

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 April 14, 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 February 10, 2011 open board meeting was held in Vancouver.

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 received a presentation from Mr. Hugh Fraser regarding some concerns local neighbours had with the BC Children's and BC Women's Redevelopment Project. Mr. Fraser asked the board to consider retaining the existing setbacks between the hospital campus and the neighbourhood and consult with the community. Board Chair Mr. Wynne Powell stated that community input will be considered by PHSA as the redevelopment project moves forward and staff will meet with him and the neighbors.

Presentations

The RICHER Health Care Model

Lorine Scott, MN NP(F), Family Nurse Practitioner, RICHER Initiative, BCCH & BCWH, and Dr. Judith Lynam, Professor, UBC School of Nursing provided information on an innovative approach to delivering integrated specialized services for hard to reach children. The Responsive Intersectoral Children's Health, Education, and Research (RICHER) Initiative is a community-based primary healthcare service specifically designed to meet the unique needs of children, youth, and families in Vancouver's inner city neighbourhoods. The program focuses on children who are particularly vulnerable due to their material and social circumstances as evidence shows they are most likely to suffer the consequences of delayed development and poor health.

Lorine and Dr. Lynam explained that the initiative works in collaboration with Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, established community and tertiary healthcare services, and existing community-based organizations. The RICHER approach provides important links to specialized healthcare services in partnership with families and their community-based support networks.

The RICHER Initiative is made up of a primary care service and a specialist service, with a goal to reduce health inequities while improving access to primary, secondary, and tertiary healthcare.

Provincial Prenatal Genetic Screening Program

Dr. Sylvie Langlois, Medical Director of the BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program provided an update on the current status of the evidence based provincial prenatal screening approach.

The BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program's goal is to provide safe and accurate testing to all women who choose prenatal genetic screening.

Dr. Langlois and Kim Williams, Provincial Executive Director of Perinatal Services BC, explained that since approval of the BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program in February 2008, the program has made significant progress in the development of sites that perform nuchal translucency (NT) ultrasound around the province. This has allowed the BC Prenatal Genetic Screening Program to offer Integrated Prenatal Screening (NT plus first and second trimester biochemistry) to a larger proportion of women at higher risk. Integrated Prenatal Screening has helped reduce the use of amniocentesis testing and decreased the number of pregnancy losses from amniocentesis.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access Committee** reported that the compliance report from the latest hand hygiene audit shows broad progress across PHSA. The committee also provided a status report on suggestions made to PHSA by the Patient Care Quality Review Board, indicating management had acted on all the recommendations.

The **Governance and Human Resources Committee** provided information on the Health and Safety in Action Initiative, a partnership between the Health Employers Association of BC, Health Benefit Trust and Worksafe BC, to build healthier workplaces. Through a series of measures, this provincial initiative aims to realize \$50 million in savings to the health care system by 2015 through a culture of safety and accountability.

The **Finance Committee** reported the 2010/11 operating budget closed with a very small surplus of approximately \$700,000 out of a total \$1.6 billion annual budget. The Board approved the 2011/12 operating budget at \$2.115 billion. The increase in budget this year is due to new operational responsibilities for two entities: the Emergency Health Services Commission and Health Shared Services BC.

The **Audit Committee** did not have any items to report at this time.

The **Research Committee** reported receiving a presentation from the BC Academic Health Council on effective practice education for tomorrow's health workers. The committee also reported that the Centre for Translational and Applied Genomics (CTAG) has been granted accreditation by the College of American Pathologists (CAP), which is considered the highest standard of quality for pathology work in the world. Lastly, the committee informed that Dr. Michael Hayden was a recipient of the 2011 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award.

Adjournment

The next public board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2011 in Terrace.

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