

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 December 8, 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 December 8, 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 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)

Dr. John Webb, Provincial Medical Director, **Transcatheter Heart Valve Program**, Cardiac Services BC, summarized a new technique that he pioneered at St. Paul's Hospital that makes it possible for a patient to have a heart valve replaced without the need to undergo open heart surgery. The method involves inserting a collapsible valve on a catheter that is then guided into the heart through an artery in the leg. Once the catheter reaches the aorta, a balloon expands the circular replacement valve, pushing the old damaged valve out of the way, without the need to physically remove it.

The procedure, known as TAVI (trans-catheter aortic valve implantation), is currently being made available to patients who are not candidates for traditional surgery due advanced age or compromised health status. The success rate among such high-risk patients is currently more than 95%. Dr. Webb developed the minimally invasive procedure in 2005, and since then he has trained colleagues in more than 25 countries to perform the procedure. Approximately 50,000 aortic valve replacements have been performed to date using the TAVI technique.

Dr. Mark Gilbert, Physician Epidemiologist, **Online Sexual Health Services** for the BC Centre for Disease Control, provided an overview of this three-pronged program that consists of:

- *inSPOT*, an email based partner notification option
- *Smart Sex BC*, an interactive sexual health website; and
- *Get Checked BC*, internet initiation of testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

These user-friendly services help to remove cultural and social barriers to access for the target population. All are patient centered in that interactive online services offer "shared" control rather than the traditional care model that is professionally controlled. This, in turn, makes better use of clinician time and is cost effective. It also ensures that health information of consistent quality can be provided in a timely manner.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access Committee** reported that it continues to track the progress on a number of management issues in place to meet board goals in quality, safety and outcome improvement. Progress is very good on all initiatives. The committee reviewed the hand hygiene audit results for the second quarter. Overall the results are holding steady at about the same compliance rate as that in the previous quarter. Given the importance of hand hygiene, the committee will continue to monitor progress across PHSA. The committee reviewed the quarterly imPROVE results – staff are focused on improving the health of patients and seeing the value of reducing waste in the process. This program continues to deliver outstanding results in both large and small initiatives and is becoming embedded in the culture of the organization as the “way we do business”.

The **Governance and Human Resources Committee** reported that during its annual policy review, it was noted that six “whistle blower” reports had been received. The committee views this as a positive development, in that staff have been made aware of the Whistle Blower Policy and are coming forward with their concerns. The committee also reviews the HR Risks and Metrics Report regularly. Recently a metric was added around the support for leadership development, which supports PHSA’s overall workforce strategy.

The **Finance Committee** reported that PHSA is on track to deliver a balanced budget at the end of the fiscal year, with management working to address some specific cost pressures. All capital projects are progressing well, including construction at two major sites: BC Children’s & BC Women’s Redevelopment Project in Vancouver, and the BC Cancer Agency (BCCA) Centre for the North in Prince George. Funds have now been secured to begin the BCCA Vancouver Island Centre Redevelopment Project in Victoria.

The **Audit Committee** met with PHSA’s external auditors and walked through the 2012 audit plan. The Auditors also provided the committee with some information on the new public sector accounting standards that are being adopted across the province in 2013 that will impact requirements for financial reporting. Preparations are already underway to ensure a smooth transition between reporting systems.

The **Research Committee** reported on a presentation it received from representatives of the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI). The largest research institute of its kind in Western Canada, CFRI is a partnership between BC Children’s Hospital and the University of BC. CFRI conducts world-class research spanning a wide range of children’s and women’s health concerns.

Other Business

Wynne Powell, Board Chair, noted the 10th anniversary of the formation of BC’s six authorities in December 2001, and commented on the collective efforts that have been made to help improve sustain the health system over the course of the past decade.

Adjournment

The next open board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2012 in Vancouver, BC.

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