

*Province-wide solutions.
Better health.*

700 – 1380 Burrard St.

Vancouver, BC

V6H 2H3 Canada

604 675 7400 tel

604 708 2700 fax

www.phsa.ca web

Summary of August 24, 2006 Board Meeting held in Vancouver

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. David Hardwick, Chair of the BC Transplant Foundation, Dr. Maurice Mourton, Chair of the BC Transplant Research Institute, and Dr. Rob McMaster presented on the cooperative partnerships behind transplant research in BC.

BC leads North America in standardizing use of immunosuppressant drugs and is poised to enter the exciting area of genomics research where, for example, blood biomarkers may predict graft rejection and thereby make frequent biopsies unnecessary.

Dr. Tex Kissoon, Senior Medical Director of pediatric acute and critical care programs, described how the Emergency Department at BC Children's Hospital **improved access and efficiency.**

Children are now more quickly admitted to the hospital from Emergency. BC Children's meets the pediatric-ER target (80 % of patients admitted

within four hours) as the result of adding beds through reconfiguration, improved dialogue between physicians, and more flexibility for nurses to initiate therapies and diagnostics.

Sue Fuller-Blamey, a manager at BC Children's Hospital, described how the hospital is successfully changing its culture so that patient access is everyone's responsibility. That change and a systems approach is **improving how patients flow through the hospital and are discharged home or to a regional hospital.**

CEO Update

Wait times have been cut by 75 per cent and are now better than the Canadian average since BC Cancer Agency installed a new state-of-the-art 64-slice CT scanner in March. The new scanner, along with process improvements, has yielded significant gains in improved efficiency and access for patients. The wait time (from request to performance of scan) has been reduced to one week from four weeks and is now well below the Canadian average of 14 days for oncology CT. **Wait lists for CT-assisted biopsies have been reduced to zero patients** from 120 patients. Redesigning the process has reduced the time it takes to scan a patient to seven minutes from 20 minutes. **These process changes hold promise for improved turnaround times for MRI, mammography and ultrasound.**

Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children **celebrated 75 years of caring for children with disabilities and their families.** MLAs Lorne Mayencourt and Adrian Dix participated in the 75th anniversary celebration, attended by more than 300 people. Radiothons broadcast from the site by CISL 650 and Z95 raised more than \$213,000.

PHSA's computer grid for electronically transferring diagnostic images, **the largest of its kind in North America, is now being used to send images to other health regions:** Vancouver Coastal Health and the Vancouver Island Health Authority.

BC Women's has collaborated in regional and provincial training sessions to meet the **ActNow BC goal of improving alcohol screening during pregnancy by 50 per cent**. The success of the project will be monitored through the BC Perinatal Database, a program of the BC Reproductive Care Program, which includes data from every pregnancy and delivery in B.C.

Completion of the roof of the Radiation Therapy suites marked the "topping-off" for the entire new Abbotsford Hospital and Cancer Centre, **a significant milestone towards completion** of construction of BC's newest regional cancer centre.

At 63 days, median **wait times for open heart surgeries remain well below the target** of 90 days, according to PHSA Cardiac Services.

PHSA announced sponsorship of a new \$900,000, three-year pilot project to reimburse out-of-pocket expenses for living organ donors. The program is the **first of its kind in North America** to reduce the financial hardship faced by prospective donors. PHSA is funding half of the pilot, matching private donations. The Kidney Foundation of Canada (BC branch) will administer the program in partnership with the BC Transplant Society.

Children with significant communication difficulties will receive technology-based assistive devices thanks to new funding of \$500,000 for the Sunny Hill Foundation for Children from the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

Twice as many British Columbians are registering to be organ donors following a partnership between BC Transplant Society and ICBC to include registration forms in letters to drivers. More than 60,000 registrations have now been received from new and renewing drivers.

New recommendations by the BC Renal Agency will save \$400,000. By promoting a more effective method of administering the expensive drug erythropoietin, the savings can be applied to other drug purchases.

Sunny Hill Foundation for Children has received **\$1 million in provincial funding from the BC Ministry of Education** to create standards and the sharing of best practices for health, education and social service sectors.

Patients needing a kidney donation have new options following the launch of a new program by the BC Transplant Society. The Paired Kidney Exchange program makes it possible for one incompatible couple (donor and patient) to “swap” donors with a couple in the same situation. This enables two kidney patients to receive a transplant.

Riverview Hospital has been **nominated as a “Site of Excellence”** in the instruction of non-violent crisis intervention by the International Instructors conference.

BC Cancer Agency will host a delegation from China regarding cervical cancer screening. A development agreement has helped **more than 200,000 women in China** receive automated screening for cervical cancer in the past two years.

Research by physicians at BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre has led to **new guidelines for BC** for the management of hypertensive disorders of pregnancy.

PHSA Communications launched a new monthly e-mail newsletter, *PHSA at Work*, to **keep external stakeholders across BC informed about PHSA and agency accomplishments**. Information about board meetings and links to *BoardBriefs* are frequent items.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access** committee recommended, and the Board approved, a motion to appoint the President of BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre as a director for the BC Women’s reproductive mental health program, as required by legislation.

Adjournment

The **next meeting** of the board in public is scheduled for **Nanaimo** on October 26, 2006.

Annual General Meetings

Immediately following its regular meeting, the PHSA board held its annual general meeting in accordance with its bylaws. Following a report to the members, PHSA Chair Wynne Powell tabled the **Steps Forward 05/06** progress report document.

The board passed motions to appoint Dr. Geoffrey Blair as the PHSA nominee to the BC Children's Hospital Foundation board; to approve the PHSA audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2005/06 and to appoint KPMG LLP as Auditor for the fiscal year 2006/07. The board also passed motions to re-appoint Lynda Cranston as Secretary Treasurer of the PHSA board and Denise Turner as PHSA board vice-chair.

Annual general meetings for the five branch societies of the PHSA were held immediately following the PHSA AGM. These include the BC Cancer Agency Branch, the BC Centre for Disease Control and Prevention Society Branch, the BC Mental Health Society Branch, the BC Transplant Society Branch and the Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia Branch. Motions were passed approving the audited financial statements for the fiscal year 2005/06 and appointing KPMG LLP as Auditor for the fiscal year 2006/07.