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Better health.*

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July 5, 2005 (June 23, 2005 Board Meeting)

Public Question and Answer Period

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the board of the Provincial Health Services Authority now provides up to 30 minutes for Public Q&A prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

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.

Public Presentations

The Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA) advertised the opportunity for the public to make presentations and ask questions of the PHSA board at this meeting, held in Fort St. John. No requests for presentations from the public were received.

PHSA Presentations

Dr. Steve Wellington, Co-Director of the BC Autism Assessment Network (BCAAN) provided a presentation on the BC Autism Assessment Network.

The BC Autism Assessment Network was created by the PHSA in October 2002 to develop standards for service and regional capacity, increase the number of assessments and reduce waitlists for assessments. Through the network, nearly 300 clinicians throughout regional health authorities have received training in assessment.

In 2003/04, 449 assessments were completed across the province, 90% in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. In 2004/05, 1,110 assessments

took place, with assessments occurring broadly throughout the province in proportion to population.

Dr. Maureen O'Donnell, Senior Medical Director Child Development and Rehabilitation Program at BC Children's Hospital, presented on children with complex developmental needs.

Dr. O'Donnell reviewed a proposal to establish diagnostic and assessment services for children with complex developmental needs, building on the success of BC Autism Assessment Network. Like the BC Autism Assessment Network, the proposed service would involve leadership from Sunny Hill and Children's Hospital, involve all regional health authorities and include research and quality improvement initiatives.

CEO Update

An orthopedic services redesign project is underway at BC Children's Hospital that is focused on five major initiatives: prevention/community; emergency department; inpatients; ambulatory; and perioperative areas. An implementation plan for each initiative will be tabled by June 30th, 2005.

On May 26, 2005, in partnership with the Ministry of Health Services Executive Director for Aboriginal Services, BC Women's/PHSA sponsored a preliminary planning session on **supporting access to maternity services for women living in rural and urban aboriginal communities across BC**. This is the first step in a longer term, comprehensive process to ensure skilled and culturally appropriate maternity services for a population that is often marginalized from mainstream services.

The Vancouver Cancer Information Centre in the lobby of the Vancouver Cancer Centre was officially "launched" on May 25th. The Cancer Information Centre will house most of the high-use patient education materials/titles and will be supported by library staff and volunteers from the International Order of Daughters of the Empire (IODE).

The Riverview Hospital Redevelopment Project is continuing to proceed. During this reporting period one patient from Riverview Hospital transferred to Sandringham Care Centre in Victoria, two patients transferred to Bulkley Lodge in Smithers, one patient transferred to North Peace Care Centre in Fort St. John, and three patients transferred to Seven Sisters in Terrace.

Work continues across health authority renal programs to assess and train patients on **independent dialysis modalities**. Altogether in 2004/05, 39 people were trained for independent in-centre or home hemodialysis (HD). Another 25 are currently in training, and still another 80 patients are expected to undergo training in 2005/06. In addition to improving quality of life for patients, BCPRA anticipates cost savings of \$1.3 million in 2005/06 with the implementation of the IAMHD initiative, which will provide further savings as the program expands.

The PHSA has established **Healthy Weights and Tobacco Advisory Committees** and the following priority areas have been identified:

- Healthy Weights – Workplace wellness, built environment design, consumer trends and marketing in early childhood
- Tobacco – smoke free homes, smoking cessation, community profiles, workplace and taxation and enforcement.

PHSA has led the province in the implementation of a **'Private Network Gateway' (PNG)** that interconnects the networks of all of the Health Authorities. The PNG is now in production, allowing healthcare communications and data to travel securely between all healthcare facilities in the province. Services traveling through the PNG include e-mail, dictations, diagnostic reports, diagnostic images and telehealth. In addition to being more secure, the PNG is more cost effective and simpler to add more services to than historic linkages.

The PHSA Provincial Transfer Grid is now beginning to be used for the **transfer of diagnostic images from**

PHSA to other health authorities. Historically it was only used to transfer images to the PHSA, but now its utility for the receipt of images is being recognized by the other authorities.

PHSA is one of the founding organizations of the BC Network for Intraprofessional Education for Collaborative, Patient-Centered Practice. This network of health authorities and post-secondary education institutions recently received \$1.2 million from Health Canada to complete projects that will advance intraprofessional education and teamwork in health care settings across the province. PHSA will play a leading role in seven projects totalling \$220K in funding support.

Board Committee Reports

The Audit Committee recommended and the Board passed a motion approving the audited financial statements for PHSA and its agencies.

The Audit Committee also recommended and the Board passed a motion appointing KPMG as auditor for 2005/06, and approving revised terms of reference for the Audit Committee.

The Finance Committee Chair presented an overview of the 2005/06 Three Year Service Plan and budget for PHSA. The plan reflects a balanced budget and strategic reallocations to support patient care.

The Board passed a motion approving the three year plan.

The PHSA ended the 2004/05 fiscal year with a very small surplus of \$21,000, significantly ahead of the budgeted deficit of \$8 million. The final financial position aligned with forecasts submitted in prior periods and reflects management's decision to ensure all available resources were directed to PHSA core business.