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July 8, 2004 (**June 24, 2004 Board Meeting**)

Public Presentations

Two members of the public responded to the invitation to make presentations to the PHSA board, and provided presentations on the topics of regulatory control for genetics testing and a nursing perspective on the Emergency Departments in the Fraser Health Authority.

Presentations

The board received a presentation from **Dr. Adeera Levin, provincial executive director of the BC Renal Agency, on Expanding Independent Dialysis Services in B.C.** The presentation outlined the many initiatives the Renal Agency is taking to increase the number of people who undergo dialysis independently. The collaborative initiative, which involves kidney disease specialists from throughout the province, is unique to B.C. and includes new patient information materials, including a book and video, that help people with kidney disease understand their options for independent dialysis. Independent dialysis, such as undergoing dialysis at home or overnight, not only provides better quality care to patients, but it also reduces costs for care – an important consideration given the number of people with kidney disease is increasing an average of 10 per cent each year in B.C.

Mr. Alan Grossert, general manager of facilities planning for the PHSA, presented an update to the board on two PHSA construction projects. The Child, Adolescent and Women's Mental Health building will be located on the Oak Street site of BC's Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre. The new facility, which will house PHSA's existing child/adolescent and women's mental health programs, is being constructed through the total renovation of an existing, outdated building, which costs less than new construction. Environmentally sustainable design is being incorporated into the building, resulting in reduced energy consumption and costs. Occupancy is expected in early 2006.

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.

Mr. Grossert also provided an update on the BC Research Institute Centre for Translational Research, which will also be located on the Oak Street site. This new facility, which will be located adjacent to the existing Research Institute building, will provide much-needed space for expanding health research activities. Construction is expected to begin next spring, with occupancy targeted for the fall of 2006.

Corporate/Visual Identity Policy

The PHSA board approved the Corporate/Visual Identity Policy of the PHSA with minor amendments. This policy will be distributed shortly to all PHSA employees.

CEO Update

The **Western Canadian Children's Heart Network**, which coordinates cardiac services for children across the Western provinces, met this spring and is focussing its immediate efforts on videoconferencing, on implementing an Edmonton-based database across the network, and on a combined fellowship program which is to be implemented by 2005.

PHSA Mental Health Services has initiated a **review of the provincial eating disorders programs** to evaluate alternative models of care and incorporate best practices in the PHSA program. A one-day "external experts" forum was held by videoconference in Vancouver in May, which included clinical leaders from C&W and St. Paul's Hospital, parents, health authority service providers and physician specialists from London, England, the Hospital for Sick Children and Toronto General. As part of the review, the program manager and parent representatives also visited several eating disorder centres in Alberta.

The BC Centre for Disease Control has received funding from the Ministry of Health Services for and is implementing a **varicella (chicken pox) immunization program** for high risk populations. The BCCDC has also received funding from the Ministry to support activities related to **West Nile Virus**, including communications aimed at helping members of the public identify and take action to prevent exposure.

PHSA implemented the **supply chain module** of its PeopleSoft business system application, with the system going live on April 1. This module, which automates inventory, purchasing and electronic procurement, has integrated all supply chain services across PHSA. The

functionality of the new system will allow the PHSA to improve how it delivers these services and maximize the efficiency of those services.

Scientists in PHSA agencies have enjoyed exceptional success in the first months of 2004. Researchers at the BC Cancer Agency and the BC Research Institute for Children's & Women's Health have received awards from Genome Canada totaling nearly \$17 million. BC Cancer Agency scientists have also obtained funding awards totaling more than \$16 million from a variety of sources, including the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, and American granting agencies. The BC Research Institute for Children's & Women's Health has also enjoyed unprecedented success in competitive funding of research operating grants and career awards in 2004; a total of 11 career awards and three Canada Research Chairs have been received this year, with awards to young researchers coming from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (five) and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (six).

Board Committee Reports

The **Audit Committee** recommended and the board approved PHSA's audited financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2004. PHSA ended the year with a \$10.2 million deficit, slightly under the projected year-end deficit of \$10.3, achieving its objective of balancing its budget over the three-year period that ended March 31, 2004. The Audit Committee recommended and the board also approved a motion to appoint KPMG LLP as its external auditors.