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Summary of December 15, 2005 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 thirty minutes for Public Q&A prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Laura Arbour of UBC's Department of Medical Genetics provided a presentation on access to health research and genetics services by residents of rural and remote communities.

Researchers are learning how **partnerships and community involvement can address challenges and improve clinical outcomes** for communities, including aboriginal populations, where rare disorders can be more common. One example in Northern BC is Long QT Syndrome, a heart abnormality which can sometimes cause sudden death.

Dr. Shaila Misri, Medical Director of the Reproductive Mental Health Program, provided an update on the program at BC Women's and how it is **growing into a flagship program with a national profile**. Dr. Misri, author of the recent book *Pregnancy Blues*, said the program includes the busiest outpatient clinic in Canada and is moving into the new child and youth mental health building under construction at the Oak Street campus.

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.

The program is working with health authorities to improve access to services and promote mental wellness for women during and after pregnancy throughout B.C.

Dr. Louis Wadsworth, Interim Executive Medical Director for PHSA Laboratories, provided a presentation on the progress in bringing together four lab services within PHSA agencies into a more efficient cohesive service.

PHSA Laboratories includes a new, shared facility. Its **use of new robotics makes it the most advanced and automated lab** in BC's public sector. The initiative's goal is to provide better testing more quickly to British Columbians.

CEO Update

B.C.'s Children's Hospital & Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children have agreed to participate in the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres (CAPHC), a **new national initiative to use data and benchmarks to set standards and improve outcomes.**

From the Mining for Miracles campaign, BC Children's Hospital Foundation is **committing \$3 million to renovate and equip operating suites** for minimally invasive and trauma surgeries.

C&W and BC Women's have agreed to form a **new Women's Health Research Institute**, with the initial board meeting in 2005. The **B.C. Women's Auxiliary has donated \$100,000 to establish two annual research prizes.** Prizes were awarded for the first time this year to Drs. Joanne Douglas (anesthesia research) and Dr. Mina Sran (osteoporosis research).

BC Cancer Agency introduced a **new Oral Cancer Prevention Program with a \$2.5 million grant** from the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research. The program will work with dentists to use new technologies to detect oral cancer.

The Agency's Centre for the Southern Interior, together with the BC Cancer Foundation and MLA Sindi Hawkins, opened a **new ambulatory "outreach" program for leukemia/bone marrow transplant patients** living in the Interior.

A survey for Forensic Psychiatric Services outpatient clinics found that more than **80 per cent of clients surveyed were satisfied with their care experience**. Measurement was a recommendation in past accreditation and will be part of quality improvement planning.

Dr. Ric Procyshyn, a Research Psychopharmacologist at Riverview Hospital, is being given **\$317,975 in new research funding to investigate longer-acting medication for schizophrenia** by BC Mental Health & Addiction Services.

BC Centre for Disease Control has **helped health authorities prepare for the annual influenza immunization campaign** by delivering more than 90 per cent of the vaccine required in a timely fashion.

BC Transplant Society **passed its 12-month goal of more than 30,000 new registrations** to the Organ Donor Registry. About 350 new registrations are received daily following a new partnership with ICBC to include registration forms in mailings for drivers' licenses.

Six former Red Cross **Outpost Hospitals in remote communities transferred from PHSA to regional health authorities** as of midnight, December 15, 2005. Health authorities have committed to maintaining services while they examine community needs. Integration benefits are expected.

BC Cancer Agency received full accreditation for three years and the BC Provincial Renal Agency was praised by accreditors for managing **the only province-wide registry for kidney dialysis in Canada** and for covering all medication required by dialysis patients.

Board Committee Reports

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended, and the Board approved, Terms of Reference for the Secretary of the Board.

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended, and the Board approved, a statement of support for PHSA's Respectful Workplace policy.

The **Finance Committee** reported that PHSA recorded a year-to-date surplus (as of end of Period 8, November 3, 2005) of \$15.8 million. PHSA's financial forecast is for a balanced budget by fiscal year-end. PHSA's overall budget for 2005-6 totals nearly \$1.2 billion.

The **Finance Committee** recommended, and the Board approved, revised Terms of Reference to ensure they are made aware of any proposed changes to the Chief Financial Officer position.

The **Audit Committee** recommended, and the Board approved, a motion that allows for engagement of independent auditors.

The **Audit Committee** recommended, and the Board approved, a motion that allows for chairs of the Audit and Finance Committees to review and approve reports required by the Financial Information Act.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Vancouver on Feb. 9, 2005.