

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

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Summary of October 26, 2006 Board Meeting held in Nanaimo

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.

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.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Sue Harris and Lee Saxell of BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre presented on how **a new model of collaborative maternity care** is working at the South Community Birthing Program in Vancouver.

The community served is ethnically diverse, produces the most babies in Vancouver and has few doctors practicing obstetrics or gynecology. By working together to provide seamless primary care, the partnership of doctors, community health nurses, midwives and doulas has significantly improved care for mothers and newborns. **Mothers are less likely to require specialists or Caesarean delivery and more likely to breastfeed their newborns.** The program is a partnership between PHSA and Vancouver Coastal Health Authority and benefited from federal primary care funding.

Psychopharmacologist **Dr. Ric Procyshyn of Riverview Hospital** presented on **the dilemma of**

encouraging the mentally ill to quit smoking when nicotine improves their condition.

Research shows nicotine in cigarettes provides some benefits for psychiatric patients that cannot yet be matched with alternatives such as nicotine patches.

Dr. Ivo Olivotto, Chief Physician at BC Cancer Agency's Vancouver Island Centre, described how a range of cancer services benefits residents of the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

The cancer centre **provides services (prevention, screening and treatment) for thousands of VIHA residents** each year, has **embedded research into its facilities and programs** and **partners in innovations at the national and international level.**

Allison Bond, Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Health, presented on the BC Conversation on Health.

Health care professionals and the public from across the province have **several ways to provide input and help shape the future of health care in BC.**

CEO Update

Child Health BC, the provincial pediatric network, is moving forward with plans to create regional pediatric subspecialty programs. **New neurology and gastroenterology clinics will open in Fall 2006 in Nanaimo** as the result of a partnership between BC Children's specialists and VIHA's Nanaimo Regional General Hospital and local pediatricians. A similar **new neurology clinic in Surrey** will follow.

BC Cancer Agency and the BC Cancer Foundation created **new Chinese-language brochures for first-time cancer patients.** About 17 percent of new patients read Chinese.

BC Women's helped the Provincial Infant Transport Team celebrate its **30th anniversary of providing pregnant women, newborns and critically-ill children with access to specialty care.**

BC Renal Agency has begun developing a strategic plan to ensure BC's health authorities **recruit and retain the human resources needed for the planned expansion in dialysis** and other kidney care services.

BC Transplant conducted its **annual College and University campaign** in September to promote the Organ Donor Registry. Volunteers staffed registration booths at 15 campuses throughout the province.

CHUM's three Vancouver stations, CFUN, QM/FM, and Team 1040 produced and aired **a new public service announcement promoting the BC Transplant Society's Organ Donor Registry.**

The new Community Outreach Coordinator for the BC Transplant Society and a transplant **recipient promoted the Organ Donor Registry to 1,200 people from the South Asian community at an event in Surrey.**

PHSA's **Provincial Language Service received \$87,000 in new funding** from Minister of State for Intergovernmental Relations John van Dongen to support increased collaboration with BC's Francophone community.

PHSA's population health division released **two new reports on the best available evidence regarding smoking** in mental health/addictions facilities and in public places (both indoor and outdoor).

BC Mental Health & Addiction Services is **leading a national group** to develop a white paper outlining addictions services and needs across Canada's provinces and territories.

Adjournment

The **next meeting** of the board in public is scheduled for **Vancouver** on December 7, 2006.