

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

December 9, 2004 (**December 7, 2004 Board Meeting**)

Public Question and Answer Period

PHSA held its first Public Question and Answer Period (Public Q&A) in conjunction with the meeting. In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the board has decided to incorporate a 30 minute Public Q&A prior to the beginning of every open board meeting. To help ensure the Public Q&A runs as smoothly as possible for the benefit of everyone, the board has outlined a number of procedures for the sessions:

- The board will respond to written questions received up to the day before the meeting, or questions provided in writing as members of the public register for the Public Q&A.
- After reading the question aloud, the board or management will respond.
- If the board and management do not have sufficient time to respond to questions, they will respond in writing following the meeting.

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.

Public Presentations

The PHSA board heard presentations from the public on the topics of the Women's Health Strategy for BC, and the BCNU Ad Hoc Committee on Maternal Best Practices.

PHSA Presentations

The board received a presentation from **Ellen Chesney, Chief Communications Officer for the PHSA**, on a board web site that is being established to provide electronic access to board reference materials that would be costly and time-consuming to provide in printed format.

The board received a presentation from **Mary Jordon, Provincial Executive Director of the BC Centre for Disease Control**, on the topic of vaccinations. Ms. Jordon provided an overview of new vaccination programs for preventing chicken pox, meningococcal diseases, and the flu in specific BC populations.

The board also heard a presentation by Dr. Simon Sutcliffe, President of the BC Cancer Agency, Dr. Don Wilson, Medical Director, Centre for Functional Imaging; Radiation Oncologist, Nuclear Medicine physician and Frances Lasser, Program Manager regarding the province's first Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scanner for clinical use. The PET scanner is part of a Centre of Excellence for Functional Cancer Imaging that is being developed in collaboration with UBC, Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre, BC Children's Hospital and TRIUMF, and will be located at the BC Cancer Agency's Vancouver Centre.

CEO Update

The BC Cancer Agency has established a working group to examine how **cancer control activities can be enhanced in the Northern Health Authority (NHA)**. The working group report is scheduled for completion in February 2005 and will be submitted to the PHSA and NHA boards.

Planning is underway to transfer nine additional **Riverview Hospital patients** to new beds that opened in September 2004 within the Northern Health Authority. Preparations are also being made to transfer 19 patients to Vancouver Island Health this November/December when Sandringham, a newly renovated, specialized mental health facility opens in Victoria. A total of 40 mental health beds are opening at Sandringham.

Approximately 225 community stakeholders recently attended **open houses held by Forensic Psychiatric Services** at several locations around the province during the first week of November. Displays and discussions focused on how FPS works with its community partners to facilitate and support the safe reintegration of clients into the community.

PHSA Mental Health has committed \$80,000 to co-sponsor a province-wide community capacity building **project to improve police interactions with people with mental illness**. The proposal was put forward by the BC division of the Canadian Mental Health Association, which will contribute an additional \$83,000 to the project. The goal is to help three to six BC communities create community-specific actions plans based on effective models of policy response to people with mental illness.

More than 120 renal care practitioners, patients and media representatives attended the BC Provincial Renal Agency's (BCPRA) recent launch of the **Independent Dialysis Program**. Through the program, BCPRA is working with regional health authority programs to assess and train patients on independent

dialysis. The goal is to have 60 patients transition to independent dialysis by the end of the fiscal year, which will result in better quality care and savings of more than \$1 million.

The BCPRA is also continuing its work to **improve vascular access services in the province**. BC is the only province in Canada to have provincial standards for creation, maintenance and repair of vascular access sites – which refers to the surgical inserts of a fistula or graft to provide access to the blood stream for dialysis. The program aims to improve timely access to services and reduce complications and hospitalizations - which will significantly improve quality of life for kidney disease patients.

Board Committee Reports

The **Finance Committee** provided a report on Operations for Period 7. As of period 7, the PHSA's financial performance is significantly better than planned, with a YTD favourable variance of \$19 million. The majority of the favourable variances are related to timing issues and PHSA projects to end the year on plan.

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended and the board approved the PHSA Human Rights Policy with a few minor wording adjustments that do not change the substance of the policy. The Governance and HR Committee also reviewed (but was not required to approve) policies related to Proof of Illness, Commitment to Employee Wellness and Safety, Employee Wellness and Safety and Substance Use.