

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

Summary of October 21, 2010 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 21, 2010 open board meeting was held in Victoria.

Public Presentations and Question and Answer Period

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the PHSA board 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

Research at the BC Cancer Agency's Vancouver Island Centre – Centered on patients and focused to impact on care

Dr. Peter Watson, Chief Physician, and his team of experts provided an overview on current research activities at the Vancouver Island Centre. Dr. Watson explained how their research work is centered on patients, coordinated through cross-cutting teams and measured for results and value.

Dr. Watson also spoke on the PREDICT (Personal Response Determinants in Cancer Therapy) program that collects pre-treatment blood and DNA for future research. All patients are given the opportunity to store a blood sample and give consent to be contacted for future research opportunities. The centre also has a tumor tissue repository program that enables them to collect and bank tumor samples for research. Through bio banking of tissue, blood and DNA, the Centre is able to learn and make discoveries.

Shaun Lorhan, Regional Coordinator, Volunteer Services, spoke on navigation research at the Centre and how it is focused on reducing barriers to care and providing patient support. She also provided an overview on the three models being piloted at the centre:

1. Lay navigation – a personal approach that involves face-to-face interaction, this pilot will be offered in December to lung cancer patients.
2. Population-based navigation – a method that involves providing patients with education materials (DVD, health assessment form and a booklet) that are developed with staff and patient input.
3. Self navigation – this model focuses on technology by using a patient portal website to help patients navigate care on their own.

Dr. Wayne Beckham, Director, Medical Physics, spoke on the goals and accomplishments of the Centre for Innovative Technology and how the gated breathing system equipment has enabled them to treat breast cancer with reduced cardiac complications by moving the breast away from the heart during radiation therapy.

Dr. Brad Nelson, Director and Senior Scientist, provided information on immunotherapy and explained how the immune system response can significantly affect cancer outcomes.

Family Centered Care – BC’s evolving network of services – A Vancouver Island example

Dr. Maureen O’Donnell, Executive Director, Child Health BC, provided an overview on Child Health BC and how the program brings together child health services and provincial ministries to improve health outcomes for children. Their four key areas of focus are continuum, coordination and collaboration, capacity and change.

Dr. Wilma Arruda, Medical Director, VIHA Pediatrics, spoke on the pediatric ambulatory clinic formed in April 2009 at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. Prior to this, pediatric patients who required sub-specialty services had to travel to BC Children’s Hospital in Vancouver for treatment. With the help of Child Health BC and the participation of subspecialists both on the Island and mainland, children can now receive the complex care they require without the extensive travel, cost and unnecessary stress on their families.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access Committee** reported the office of the Auditor General performance audit is drawing to a close. The PHSA board will review and comment and report the results to the public.

The **Governance and Human Resources Committee** reviewed the current HR priorities from the workforce strategy, which included improving the level of employee engagement, leadership development, and employee wellness and safety.

The **Finance Committee** reported that the 2010/11 operating budget is on track to balance. Current capital projects include the Cyclotron at the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver, the first phase in the redevelopment of BC Children’s and BC Women’s Hospitals, and the BC Cancer Agency Centre for the North. The motion to update the capital budget to \$108M was recommended and carried.

The **Research Committee** reported on the second annual research metrics and areas of achievement including notable increases in research funding, number of researchers and number of patients enrolled in clinical trials.

Adjournment

The next public board meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2010 in Vancouver.

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