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April 26, 2004 (**April 15, 2004 Board Meeting**)

Presentations

The board received a presentation from **Dr. John Millar, the PHSA's Executive Director, Population Health Surveillance & Disease Control Planning**, on population health and the PHSA's potential role related to it. Population health looks at the many factors that influence the health status of a particular population, such as diet, water quality, early childhood health, housing, and other socioeconomic factors.

Dr. Millar discussed the concept of a virtual Public Health Institute and what role it might play in improving population health in BC. Dr. Millar has established a population health network with representatives from all regional health authorities which has identified key priorities – such as obesity, tobacco, injuries, early childhood development, inequities/inequalities in socioeconomic status and mental health – related to population health in BC.

Mrs. Sharon Toohey, President, BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, presented the BC Children's Hospital Strategic Plan to the PHSA board. The plan is based on the same four strategic directions as the PHSA Strategic Plan: operational excellence, knowledge and innovation, system-wide improvements, and prevention/promotion/protection.

The board passed a motion approving the BC Children's Hospital Strategic Plan. With this motion, the board has now approved the strategic plans of PHSA and all of its agencies, which were developed concurrently through a model in which the agency and corporate plans "shaped and were shaped by" one another.

Ms. Ellen Chesney, Chief Communications Officer, PHSA, provided a presentation to the board on how the PHSA strategic plans will be communicated to various audiences throughout the province. Meetings are being scheduled at all PHSA agencies over the next several weeks at which PHSA CEO Lynda Cranston and agency leaders will jointly present the corporate and agency plans. Following communication with staff and physicians, an overview of the plans, along with copies of the detailed plan documents, will be made available on the PHSA website.

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

Since September, 2002, the PHSA has scheduled province-wide media conference calls following every board meeting. The free calls were organized to ensure media across the province had the opportunity to speak directly with the PHSA's board chair and CEO about the board meeting, or any other topic. As a result of low media participation (none in the last call and only three or four outlets in the calls over the past year), the calls have been cancelled. PHSA remains committed to making itself available to media. Media may contact communications at any time through the media pager at 604.871.5699. In addition, PHSA will reinstate media conference calls if warranted by media interest.

CEO Report

BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre is completing the final stages of renovations associated with the **nursery redesign project**. The project includes an expansion of the Special Care Nursery, improvements in family and staff supports, an independent isolation unit with capacity for seven infants, an upgrade of the central nursery core and relocation of the Newborn Care Nursery into the renovated Special Care Nursery. This relocation enables merging of the nursing staff, resulting in efficiencies and expected savings in the range of \$600,000 annually.

A half-day planning session was held March 8 to review options and opportunities associated with the establishment of the **PHSA Mental Health & Addictions Research Centre**. Approximately 40 health and mental health leaders, representing the health authorities, UBC, SFU, the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Mental Health Evaluation & Community Consultation Unit (MHECCU), and other provincial organizations participated in large and small-group discussions to identify high-level priorities, opportunities and general directions for future planning activities. There was overall consensus from the group on the value of moving forward with this initiative.

PHSA Mental Health Services has also initiated a **review of the adolescent and adult tertiary eating disorder services**. The review, which involves medical and administrative leaders from the St. Paul's Hospital and BC Children's Hospital eating disorder programs, will confirm a future tertiary service model and its links to secondary services province-wide. Over the next few weeks, the steering committee will solicit input on the strengths and gaps within current programs from "internal experts": patients, parents, health authority service providers, physicians, government, and others. An "external experts" forum will be held in early May with national and international leaders in eating disorders services. The review, including recommendations for more accessible, coordinated and evidence-based eating disorder services, is scheduled to be complete by June 2004.

PHSA Human Resources has begun a Business Process Review aimed at identifying and developing efficiencies within this corporate service. The review will focus on five areas: strategic human resources, compensation, recruitment and retention, employee/employer relations, wellness/safety & employee programs, and learning and development. The target date for completion of the review and recommendations is May 31, 2004.

Board Committee Reports

Don Rowlatt, chair of the **PHSA Audit and Finance Committee**, presented an overview of the PHSA 2004/05 Operating Plan. The presentation summarized the PHSA's \$55.5 million capital budget and \$1,208 billion balanced operating budget for 2004/05. The committee

recommended and the board approved a motion to approve the operating plan in principle, subject to a number of minor revisions. PHSA plans to submit its operating plan to the Ministry of Health by the beginning of May and, following internal communication of the plan, will make it available to the public later that month.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** reviewed the report on Operations for Period 12. PHSA operated close to budget during periods 11 and 12, reporting a \$3.3 million favourable position compared to the \$4.2 million favourable variance to plan reported at period 10. PHSA is on track for balancing its budget over the three-year period that ended March 31, 2004. PHSA is completing its financial year-end and will post its audited financial statements on its website when they become available.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** recommended, and the board approved, a motion to separate the audit and finance committee into two committees: the audit committee and the finance committee. This move supports best practices, which recommend some separation between audit and finance activities, and will ensure the finance committee has sufficient time to thoroughly oversee the finances of the PHSA.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** recommended and the board approved motions to approve the terms of reference for the two new committees. Those terms of reference are available on the PHSA website located at www.phsa.ca.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** recommended and the board approved a motion to move forward with the building construction phase of the research building expansion on the Oak Street site of BC Children's Hospital and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre, subject to continuing review of financing considerations.

The **Audit and Finance Committee** also recommended and the board approved a motion to proceed with the installation of two new linear accelerators at the BC Cancer Agency. Installation of the new linear accelerators, which deliver radiation therapy, requires the construction of four new bunkers, which the board also approved. The new linear accelerators will enable the BC Cancer Agency to maintain its standard of providing radiation therapy to 90% of all patients within four weeks.

The **Governance and HR Committee** recommended and the board approved a board orientation process, and a board orientation manual and quick reference manual. These materials will ensure board members receive a thorough orientation to PHSA and have detailed reference materials that allow them to easily find answers to their questions.

The **Governance and HR Committee** also recommended and the board approved a long-term board renewal plan. The plan outlines both a plan and process for the orderly, long-term renewal of its membership by varying the time and duration of director appointments.