

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

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Summary of December 7, 2006 Board Meeting

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. Michael Rekart, Director of Sexually-Transmitted Infections/HIV Prevention and Control for the BC Centre for Disease Control, presented on seven promising breakthroughs in prevention and treatment of HIV.

The BCCDC is building support for:

- wider implementation of newer, more effective diagnostic tests
- evidence-based counseling with HIV-positive people to engage them in preventative behaviour
- preventing new HIV cases through Internet-based outreach
- targeting concurrent infections (Herpes SV-2 and Hepatitis C) that increase the risk of spreading HIV.

BC has historically had a higher per capita rate of HIV than other parts of Canada but BC's steps to address the epidemic have halved the rate of new positives in the last decade.

Dr. Vinay Dhingra, an intensivist from Vancouver General Hospital, and Penny Clarke-Richardson, Director of Organ Donation & Hospital Development for the BC Transplant Society, presented on BC's participation in a new national collaborative to improve the rate of organs donated by deceased donors.

A similar collaborative increased organ donation by 40 per cent in Australia and is needed because today's healthier, safer society (e.g. fewer fatal motor-vehicle accidents) is reducing the number of deceased donors.

Jennifer Mackenzie, PHSA's Corporate Director of Strategic Planning, Transformation & Change Support, presented on how PHSA is supporting agencies and services to improve operational processes.

PHSA looked at a Seattle hospital's experience with the LEAN process and Ms. Mackenzie outlined how LEAN was then applied at PHSA Laboratories. The process holds promise for other PHSA areas because it resulted in:

- a 24-hour reduction in turnaround time for tumour marker reports to physicians
- a 30-hour reduction in turnaround time from 34 hours to 4 hours in central processing/receiving
- opening newborn screening lab for five days rather than four by better matching of staff hours to workload.

CEO Update

Minister of Health George Abbott officially opened two new \$4.8-million radiation vaults in Vancouver. **The new facilities will improve access to innovative therapies for cancer patients.**

Mental health staff and patients are moving into a new \$19-million building for Child & Adolescent Mental Health & Addiction Services. The former Jean Matheson Memorial Pavilion on the Oak Street campus was renovated and will include a home for BC Women's Reproductive Mental Health Program.

About \$8 million will help a research project to prevent infections in children. The award from the Canada Foundation for Innovation will help translational research by Dr. David Speert in a new building being constructed on the Oak Street site.

BC Mental Health & Addiction Services worked with Fraser Health to complete the **transfer of patients to two modern 20-bed mental health facilities** located on the Riverview Hospital campus. To ensure a smooth transition, several patients will continue to receive therapy and services from Riverview on a temporary or ongoing basis.

More than 900 delegates from across BC and Canada attended the 2006 BC Cancer Agency Annual Cancer Conference/Partners in Cancer Care. **More than 200 cancer patients and caregivers** participated in the

accompanying Community Cancer Forum. Janice MacDonald, a community oncology nurse in Kamloops, was presented **the first Community Cancer Care Award** by Pamela Martin and MLA Sindi Hawkins.

BC Renal Agency hosted **the most successful provincial conference for kidney care providers in more than 25 years**. More than 400 delegates – including more family physicians this year - from across BC, Canada and the US attended BC Nephrology Days in Vancouver.

PHSA Laboratories will **save \$400,000 annually** after renegotiating a contract with an equipment supplier.

A cancer expert has been recruited to Canada to promote cancer control in communities and in primary care. Dr. Mark Elwood from Australia has joined the BC Cancer Agency to take on a role as a senior cancer control policy and practice expert and lead 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.

NurseVancouver has hired 50 nurses to work at PHSA and our partner facilities in the Lower Mainland. The new recruiting partnership between PHSA, Vancouver Coastal and Providence Health targeted nurses from the United Kingdom.

BabyBC has hired specialized perinatal nurses: six for PHSA agencies and 10 for other hospitals across BC.

The BC Transplant Society recognized Prince George Regional Hospital for significant contributions donation and transplantation. In its 20-year association with the BCTS, **the hospital made possible 157 transplants** while 206 Northern Health residents received a life-saving transplant. The recognition was part of Organ Donation Awareness week in the city. **About 17,000 registration forms were distributed** by the Prince George Citizen newspaper.

The Provincial Language Service is receiving good reviews from **a new telephone interpretation service provided to the Ministry of Children and Family Development.**

Forensic Psychiatric Services is **gaining international recognition for a new clinical assessment tool** to gauge the risk of patients being violent, harming themselves, misusing drugs or eloping. More than 400 manuals have been distributed to clinicians world-wide. French and Norwegian

translations have been published and will soon be followed by German, Dutch and Finnish versions.

Canada's federal government has named Dr. John Millar, PHSA's Executive Director of Population Health Surveillance, to the steering committee of the newly-announced \$3.2 million national heart health strategy. Dr. Millar's background in population health will help the country develop a strategy to address cardiovascular disease, which kills more Canadians than any other cause.

BC Transplant Society **promoted organ donor awareness in the South Asian community** by participating in Dushera and Diwali festivals.

The Forensic Psychiatric Services Commission **published its annual report** for the fiscal year 2005-06.

PHSA and agencies' **strategic plans were updated** and distributed to key stakeholders.

Board Committee Reports

The **Finance** committee reported that PHSA recorded \$5.6 million unfavourable to plan for the year-to-date (as of November 2, 2006). This represents less than 0.5 per cent of PHSA's overall 2006-7 budget of more than \$1.2 billion. The projection for fiscal year-end is on target for a balanced budget.

Adjournment

The **next meeting** of the board in public is scheduled for **Vancouver** on February 1, 2007.