
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 December 13, 2007 Board Meeting 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 to ask questions of the board prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Victor Ling, President and Scientific Director of the Terry Fox Research Institute, presented on the new Canada-wide institute that will focus on **translating breakthroughs in cancer research into practical applications.**

After wide consultation with Canada's cancer research community, the Terry Fox Foundation incorporated the new institute with the BC Cancer Agency Research Centre in Vancouver serving as the national headquarters.

The institute's goal is to ensure that today's best science becomes tomorrow's affordable medicine by accelerating the translation of research discoveries into benefits for patients. New funding will support research projects into discoveries that, within three to five years, could be translated into improved patient outcomes.

Judy Clark, Corporate Director of PHSA's external recruitment services, presented on **attracting and retaining the best talent to PHSA agencies.**

Increasing investment and long-term planning is strengthening PHSA's capacity to recruit highly-specialized health professionals in a competitive market. Health human resources is critical to the current and future delivery of health services. PHSA is leveraging the unique working opportunities that exist at its specialized agencies into distinctive recruitment campaigns.

PHSA is now reporting a two per cent or less vacancy rate for registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses. PHSA is also leading collaborative projects with its regional health authority partners. These joint recruitment efforts have attracted hundreds of nurses and other specialized health professionals to move to BC to work.

Board Committee Reports

The Quality & Access Committee reported on screening mammography participation rates and that PHSA is working with the regional health authorities on planning for recruitment and information technology for mammography services. The committee also reported that PHSA will meet or exceed provincial standards for reprocessing and sterilization of medical equipment by the implementation deadline.

The Finance Committee reported that, as of October 18, 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 Audit Committee reported that external auditors KPMG had completed PHSA's first report regarding American sources of research funding according to new requirements.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public will be February 28, 2007 in Vancouver.

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PHSA Board Briefs are available online at: www.phsa.ca/WhoWeAre/Board/BoardBriefs

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