
Board Briefs summarize open meetings of the board of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) and are shared with elected representatives, media and other stakeholders across BC to keep them informed about the activities of the PHSA.

Summary of October 25, 2007 Board Meeting in Prince Rupert

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 to ask questions of the board prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

PHSA Presentations

Ron McKerrow, PHSA Vice President of Research Administration and Business Development, and Suzanne Barclay, Director of **the Provincial Language Service (PLS)**, presented on the evolution of PLS from a single office to a province-wide program supporting PHSA agencies, health care providers and external customers and other organizations around the province.

PHSA identified the need for a centralized language service as many health facilities were grappling with how to communicate effectively and accurately with non-English-speaking patients. The PLS was created as a centralized, cost-effective solution across the province to address issues of patient safety, risk management, quality assurance and escalating costs.

The PLS now offers a range of services for care providers and external clients: interpreting (face-to-face and telephone), translation of materials, training for staff and cross-cultural consultation. The PLS has grown to respond to more than 26,000 requests from 30 major customer groups, including TransLink and WorkSafe BC.

Dr. Ryna Milne-Levy, Professional Practice Leader for Oncology Nutrition for the BC Cancer Agency, presented on **Oncology Nutrition: Translating Research Into Practice**.

Nutrition affects patient outcomes but also their quality of life. Nutrition research is a relatively new focus for cancer programs. Clinicians and researchers are looking to integrate this focus into practice. The BC Cancer Agency is spearheading a new national group that is working on standardizing care practices and collaborating to improve research.

The Michael Smith Foundation is supporting research to identify gaps in the current research and to design future intervention trials regarding lifestyle factors and secondary

prevention. New cancer centres in Abbotsford and Prince George will support research collaborations with the University College of the Fraser Valley and the University of Northern BC.

Board Committee Reports

The Quality & Access Committee reported on PHSA's activities with the BC Patient Safety Task Force. PHSA is piloting use of the BC Patient Safety & Learning System, a computerized reporting system. PHSA will be the first health authority to fully implement the system by the end of 2008.

The Governance and Human Resources Committee reported that the number of lost-time injuries had increased although their severity had decreased.

The Finance Committee reported that, as of September 20, 2007, PHSA remained on-target for a balanced budget for 2007/08 with less than one per cent favourable variance on annual expenditures of more than \$1.3 billion.

The Finance Committee recommended, and the board approved, updates to the board compensation and expense policy that were consistent with provincial guidelines. The Finance Committee also recommended, and the board approved, use of an approval matrix for capital budget items.

The Audit Committee reported that KPMG was engaged to ensure reporting to American funders of research was consistent with American reporting requirements.

The Research Committee reported that PHSA was submitting a \$157 million application to the Canadian Foundation for Innovation's Research Hospital Fund. The application was in the category of "large-scale institutional endeavours" related to research in oncology, child health, mental health, health information and neuroimaging.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for December 13, 2007 in Vancouver.

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