

October 23, 2002

Medical Staff Appointments

The Board approved medical staff appointments for Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, Riverview Hospital and the BC Cancer Agency.

Clinical Plan

The PHSA has developed a Clinical Plan that focuses on the following four key strategies:

- Exercise sound financial stewardship, through containing costs, reinvesting savings, making better use of existing resources and diversifying the revenue stream.
- Advance and share knowledge.
- Improve population health and reduce the need for high-end province-wide services.
- Develop PHSA capacity to deliver its clinical, teaching and research mandate.

More information on the PHSA Clinical Plan is located on the PHSA Web site at www.phsa.ca.

CEO Update

Research Appointment – Dr. Stuart MacLeod, the new executive director of the B.C. Research Institute for Children's and Women's Health, has been appointed the Chair of Research Leaders for the PHSA. He will assume his responsibilities January 1, 2003

In his role as Chair of the PHSA Research Leaders, Dr. MacLeod will work closely with the researcher leaders at the various PHSA agencies to maximize research opportunities and create an environment that encourages collaboration and innovation between agencies.

Dr. MacLeod, former Dean of Health Sciences at McMaster University, is currently Professor of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Pediatrics and Medicine at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

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.

Media Conference Call with Board Chair and CEO

PHSA board chair Wynne Powell, and CEO Lynda Cranston will be available to answer media questions related to the PHSA board meeting through a conference call on Monday, Oct. 28, 2 to 2:30 p.m. Phone Somer Arthurs 604-675-7474 before 4 p.m., Friday, October 25, for details on how to register for the call. A 1-800 number is available for the conference call throughout B.C.

MRSA Update – BC’s Children’s Hospital, an agency of the PHSA, continues to take every possible step to reduce transmission of methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA), the bacterium present on the skin surface of five babies in the hospital’s Special Care Nursery. In an effort to ensure the public receives accurate, factual information, medical and infection control experts at the hospital have held a number of media briefings. No babies within the Special Care Unit currently have MRSA infections; the bacteria are present or “colonized” on their skin.

Thoracic Surgery

PHSA has initiated discussions with geographically-based health authorities regarding the establishment of a provincial thoracic (chest) surgery program. Based on initial meetings with stakeholders, there is considerable support for establishing a provincial program to co-ordinate chest surgical services across the province in the most effective and efficient way possible. PHSA will continue to work with the other health authorities to develop this initiative, based on their ability to proceed.

Cardiac Care

PHSA is exploring options for creating an agency to improve co-ordination of cardiac services around the province. CEO Lynda Cranston and COO Michael Marchbank recently visited the Cardiac Care Network in Ontario to learn how cardiac services are managed there. In addition, PHSA has initiated discussions with the Cardiac Panel, a group of cardiac experts established by the B.C. Ministry of Health to advise on cardiac issues. The panel has expressed strong support for the creation of a cardiac agency in B.C. PHSA is continuing to evaluate the feasibility of such an agency, which would focus on:

- setting provincial standards for access to cardiac services;
- standardizing practice protocols;
- reviewing provincial purchasing of major cardiac supplies;
- recommending future initiatives for cardiac services within the province;
- collecting and analyzing data to ensure the quality of cardiac services within the province;
- and allocating resources within cardiac services to best meet patient needs.

It is expected that a decision regarding the creation of a cardiac agency will be made early in 2003.

Board Committee Reports

PHSA Audit – The Board approved a motion to appoint the auditors for the PHSA audit for 2002/03 and has forwarded its recommendation to the Auditor General’s office for review.

PHSA Signing Authority – The Board approved a policy providing governance approval of the PHSA signing authority policy.

PHSA Travel & Business Expense Policy – The Board approved application of the PHSA travel and expense policy to the CEO's and board members' travel and business expenses.

Financial Report on Operations for Period 6

PHSA is reporting a year to date surplus of \$8 million for the six periods ending Sept. 12, 2002 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$4.2 million. Much of the favourable variance relates to practitioners moving more slowly than expected to use new oncology drugs added to the formulary this year. This trend is expected to reverse as practitioners become more accustomed to using the new drugs. As a result of this and other cost drivers, PHSA expects to close the year at a surplus of \$1 million, compared to a budgeted year-end surplus of \$4 million.

2003 Board Meetings

The following dates have been set for PHSA board meetings: Feb. 13, 2003, April 17, 2003, June 12, 2003, August 28, 2003, Oct. 9, 2003, and Dec. 11, 2003.

Media and the public will be advised which meetings will be open to the public.