
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 December 11, 2008 Board Meeting

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.

With our provincial mandate, we circulate our board meetings throughout the province and hold two of these meetings outside of Vancouver each year.

There were no public presentations at the Dec. 11 meeting, which was held in Vancouver. The board did not receive any questions from the public at this event.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Stuart MacLeod, Executive Director of the **Child & Family Research Institute**, gave a presentation entitled “Hidden Advantages: The Health Sciences University within our Walls.”

The presentation focused on the PHSA’s strategic direction of knowledge and innovation and how it involves partnering with academic institutions to develop and deliver quality practice education for health professionals and other service providers. With about 4,000 students receiving training and education through PHSA agencies each year, PHSA operates the equivalent of a small college.

Dr. MacLead also spoke about some of the many partnerships with key BC academic institutions, such as UBC and Simon Fraser University and mentioned the possibilities for future opportunities for the expansion of inter-professional education, the enhancement of student education and making PHSA an employer of choice by fostering an education and research culture.

Lorraine Gerard, Executive Director of the **Kidney Foundation of Canada, BC Branch**, presented on the Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program (LODERP), which is intended to remove financial barriers to living organ donation.

Ms. Gerard gave an overview of a three-year pilot project, started in 2006 and developed in partnership with BC Transplant, with leadership from PHSA. The objective of the program is to increase the number of living organ donor transplantations by reducing the financial barriers to donors. Ms. Gerard mentioned that each successful kidney transplant saves the health care system approximately \$150,000 per year.

Ms. Gerard also spoke about other initiatives that are reducing barriers for living organ donors such as advocating for tax breaks on funding to make up for lost income.

Board Committee Reports

The **Quality and Access Committee** put forward a motion to appoint Dr. Francis Wong as the new head of the BC Cancer Agency Medical Advisory Committee to replace Dr. Ivo Olivotto, who is stepping down. The motion was carried. The committee also reviewed the PHSA balanced scorecard.

The **Governance and Human Resources Committee** discussed the value innovation session held at its recent governance retreat and reported it was asking management to organize a small demonstration project to pilot the approach.

The **Finance/Audit Committee** reported that it had revised the terms of reference for the audit committee. The committee also reported that it is now planning on conducting an audit of research funding. The timeframe for this audit has been changed to include a May, August and December meeting. There was a motion to approve the terms of reference which was carried.

The Finance Committee also reported that it met with KPMG in December regarding the audit process and had a discussion about things that could be improved to make the process more efficient. The committee also reported that PHSA is on track for a balanced budget.

The **Research Committee** reported that the CFRI building has now been officially opened and acknowledged the many funding partners and leadership role the PHSA played in securing funding for the building. The committee also reported that it reviewed the draft conflict of interest policy for the research enterprise. In summary, the research committee said it expected the research enterprise to impact care for patients and it needs to maintain focus on that and to become accountable and self-sustainable. The next step is to develop a work plan and terms of reference.

Adjournment

The next meeting of the board in public is scheduled for Thursday, February 5, 2009 in Vancouver at BCIT's Downtown Campus located at 555 Seymour Street.

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