHSA's Chief Information Officer, presented on PHSA's progress in e-health.

E-health initiatives promise to transform how health care is delivered by **modernizing how clinicians share patient information and how they collaborate.** All major hospitals in BC can now share their digital diagnostic images with PHSA to allow for immediate consultation with specialists.

Peter Coleridge, Senior Advisor with BC Mental Health & Addiction Services, presented on PHSA's workplace mental health and addiction plans.

PHSA is researching the needs of PHSA employees and potential services regarding mental health disabilities. BC Mental Health & Addiction Services co-chairs an interprovincial scientific committee and is **partnering with provincial, national and international organizations dealing with the issue**, including BC Business and Economic Roundtable on Mental Health.

Dr. Robert Brunham and Dr. Danuta Skowronski of the BC Centre for Disease Control presented on a **new educational video on Pandemic Influenza** for health care workers in BC. The video combines interviews with experts, 3-D animation and graphics and dramatic news footage to educate health care workers about what they can do to prepare.

CEO Update

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre **expanded the Single-Room Maternity Care unit**. The first baby was born on the new unit on March 6, 2006. In the first 28 days, 85 women have delivered, and 60 other women, either postpartum or with complex problems requiring transfer to other units, have been cared for in the unit.

BC Centre for Disease Control reports that **British Columbia's infectious syphilis epidemic has peaked and is waning due to the public health response**. The syphilis outbreak, the largest in Canada, began in 1997 and was concentrated in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. The annual total (290 cases) for 2005 was lower than the previous year (305 cases) for the first time since the outbreak began. Education, harm reduction, increased screening, contact tracing, media campaign and other activities contributed to the success.

BC Cancer Agency's Dr. Steven Jones (Genome Sciences Centre) was named to the "**Top 40 under 40 List**" for 2006 by *Business in Vancouver*.

BC Children's Hospital is piloting a **new Critical Care Nurse Liaison program** to support ward staff caring for

acutely ill pediatric patients and to provide seven-days-a-week follow-up for Pediatric Intensive Care patients. The pilot project, started in January 2006, is modeled on successful initiatives in Australia and the UK.

International delegations including the Minister of Health from Ireland and Guy's and Thomas' National Health Service Foundation Trust (United Kingdom) visited the BC Cancer Agency to learn more about **how BC's province-wide cancer control system had led to better outcomes.**

A partnership between BC Children's and Richmond Hospital is proving successful **in improving access to surgeries for children** and is being expanded to accommodate more patients.

A new, state-of-the-art 64-slice CT scanner began operating at BC Cancer Agency's Vancouver Centre in March.

BC Renal Agency's province-wide database, the first in Canada, is being promoted nationally as a "Leading Practice" for renal care providers to emulate.

BC Cancer Agency is partnering with the UBC Department of Dentistry, and the Portland Dental Clinic in **a new program that offers residents of Vancouver's Downtown Eastside access to new technology** that improves early detection of oral cancer.

BC Children's Hospital added **a new Medical Emergency Team as part of Canada's patient safety initiative, Safer Healthcare Now!** A critical care physician, respiratory therapist and critical care nurse respond rapidly when staff signal concerns about deterioration of a patient in Pediatric Intensive Care.

BC Transplant Society is planning **organ donor registry promotion campaigns** in Prince George for the Spring and with the Thrifty Foods grocery chain.

New "clubhouse" rehabilitation programs at Forensic Psychiatric Hospital will encourage participants to

become more involved in **identifying and meeting their own psychosocial needs.**

The BC Renal Agency and PHSA's shared-care collaboration with the Vancouver Island Health Authority is **improving patient care by strengthening the role of primary care providers** (particularly family physicians) and empowering patients through self-management of their kidney disease.

BC Cancer Agency care providers and researchers will use a \$1-million grant from AstraZeneca to **establish a Complex Ambulatory Care Unit** and a \$1-million grant from The Canary Fund to **research prevention and early detection of ovarian cancer.**

BC Mental Health & Addiction Services has initiated the development of a provincial strategy **to increase public understanding of mental health illnesses and promote prevention** through closer collaboration on public information.

The Provincial Language Service is **expanding health-translation services** provided to Worksafe BC and has received renewed grants from ResoSante Francophone to provide people with health information in their preferred language.

BC Children's was **awarded five-year trauma-system accreditation** from the Trauma Association of Canada in conjunction with Vancouver Coastal Health. Full marks were given for creating and maintaining a comprehensive and provincially- integrated program that encompasses the full spectrum of trauma care (injury prevention through to rehabilitation).

Dr. Jan Christilaw, Head of Specialized Women's Health at BC Women's, received a **2006 British Columbia Community Achievement Award** at Government House in Victoria for her exemplary clinical work and as an effective mentor, social activist and spokesperson for preventive medicine and health specifically for disadvantaged women.

The Occupational Therapy Services team at Riverview Hospital received another five-year approval as a

fieldwork education site for occupational therapy from the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy University programs. **Riverview has been designated one of UBC's "partners for excellence" in fieldwork education.**

PHSA promoted the accomplishments of researchers in Seeking Solutions, a newspaper insert. Our **BC scientists are among the best in the country at finding answers to health research questions.**

New directors appointed to the Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission include Michael Marchbank, Robert Gillen, Rob Watts, Craig Knight, Alan Markwart, Dr. Soma Ganesan and Leslie Arnold.

Board Committee Reports

The **Finance Committee** reported that PHSA recorded a year-to-date surplus (as of February 23, 2006) of \$2.5 million and a balanced budget by fiscal year-end. PHSA's overall 2005-6 budget exceeded \$1.2 billion.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Abbotsford on June 22, 2006.