

*Province-wide solutions.
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Summary of June 22, 2006 Board Meeting held in Abbotsford

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

Mr. Michael Marchbank, PHSA Executive Vice-President, and Karim Karmali, BC Cancer Agency Vice-President Management and Operations, presented on the Abbotsford Regional Hospital & Cancer Centre. The new facility, which will include **BC's fifth regional cancer centre**, is currently under construction and will open in 2008. The state-of-the-art facility will improve access for the rapidly growing and aging population in the Fraser Valley to cancer programs, research and new technologies.

Dr. Karen Druse, Medical Director, BC Women's Osteoporosis Program, and Jan Finch, Program Director, Specialized Women's Health provided an informative presentation on the BC Women's Osteoporosis Program.

Osteoporosis is a loss of bone mass that affects how seniors, particularly women, heal after fractures. The program is creating awareness among the public and health care providers about

how to prevent and address osteoporosis and related injuries. This includes **an initiative, supported by PHSA's health promotion fund, to promote healthy bones and physical activity among the frail elderly**. This initiative will be expanding to regions outside of the Lower Mainland, to primary care providers and to municipalities.

Dr. Steven Miller, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics (Neurology), UBC and Assistant Adjunct Professor of Neurology and Pediatrics, University of California - San Francisco presented on research at BC Children's Hospital regarding brain injuries and newborns.

Brain injury in the newborn infant is a significant cause of motor and cognitive deficits in Canadian children. Dr. Miller's research uses diagnostic technology such as MRI scanners to provide **new perspectives on how a newborn's brain development can be affected by being born prematurely or with a heart condition**. The research reveals how some assumptions based on adults are not applicable to the care of newborns. This international research may lead to improved care for vulnerable newborns and help clinicians answer parents' questions about how an injury will affect their child's future.

Dr. Mark Ansermino, Director of Research at BC Children's Department of Anesthesia, and Kris Gustavson, PHSA's Director of Accreditation and Patient/Client Satisfaction, presented on "How We Know What Patients Think." In addition to outlining provincial patient satisfaction surveys, the presentation also highlighted a survey of patient satisfaction and experience at BC Children's Hospital. Key results included:

- 94% of parents rated the overall care they received as very good to excellent
- 94% of parents indicated that they definitely had confidence and trust in the nurses
- 95% of parents indicated that they definitely had confidence and trust in the doctors
- 89% rated the courtesy of the doctors as very good to excellent

CEO Update

“Nurse Vancouver,” a joint nursing recruitment trip to the United Kingdom in the spring, resulted in **24 new nurses hired by PHSA**, 34 nurses with decisions pending and another 22 with applications in progress.

On May 31, 2006, the Child & Family Research Institute officially launched the **construction of a new translational research building** which will be shared between CFRI, the BC Children’s Hospital Foundation, and the Mental Health & Addictions Research Program. Completion is expected in December 2007. The building will add 121,000 square-feet of research space at the Oak Street campus.

BC Children’s **opened new space for emergency surgery** in April. In its first two months of operation, 179 patients were treated there. The room is facilitating timely access for emergency cases and enhancing care for children. As a result, 64% of emergency surgeries were performed during regular hours rather than after-hours.

PHSA has taken the lead in developing a provincial education plan related to mental health and addictions. Collaborating to share resources and expertise between organizations can result in stronger partnerships with academia, and improved efficiency of learning and development efforts.

A cancer expert has been recruited to Canada to promote cancer control in communities and in primary care. Dr. Mark Elwood from Australia will take on a role as a senior cancer control policy and practice expert within the BC Cancer Agency and the research/cancer control research division. His activities will benefit preventive and population health activities, and the role of care networks within community oncology/primary health care.

Riverview redevelopment continues. Fraser Health advises that the construction of Cottonwood Lodge, a Riverview replacement facility, is on schedule to open by October. As well, six neuropsychiatry patients have

transferred from Riverview to the new Hillside facility in Kamloops. The remaining patients who are appropriate for transfer to the Hillside program will move by end of July.

Representatives dealing with diabetes, kidney, and heart disease met at a landmark round-table meeting in April to promote **viewing kidney, diabetes and heart disease as a disease management cluster**. This perspective would potentially enable comprehensive funding for patients with multiple conditions, enable the development of incentives for combined care, and even address some issues related to funding of medications that improve health outcomes.

BC Transplant continues to receive on average 300 organ donor registration forms each business day. Since April 1, 2006, **more than 8,500 new registrants have been added to the Organ Donor Registry**, which now totals 560,231. A new ethnic outreach coordinator has been active speaking to business and community representatives in the South Asian community to better understand cultural barriers and challenges associated with organ donation.

Schools across BC received materials from the BC Centre for Disease Control promoting sun awareness and how to assess outdoor shade. The aim of the program is to gather data about the current shade provided by buildings and trees to protect school children from exposure.

BC Cancer Agency participated by invitation in the Canary Foundation Fund meeting in San Jose, California in May 2006. **One million dollars has been invested in the antibody production facility** (BC Cancer Agency Vancouver Island Centre). A further \$300,000 has been invested in molecular pathology.

The MetaBRIC proposal – an international **breast cancer molecular oncology project** involving Cambridge (UK), London (UK), and Vancouver (BC) – has received full funding through peer process from the Cancer Research UK (CRUK).

Leslie Arnold, President of BC Mental Health & Addiction Services, has been **nominated as a founding fellow for the UBC Institute of Mental Health**. The Institute is strongly committed to the support and encouragement of innovation in the field of mental health and mental illness.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access** committee recommended, and the Board approved, a motion to grant privileges to the new Nurse Practitioners working at the BC Cancer Agency and at BC Children's/BC Women's Hospitals.

The committee also advised that BC Women's Hospital was making progress towards being the first accredited "Baby-friendly" hospital in BC.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Vancouver on August 24, 2006.