

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

Summary of April 24, 2008 Board Meeting

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.

There were no public presentations at the April 24 meeting. The board heard questions from one member of the public and has directed senior management to address the individual's concerns.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Ivo Olivotto, professional program leader, radiation therapy and **Dr. Karl Otto**, radiation oncologist, both with the **BC Cancer Agency**, presented a new treatment methodology that kills cancer cells more effectively with stronger, more targeted doses of radiation while leaving nearby healthy tissue unaffected.

RapidArc™ was developed by Dr. Otto as a way to improve radiation therapy. It is faster than current radiation technology and evidence to date shows that it has positive outcomes for patients. RapidArc™ uses existing radiation machines, but a complex software program allows the radiation technologist to aim stronger doses of radiation at cancerous cells and avoid nearby healthy tissue. As a result, the patient has to spend less time in the radiation machine. Current radiation therapy aims lower doses of radiation at a larger area over a longer period of time, thereby increasing the risk of damage to healthy tissue and extending the period of time it takes to destroy the cancerous cells.

Varian Medical Systems Inc. has purchased this technology from Dr. Otto and will be making it available by summer 2008. Dr. Otto and his team continue to explore how RapidArc™ can be applied to cancers in various parts of the body.

Dr. Robert Peterson, director of **Child Health BC** updated the PHSA Board on the activities of Child Health BC since its inception in 2005. Child Health BC has a mandate to bring together partners from the health authorities, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Children and Family Development and other provincial agencies and services to optimize the health of children and youth and to improve access to high quality clinical health services.

Child Health BC is delivering on its mandate by building regional capacity for child and youth health services and implementing and monitoring quality improvement initiatives. To date, Child Health centres or clinics have opened at Richmond Hospital, Surrey Memorial Hospital, Nanaimo Regional Hospital, and Prince George Regional Hospital. These clinics and centres allow children, youth and

their families to receive the same quality of care they would receive from BC Children's Hospital closer to home.

As well Child Health BC has led the development of provincial standards of care for six common pediatric conditions seen in emergency rooms and distributed guidelines for the care of trauma patients to all emergency departments in BC.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access Committee** reported that the quality and access management system implemented by Dr. Doug Cochrane, vice president quality, safety and risk, and his team will improve processes and help the PHSA meet its goal of optimal care. The system also supports the established culture of reporting adverse events and making changes.

The **Governance and Human Resources Committee** highlighted the work done by Human Resources on the PHSA's Workforce Strategy. This comprehensive strategy included the PHSA's first Employee Health Survey, conducted last summer, and includes a strong component focused on mental health. One tool recently made available to PHSA employees, Feeling Better Now, has been used by 900 employees since it was launched in November 2007.

The **Finance Committee** brought a motion to the board for approval to accept the shareholder agreement between Fraser Health and PHSA with respect to the operation of the Abbotsford Regional Hospital and Cancer Centre.

The **Research Committee** reported that it is making progress on its mandate to improve the structural infrastructure for research. The committee also highlighted work being done by the virtual BC Transplant Research Institute, including new translational research being undertaken by Dr. McMaster, Head, Department of Medical Genetics, Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia related to developing blood biomarkers to determine if an organ is going to be rejected by the body.

Agency Reports

The board received a briefing from BC Mental Health & Addiction Services, outlining the Memorandum of Understanding between BCMHAS, Vancouver Coastal and Fraser Health for the operation of the Burnaby Centre for Mental Health and Addictions.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Thursday, June 12 in White Rock

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