

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

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August 25, 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 now provides up to 30 minutes for Public Q&A prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

Public Presentations

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) advertises the opportunity for the public to make presentations and ask questions of the PHSA board. The next opportunity is at the board meeting scheduled for Oct. 27, to be held in Kamloops.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Robert Halpenny, Provincial Executive Director for Provincial Cardiac Services provided a presentation on Acute Coronary Syndrome, a spectrum of conditions brought on by blockage of blood flow to heart muscle.

Already the leading cause of death with the highest direct and indirect costs, heart-related disease is expected to significantly increase due to the aging population and health factors such as diabetes, diet and smoking.

Improvements in care techniques and technology are improving mortality rates. This PHSA program is participating in national and provincial initiatives. By facilitating adoption of new standard clinical guidelines for reliable delivery of evidence-based

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.

care, the program is playing a lead role **in reducing deaths from heart attacks in BC's Emergency Departments.**

Dr. Elizabeth Whynot, President of BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, lead a team overview of PHSA's Aboriginal Health programs.

At BC Women's, the program reports 100% occupancy of **a new First Nations Patient Lodge** since its grand opening in April 2005. Seven housing units provide safe, affordable housing for women, children and their families who travel to Vancouver for medical treatment that is unavailable in their remote aboriginal communities. **Angie-Todd Dennis, coordinator/community developer, has personally traveled more than 260,000 km since 2000 to provide direct outreach to First Nations communities across BC.**

The Chee Mamuk aboriginal program of the Sexually Transmitted Disease division of the BC Centre for Disease Control partnered in a provincial forum to find effective ways to address the increase in aboriginal HIV/AIDS. A response plan is scheduled to be presented at the next board meeting. In September, The Gathering Tree, **a new novel about HIV/AIDS for aboriginal children** will be launched and distributed to libraries and First Nations across the province.

Paul M. Cox, Corporate Manager of Emergency Planning and Response, made a presentation on Emergency Preparedness. PHSA has developed a framework for organizational emergency management and is an active, important partner in planning and training exercises with other health authorities and the health ministry.

CEO Update

At B.C.'s Children's Hospital, a two-year renovation project that redesigned the third floor into larger units will be completed in September. It will **increase capacity by 14 beds.** Additional nurses have been recruited.

B.C.'s Women's Hospital & Health Centre has begun renovation to **expand single-room maternity capacity**. Completion is expected in late 2005. In just three months, the related B.C. Women's Foundation's "Best Beginnings" campaign has raised 80 % of its goal to purchase new equipment for the facility.

The Minister of Health helped PHSA **open B.C.'s first publicly-funded PET/CT centre** in July at BC Cancer Agency's new Centre of Excellence for Functional Cancer Imaging.

Women with Her-2 positive, early stage breast cancer can now access the drug Herceptin following an expedited process fully supported by PHSA for \$8 million (annualized) public funding of the newly-proven therapy.

Eight Riverview patients moved to regional facilities as part of the Riverview Redevelopment project in this reporting period, with an additional 17 patients expected to transfer over the next three months. Two patients moved to Sandringham Care Centre in Victoria, four patients moved to Southills in Kamloops and one patient moved to each of Seven Sisters in Terrace and Polson Special Care Facility in Vernon.

Wait times will be reduced from eight weeks to one week or less at the Provincial Youth Concurrent Disorders Program due to new project funding being obtained. The health ministry approved the proposal of Dr. Shimi Kang, Clinical Director, for \$467,000 to increase service delivery by 130 additional patients per year at BCCH. A provincial network will be established to promote increased service coordination with regional partners and the use of telehealth for patients and caregivers in remote communities.

Board Committee Reports

The Finance Committee Chair recommended, and the Board approved, a motion to use standard thresholds being adopted internationally and by other health authorities to determine when to start formal RFP competitions for goods, services and construction.

The Governance & Human Resources Committee Chair recommended, and the Board approved, a motion regarding a whistleblower policy.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Oct. 27, 2005, to be held in Kamloops.

Annual General Meetings

Immediately following its regular meeting, the PHSA board held its annual general meeting in accordance with its bylaws. Following a report to the members, PHSA Chair Wynne Powell tabled **3 Years of Progress** documents. The board passed motions approving the PHSA audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2004/2005 and appointing KPMG LLP as Auditor for the fiscal year 2005-2006. The board also passed a motion re-electing Lynda Cranston as Secretary Treasurer of the PHSA board. In addition, the board voted to reappoint Denise Turner as PHSA vice chair.

Annual general meetings for the five branch societies of the PHSA were held immediately following the PHSA AGM. These include the BC Cancer Agency Branch, the BC Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Society Branch, the BC Mental Health Society Branch, the BC Transplant Society Branch and the Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia Branch. Motions were passed approving the audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2004/2005 and appointing KPMG LLP as Auditor for the fiscal year 2005-2006. No other business was brought forward in the branch society AGMs.