

May 1, 2003 (April 17, 2003 Board Meeting)

Public Presentations

The Provincial Health Services Authority heard 17 presentations from the public at an open board meeting held April 17, 2003. PHSA open board meetings are business meetings of the board that are open to the public and media for observation. The open board meeting format includes a standing agenda item called public presentations. In order to balance the board's desire to hear from the public with its need to conduct its business within the time available, there is generally a maximum of three public presentations. However, in response to an unusually large number of requests for public presentations, the board adjusted its agenda to include only public presentations and adjusted the time of its meeting in order to accommodate all presentations. No other board business was conducted in the open board meeting.

The central issue of the presentations – contracting out – is a difficult and challenging one. The board recognizes its decisions affect the public and its stakeholders in a profound way. It faces the tough task of making decisions that balance many needs: the needs of employees, the need to ensure patient care and safety, and the need to strengthen the sustainability of the health care system so that the needs of British Columbians can be met into the future. The board accepted all presentations as information and thanked presenters for taking the time to express their views. The following items were handled in an in-camera meeting held later that day.

Presentations

The board heard presentations from BC's Children's Hospital Foundation, the BC Research Institute for Children's & Women's Health and the BC Cancer Agency.

Medical Staff Appointments

The board approved medical staff appointments for Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, Riverview Hospital and the BC Cancer Agency.

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.

Media Conference Call with Board Chair and CEO

PHSA board chair Wynne Powell, and CEO Lynda Cranston will be available to answer media questions related to the PHSA board meeting through a conference call on Monday, May 12 from 10 - 10:30 am.

Phone Communications at 604-675-7474 before 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 9 for details on how to register for the call. A 1-800 number is available for the conference call throughout B.C.

Provincial Emergency Services Review

As part of its performance agreement with the government, the PHSA was asked to initiate and coordinate a Provincial Emergency Services Project to improve access to and the effectiveness of BC's emergency services system. The Project's Steering Committee, which includes representatives from all health authorities, has completed a progress report that provides guidance on short-term actions that will help health authorities work individually and as a group towards improving emergency services. The draft report is being circulated to other health authorities for implementation of the short-term actions.

Board Committee Reports

The **Finance and Audit Committee** recommended and the board approved a revised committee timetable as part of its terms of reference. The Finance and Audit Committee recommended and the board approved a motion to approve the 2003/04 Financial Plan, and to receive the Financial Plan for 2004/05 and 2005/06 for information. The Committee reviewed the report on Operations for Periods 11 and 12. The PHSA operated under budget by \$5.7 million during these periods, bringing the year to date surplus to \$10 million (1 per cent of expenditures). This financial performance is on track with the PHSA's plan to achieve a balanced budget over three years. The overall favourable balance this year is required to cover the \$2 million operating deficit from last year and to address funding pressures anticipated over the next two years. PHSA projects a year-end surplus of \$12 million, which will be \$8 million better than budgeted.

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended and the board approved revised terms of reference for the committee. The committee also approved revised terms and conditions for non-contract and executive staff to ensure compliance with Bill 66. The Governance and HR Committee also approved a policy and guidelines for open board meetings.

The **Quality and Access Committee** reported on quality project presentations it heard related to asthma guidelines and sexual offender services.

CEO Update

BC's Children's Hospital has established service agreements with seven private anesthetic facilities to provide **non-cosmetic restorative dentistry** to children who are Ministry of Human Resources clients, which will improve access to dentistry services for these children.

BC Women's, in partnership with the BC Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and the Ministry of Health Planning (Special Advisor on Women's and Senior's Health), is finalizing the **Provincial Women's Health Strategy** and will be presenting it to the Minister of Health Planning and the Minister of State for Women's Equality later this month.

The BC Cancer Agency and BC's Children's Hospital have established a **Provincial Pediatric Oncology Council and Network**. The Council will address a number of issues including long-term follow-up of adult survivors of childhood cancer, and community program development. The BC Cancer Agency has also established a **Family Practice Council and Network** with family physicians from across the province to address the relationship and interfaces of family practice and primary care in a provincial cancer control strategy.

PHSA is responsible for the planning, coordination, monitoring, evaluation and funding of the **BC Eating Disorders Resource Centre**. Due to space limitations at St. Paul's, the Resource Centre will be moved to Children's Hospital in June 2003.

With the number of patients requiring renal dialysis growing by 8 to 10 per cent on average each year, the BC Renal Agency is continually seeking ways of moderating the costs of that growth. The Renal Agency has recently completed a study on innovative approaches to hemodialysis, and, following extensive consultation with the renal community, has developed a criterion to introduce an **independent care model for appropriate hemodialysis patients**. The model will enhance independence and maintain the quality of care provided to patients, and is expected to save \$1 million over the next two years.

Dr. Robert Halpenny has been appointed **Provincial Executive Director of Cardiac Services**. Formerly the VP, Medical Affairs with the Fraser Health Authority, Dr. Halpenny will provide leadership in establishing a provincial cardiac service program to improve access to cardiac services throughout the province.

The BC Cancer Agency and the BC Centre for Disease Control were congratulated for their **efforts to manage Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)**. In collaboration with the BCCDC, the BC Cancer Agency's Michael Smith Genome Sciences Centre completed the first publicly available draft gene sequencing of the coronavirus implicated in SARS, and the BCCDC has been working closely with the province's medical health officers to contain SARS in BC.

In accordance with the PHSA's performance agreement, the PHSA has led the formation of a health authority-wide steering committee to undertake a **Provincial Review of Surgical and Procedural Services**.

The first phase of a **new finance system for all PHSA agencies** has been implemented. The new PeopleSoft system will improve consistency of financial management across and between all PHSA agencies, will improve the ability to analyze and report on financial information, and will provide common access to the financial applications for inquiry and review purposes.