

Category: BOARD POLICY – BOARD PROCESS	
Title: TERMS OF REFERENCE: Director	Reference Number: BCEHS-AB120
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I. INTRODUCTION

Broadly speaking, a Director (“Director”) of the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) has several fundamental obligations to fulfill.

II. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A. Fiduciary Duty and Duty of Care

As a fiduciary of BCEHS and in keeping with common law, the Director acts ethically, honestly and in good faith with a view to the best interests of BCEHS and in so doing, supports BCEHS in fulfilling its mission and discharging its accountabilities. A Director exercises the care, diligence and skill that a reasonably prudent person would exercise in comparable circumstances.

The key elements of this standard of behaviour include that a Director:

- i) must act in the best interests of BCEHS and not in his or her self-interest. This also means a Director should not be acting in the best interests of a special interest group or constituency;
- ii) cannot take personal advantage of opportunities that come before him/her in the course of performing his/her Director duties;
- iii) must disclose to the Board any personal interests that he/she holds that may conflict with the interests of BCEHS;
- iv) must respect the confidentiality requirements of BCEHS's Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines;
- v) participate in Board activities in a meaningful way;

- vi) be vigilant to ensure BCEHS is being properly managed and is complying with the laws applicable to BCEHS; and
- vii) comply with the Standards of Behaviour set out below.

III. STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR ESTABLISHED BY THE BOARD

The Board has established the following standards of behaviour for Directors.

A. General

As a member of the Board, each Director will:

- i) demonstrate a solid understanding of the role, responsibilities and legal duties of a Director and the governance structure of BCEHS;
- ii) demonstrate high ethical standards in personal and professional dealings; and
- iii) understand the difference between governing and managing, and not encroach on Management's area of responsibility.

B. Strategies and Plan

As a member of the Board, each Director will:

- i) demonstrate an understanding of BCEHS's strategic direction;
- ii) contribute and add value to discussions regarding BCEHS's strategic direction; and
- iii) participate in monitoring and evaluating the success of BCEHS and the CEO in achieving established goals and objectives.

C. Preparation, Attendance and Availability

As a member of the Board, each Director will:

- i) prepare for Board and Committee meetings by reading reports and background materials distributed in advance;
- ii) maintain an excellent Board and Committee meeting attendance record¹;

¹ The target is 100% attendance. Anything less than 80%, without extenuating circumstances, would be considered unsatisfactory.

- iii) organize him/herself so as to be able to attend the entire Board or Committee meeting, not just parts of meetings;
- iv) participate in Committees and contribute to their purpose; and
- v) in the event that a Director fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board, without reasonable cause, the Secretary will advise the Minister in writing.

D. Communication and Interaction

As a member of the Board, each Director will:

- i) demonstrate good judgement;
- ii) interact appropriately with the leadership and management of BCEHS;
- iii) participate fully and frankly in the deliberations and discussions of the Board;
- iv) be a positive and constructive force within the Board;
- v) demonstrate an openness to others' opinions and the willingness to listen;
- vi) have the confidence and courage to make tough decisions, including the strength to challenge the majority view;
- vii) maintain collaborative and congenial relationships with colleagues on the Board; and
- viii) advise the the Chair in advance when introducing significant and/or previously unknown information or material at a Board meeting. The Chair will then advise the CEO.

E. Organizational Knowledge

Recognizing that sound decisions can only be made by well-informed Directors, each Director will:

- i) become generally knowledgeable about BCEHS's operations and BCEHS' role in the provincial health care system;
- ii) participate in Director orientation and development programs developed by BCEHS from time to time; and be proactive in developing individual plans for ongoing education;

- iii) maintain an understanding of the regulatory, legislative, social and political environments within which BCEHS operates; and
- iv) become acquainted with BCEHS' senior managers.

F. Confidentiality

Every Director shall respect the confidentiality of the information of BCEHS, including matters brought before the Board and all committees, keeping in mind that unauthorized disclosure of information could adversely affect the interests of BCEHS.

G. Education

A Director seeks opportunities to be educated and informed about the Board and the key issues in BCEHS and broader health care system through a review of the Board Reference Manual, participation in Board orientation and ongoing Board education.

H. Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

A Director is committed to a process of continuous self-improvement as a Director. All Directors participate in evaluation of the Board and elected Directors participate in the individual-Director evaluations and act upon results in a positive and constructive manner.

I. Formal Dissent

A Director reviews the minutes of the previous meeting on receipt and should insist that they record any Director's disclosure, abstinence or dissent. A Director who is absent from a Board meeting is deemed to have supported the decisions and policies of the Board taken in his/her absence unless he or she formally records a dissenting view with the Board Secretary. While an absent Director may formally record a dissenting view at the next meeting at which the Director is in attendance, this does not change the decision reached by the Board.

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