

Board Brief summarizes the board meetings of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA). It is shared with PHSA agencies, services, divisions, government, media and other stakeholders to keep them informed about the activities of the PHSA.

## Summary of October 20, 2011 Board Meeting

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) board has six scheduled open board meetings a year. As a health authority with a province-wide mandate, the PHSA is committed to holding open board meetings outside the Lower Mainland twice a year. The October 18, 2011 open board meeting was held in Penticton, BC.

### 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 board did not receive any questions from the public at this event.

### Presentations (available on request)

**Laura Sware**, Program Manager and **Margot Heintz**, Program Navigator for the “**Colon Check**” program presented an overview of the BC Cancer Agency’s pilot screening program for the early detection of colorectal cancer. Currently Colon Check is being offered in three communities: Penticton, Powell River and one district of the city of Vancouver. Although colorectal cancer is the second-deadliest type of cancer for British Columbians, only about 20 per cent of people over the age of 50 are routinely screened. Early detection of colorectal cancer means more treatment options for patients and a better long-term prognosis. Colon Check provides participants between the ages of 50 - 74 with access to a user-friendly screening test. The program navigator then supports those patients who are identified as requiring further investigation, ensuring that they are well informed about next steps, arranging for timely follow-up through colonoscopy, monitoring outcomes and ensuring quality standards for all aspects of the participant pathway.

The Colon Check program has been available in Penticton since January 2009. Satisfaction surveys have now been conducted with highly positive results; 100% satisfaction from referring physicians, and 95% satisfaction rates from patients, respectively.

**Lois Neufeld**, Nurse Manager, Renal Program and **Sherry-Lynn Picheniuk**, Renal RN, Penticton Regional Hospital, summarized the trajectory of the “**Involved Care Project**”. Operating in Penticton since February 2010, this program allows hemodialysis patients to set their own individual goals for self-care and promotes independent dialysis, both in hospital and at home. This in turn has been linked to an improvement in quality of life and physical and mental well-being for those living with advanced, chronic kidney disease. The first program of its kind in BC, its success has led to plans for expansion within Interior Health and earned the Involved Care Dialysis Unit in Penticton an “Excellence in Quality and Patient Safety, Living with Illness Award” from the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council.

## **Board Committee Reports**

The **Quality and Access Committee** reported that it reviewed fourteen measures of quality and that all are on track. Of particular note is the improvement in the hand hygiene audit scores at BC Children's Hospital and the BC Cancer Agency, but the committee has asked management to focus on continuous improvement in this area. Additionally, it asked for a formal report to be compiled to compare infection rates to hand hygiene compliance scores to determine if there is any correlation.

Eighteen "Rapid Process Improvement Workshops" (RPIWs) were conducted across PHSA since the last reporting period, with outstanding results.

The committee received the bi-annual report from the Patient Care Quality Review Board. PHSA had only one recommendation this period and the corresponding action has already been completed.

The **Governance and Human Resources Committee** reported that it received a briefing from Mr. Tony Arimaire, Director of Human Resources for the Emergency and Health Services Commission on the workforce sustainability strategy for the BC Ambulance Service (BCAS). This strategy encompasses employee recruitment, retention, health and safety initiatives, and leadership development. It has been developed to ensure that BCAS is well positioned to continue to deliver on its mandate of providing top quality care to patients across the province.

The **Finance Committee** reported that half-way into the fiscal year, budget targets are on track, aside from a couple of minor variances in the area of laboratory services. All capital projects are currently on time and on budget. Of particular note is the Northern Cancer Project. Construction on the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North in Prince George is going extremely well and may achieve an early completion date.

The **Research Committee** reported on a new "Conflict of Interest" disclosure policy being introduced across PHSA this fall. A committee will be established to adjudicate any unresolved issues that result.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business discussed.

## **Adjournment**

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2011 in Vancouver, BC.

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