

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

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Summary of February 9, 2006 Board Meeting held in Vancouver

Public Question and Answer Period

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the board of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) provides up to 30 minutes for Public Q&A prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

PHSA Presentations

Sepp Tschierschwitz, President - BC Division and Catharine Hume, Director - Policy and Research, for the **Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)** described their organization's role.

The CMHA partners with PHSA on workplace mental health and in the BC Partners for Mental Health and Addictions Information. Recent work funded by PHSA includes the www.heretohelp.bc.ca web site and **new multilingual fact sheets that will provide access to quality information about these often-stigmatized disorders.**

Rising drug costs in Canada was the subject of a presentation by **Ron McKerrow, PHSA's Vice President of Business Development & Services.**

Due to its unique role, **PHSA purchases or controls \$200 million in medication – by far the most of BC's other health authorities.** Drugs are the fastest-growing cost sector in health care due to increased use by an aging population and the development of new, more advanced drugs.

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.

John Andruschak, Director of the BC Reproductive Care Program (BCRCP) gave a presentation on steps being taken to enhance maternity care across BC.

The program optimizes maternal and newborn health in BC by working collaboratively with obstetrical centres and others to use data, guidelines and best practices to identify opportunities to improve services.

CEO Update

PHSA hired 242 Registered Nurses and Registered Psychiatric Nurses in calendar year 2005 – a **pace of 20 new nurses a month**.

PHSA is **leading a new recruitment project** to attract more Perinatal Nurses (those specializing in care provided before or shortly after birth) to work in BC's hospitals and health authorities.

BC Cancer Agency added **seven new drug programs**, including Herceptin, in fiscal 2005/06 that will improve the cure rate of newly-diagnosed patients.

Children with complex developmental behaviour conditions such as fetal alcohol syndrome will begin receiving **assessments in their regional health authority** as Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children rolls out the new province wide Complex Developmental Behaviour Conditions (CDBC) Network.

In January, BC Women's Hospital **expanded gynecology day surgeries** to accommodate 1,200 women a year as part of a transfer of programs from Vancouver General Hospital.

BC Mental Health & Addiction Services is leading the development of **best practices to treat "crystal meth" addictions in BC**. This work, which focuses on adolescents, is part of PHSA's \$157,000 collaboration with all of BC's health authorities to enhance services across the province.

Construction and installation for new and replacement linear accelerators is on pace. In Vancouver, two new machines will be delivered into new vaults in spring; three

of four replacement machines have been installed in Surrey and Vancouver. PHSA is investing **\$20 million in this expansion for radiation therapy services** provided by the BC Cancer Agency.

Construction has also begun for **a new CT machine** to be installed and operational this spring by the BC Cancer Agency. Purchase and construction represents a \$1.8 million investment.

Construction was approved for **a new 121,033 square-foot research building** on the Oak Street site to expand the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI). The building will include space for laboratory research in diabetes and mental health as well as administrative and BC Children's Hospital Foundation uses.

Dr. John Gilbert from UBC has started work as **the first chair of the board** for the new Women's Health Research Institute.

Three pilot projects in Vancouver Coastal/Providence, Interior and Northern Health demonstrated clinical (10 % increase in preferred method) and financial value (15 % reduction) of **vascular access interventions for patients with kidney disease**. The pilots reduced use of catheters, thrombolytic therapy (tPa), antibiotics, and pharmacy and nursing time.

PHSA's leadership has led to new province wide guidelines being approved for 'crash carts' in rural Emergency Departments **to ensure heart attack victims receive quality care**. Uniform protocols to improve treatment of asthma patients are also being introduced to Emergency Departments across BC.

In a national first, the BC Provincial Renal Agency received Ministry of Health endorsement for **a uniform, province wide set of guidelines for renal programs**.

The **transfer of the six Outpost Hospitals** in Alexis Creek, Atlin, Bamfield, Blue River, Edgewood and Kyuquot to three regional Health Authorities was successfully accomplished and became effective midnight December 15, 2005.

Recent work of BC Cancer Agency researchers was profiled in the **prestigious journal Nature, by the National Academy of Science and by the American Society of Hematology.**

Clinical psychologist Dr. Audrey Ho received the 2006 Distinguished Practitioner Award from the Canadian Psychological Association for her contributions to **early diagnosis and fewer invasive treatments for patients with non-epileptic seizures.**

Barb Hestrin, Program Director at BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre received the 2004 Marion Powell Award in recognition of her **leadership, commitment and dedication to the advocacy of women's health.** This nationally recognized award was presented in Toronto in January 2006.

Board Committee Reports

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended, and the Board approved, a motion for minor changes to the long-term board renewal plan.

The **Finance Committee** reported that PHSA has a year-to-date surplus (as of December 29, 2005) of \$13 million. PHSA's financial forecast is for a balanced budget by fiscal year-end. PHSA's overall budget for 2005-6 exceeds \$1.2 billion.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Vancouver on April 27, 2006.