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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 June 28, 2007 Board Meeting in Cranbrook

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### **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**

Kori Kingsbury, Provincial Executive Director (Interim) for PHSA Cardiac Services, presented on **Using Research to Guide Future Service Planning – Implications for Percutaneous Coronary Intervention (PCI)**.

Consistent with its value *Improvements through Knowledge*, PHSA seeks opportunities to improve patient care through the timely application of new research findings. To this end, PHSA Cardiac Services reviewed recent American research into outcomes of cardiac interventions with BC's cardiac community. The research, published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, found similarities in long-term outcomes for patients receiving PCI and those receiving optimal medical therapy.

To obtain a BC perspective, PHSA Cardiac Services compared the study with data in PHSA's BC Cardiac Registry. PCI interventions with stents and balloon angioplasties have grown to more than 8,000 in 2006/07 from less than 3,000 per year in 1994/95. Most patients receiving PCI in BC are classified as high-risk, unlike the American study, which included a large proportion of low-risk patients receiving PCI.

PHSA Cardiac Services projected a modest impact from the NEJM study on current practices but recommended continued monitoring for opportunities to improve PCI services, further examination of newer noninvasive diagnostic tests and technology and support for optimal medical therapy as part of BC's tertiary cardiac services.

Dr. Marianne Taylor, Centre Medical Leader and Professional Practice Leader for Medical Oncology at the BC Cancer Agency's Centre for the Southern Interior, presented on **The Use of Telemedicine to Care for Distant Cancer Patients**.

The regional cancer centre is using telehealth technology to bridge the distances between cancer patients and their specialists. In the last two years, specialists based in Kelowna have used telehealth for 244 appointments, mostly for patients in Kamloops and Cranbrook who would otherwise have needed to travel to the regional cancer centre.

Telehealth is expected to become an integral part of future services because it offers expert opinions in a timely fashion to distant patients and surveys show it is well accepted by patients and increasingly so by physicians. Use of the technology has its challenges but reduces travel down-time for oncologists and makes it easier for patients to see an oncologist specializing in their condition.

### **Strategic Issues**

Leslie Arnold, President of BC Mental Health & Addiction Services, gave an overview of *Out of the Shadows at Last*, a report on mental health in Canada by Senator Michael Kirby, and the federal government's response to its recommendations.

### **Board Committee Reports**

The Quality & Access Committee reported on the successful measures taken by BC Mental Health & Addiction Services staff to temporarily, and safely, relocate more than 160 patients from the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital due to flood concerns.

The Finance Committee reported that PHSA ended the most recent fiscal year with a balanced budget, and the board approved a motion to receive audited financial statements from the auditors. These will be published on PHSA's website when available.

The Finance Committee also recommended, and the board approved, a motion to invest in a more productive and cost-effective staff scheduling system.

### **New Business**

Board Chair Wynne Powell reported on the status of the provincial government's Conversation on Health and that the BC Cancer Agency would be seeking input from the public and stakeholders for a conversation on cancer care.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for August 23, 2007 in Vancouver.

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