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(Dec. 12, 2002 Board Meeting)

Medical Staff Appointments

The PHSA board approved medical staff appointments for Children's & Women's Health Centre of British Columbia, Riverview Hospital and the B.C. Cancer Agency.

Board Committee Reports

The board received verbal updates on committee meetings held earlier that day.

The **Audit & Finance Committee** recommended the board pass a motion approving a policy on auditor independence. The policy was recommended, in the wake of Enron, to ensure PHSA is in step with the latest developments and recommendations for best practice on auditor independence, and to ensure public confidence in the quality of audit and public accountability. The board approved the policy. Based on the committee's recommendation, the board also passed a motion approving the capital budget allocation for the PHSA.

The **Governance and HR Committee** reported on discussions related to developing an advisory committee structure that would report to the board through the Quality and Access Committee. The board endorsed the committee's recommendation that management further develop this proposed structure, including terms of reference for the proposed committees. Based on the committee's recommendation, the board also passed a motion that the PHSA apply to join the Municipal Pension Plan. As a separate and distinct legal entity from the agencies within it, the PHSA must apply to participate in the plan in order to enable its employees to participate in it.

The **Quality and Access Committee** recommended, and the board approved, a Quality Indicators & Risk Management Framework developed by Dr. Cochrane, VP Medical Affairs & Quality.

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.

**Media Conference
Call with Board
Chair and CEO**

PHSA board chair Wynne Powell, and CEO Lynda Cranston will be available to answer media questions related to the PHSA board meeting through a conference call on Thursday, Dec. 19 from 10:30 to 11 a.m.

Phone Somer Arthurs at 604-675-7474 before 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 18 for details on how to register for the call. A 1-800 number is available for the conference call throughout B.C.

CEO Update

PHSA services in the Northern Health Authority – Highlights of PHSA services provided to residents of the NHA include: 318 children received inpatient care at BC's Children's Hospital; women from NHA with problems or potential problems in pregnancy or childbirth paid almost 300 visits to BC Women's Hospital; the BC Transplant Society currently has 20 residents of the north on the waiting list for an organ transplant; by 2010, the BC Cancer Agency estimates 1272 people from the NHA will receive a cancer diagnosis, up 30 per cent from 2002; the BC Centre for Disease Control reports 95 per cent of kindergarten children in the NHA received immunization for diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus (the highest rate in the province by a small margin) and 96 per cent received immunization for mumps, measles and rubella.

Provincial Mental Health Plan – As part of the implementation of the Provincial Mental Health Plan, nine patients were transferred last April from Riverview Hospital to Iris House, a new specialized residential mental health facility in Prince George. Another 10 patients will be relocated to Iris House in February 2003, when the NHA completes the expansion of Iris House, doubling the capacity of the facility to care for people with serious and persistent mental illness.

Renal (kidney) services – People from the Terrace area will be able to receive dialysis treatments locally starting next spring in a new \$1.4 million community dialysis centre. The BC Provincial Renal Agency, in collaboration with clinicians in the NHA, recommended that a dialysis centre be established in Terrace. Government approved that recommendation and provided PHSA and the Renal Agency with the funding for a six-station hemo-dialysis centre in Terrace.

BC Telehealth program – Through the BC Telehealth program, PHSA has initiated telehealth services in a broad range of communities throughout the province to establish a multidisciplinary electronic network of clinical, continuing education and administrative telehealth applications for the benefit of health professionals, patients and families. For example, clinicians within the NHA link with highly specialized pediatric cardiologists at BC's Children's Hospital for patient consultations. A family can go to a hospital in the NHA with a telehealth link to pay a virtual visit to their child at Children's in Vancouver. Genetic counselors at Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC are able to counsel families on hereditary diseases or pregnancy complications using the telehealth link, saving families the time and expense of a visit to Vancouver.

Provincial Network for Autism Spectrum Disorder – As part of the PHSA’s new Provincial Network for Autism Spectrum Disorder Assessment and Diagnostic Services, experts at Children’s & Women’s are partnering with their counterparts in the NHA to ensure children who may have autism can be assessed as close to home as possible. Children – including those from the NHA – are now waiting a maximum of 12 weeks rather than up to 14 months to be assessed for autism. Through the program, 11 children from the NHA have been assessed since August.

Specialized perinatal services – The PHSA has charged BC Women’s Hospital and Health Centre, an agency of the PHSA, with developing a plan for specialized perinatal services in BC. With the support of the Ministry of Health and the involvement of representatives from all health authorities including the NHA, BC Women’s has led a highly consultative planning process over many months and has developed a proposal to establish a Specialized Perinatal Services program. The program would develop and implement standards of care and practice, formalize relationships among facilities, define accountabilities, collect common provincial data, form and maintain relationships with external professional bodies, allocate appropriate funding to tertiary perinatal services, and ensure an appropriate human resources strategy is in place.

Women’s Health Strategy Project – BC Women’s is also leading another PHSA initiative to address the unique health needs of women in BC. The Ministry of Health Planning (through the special advisor for women’s and senior’s health) has provided funding for BC Women’s and the BC Centre for Excellence in Women’s Health — a research centre located on the same site as BC Women’s — to develop a provincial strategy for addressing the unique health needs of women. The strategy will address issues such as varying rates of surveillance for cervical and breast cancer screening across the province, the appropriateness of services available to support women with mental health needs throughout BC, access to maternity and other reproductive health services, as well as access to specialized care for women with health problems such as HIV/AIDS.

Financial Report – Period 8

The PHSA results from operations in period 8 were on budget with a deficit of \$1 million. This brings the year-to-date surplus to \$10 million, which is \$7 million higher than budget. The PHSA is projecting to close the year with a surplus of \$7 million, which

is \$3 million better than budget. The projected surplus represents 0.7 per cent of budget and the variance is 0.3 per cent of budget. These projections do not incorporate the potential that the costs of physician compensation arising from the BCMA settlement may not be fully funded. This unfunded amount could be more than \$6 million.

Internal Assurance Function

Board chair Wynne Powell provided an update on the establishment of an internal assurance function. The purpose of this function, which is common in private sector organizations but less so in health organizations, is to provide assurance directly to the board regarding operations and finance. The PHSA is moving ahead with recruiting an individual to perform this function.

Vision, Mission & Values

The PHSA board reported on its progress to date in developing the PHSA's vision, mission and values statements. The board will meet again prior to its next meeting to continue development of these statements.

Public Presentation

Dr. John Konkall, a Prince George ophthalmologist, made a presentation to the board regarding use of the drug Visudyne in treating age-related macular degeneration (AMD), which is the leading cause of blindness in people aged 50 or older. Visudyne, a new light-activated drug, is proving to be very effective in the treatment of wet AMD, the more severe form of AMD which accounts for 10 to 15 per cent of all cases of AMD, yet is responsible for 90 per cent of AMD-related blindness. Currently, Visudyne is available at Vancouver Hospital Eye Care Centre and Victoria General Hospital. Dr. Konkall expressed the desire to improve local access to the drug.

In response to the increasing demand for the drug, PHSA has recently begun working with the experts at the Eye Care Centre at Vancouver Hospital to look at the ongoing need and funding for Visudyne. PHSA is in the final stages of completing this process and will be giving the information to the Ministry of Health for funding consideration. In the meantime, the people who need the drug at the two approved centres continue to receive it. Before the 2003/04 fiscal year, the PHSA will also review whether there is sufficient volume and clinical expertise to safely establish alternate delivery site(s) outside the Lower Mainland.