

**MINUTES OF A PUBLIC MEETING (“MEETING”) OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS (THE “BOARD”) OF THE
PROVINCIAL HEALTH SERVICES AUTHORITY (“PHSA”)
HELD ON THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2021
AT 10:00 AM**

Directors:	Tim Manning, Chair Suki Gill Robert Kiesman David Turchen	Dr. Ken Bassett Sandra Martin Harris Gary Pooni	Donisa Bernardo Dr. Kerry Jang Sharon Stromdahl
Guests:	Elder Gary Oleman Dr. Lori Brotto, Executive Director, Women’s Health Research Institute, Professor, UBC Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology		
Management:	Dr. David Byres Joe Gallagher Scott MacNair Dr. Maureen O’Donnell Zulie Sachedina Carolina Cerna (recorder)	Laurie Dawkins Dr. Reka Gustafson Kendra McPherson Dr. Natasha Prodan-Bhalla Susan Wannamaker	Lexie Flatt Michael Lord Dr. Patrick O’Connor Ron Quirk Donna Wilson

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Tim Manning, Board Chair, called the Meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. It was established that a quorum of the Board was present. Ms. Carolina Cerna was appointed recording secretary of the Meeting.

2.0 LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair provided the land acknowledgement and welcomed Elder Gary Oleman to provide the Indigenous Welcome for the meeting. Mr. Manning paused and acknowledged the recent passing of Elder Lillian Howard, who was an outstanding community leader and close collaborator with PHSA.

3.0 INDIGENOUS WELCOME

Elder Gerry has been involved as a change agent for First Nations communities and agencies since 1976. His experiences include providing counselling for individuals, families, and groups, and providing leadership politically and administratively to his community and Nation. Elder Gerry provided a warm indigenous welcome to all of those in attendance, whether in person, joining by webcast or by teleconference.

4.0 CHAIR ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC

The Chair provided an address to the public and stated since our last Board meeting October 5, 2021 our province has faced a series of challenging weather events in the form of flooding and mudslides, to which PHSA staff have responded with true ingenuity, finding ways to move people and supplies across the province to those in greatest need. Mr. Manning thanked employees serving with Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC), BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS), Information Management/Information Technology Services (IMITS), Supply Chain, and provincial and clinical service delivery in providing critical response and recovery.

In addition, Mr. Manning expressed his sincere appreciation for the hard work and dedication over the past 20 months to all PHSA’s staff and medical staff and encouraged staff and members of the public to register for the vaccine and booster and noted that flu shots were now widely available to all BC residents.

Lastly, Mr. Manning expressed his gratitude to Chief Clarence Louie and Mr. Robert Kiesman for their contributions as Board members to the PHSA Board and the organization at large. Chief Louie and Mr. Kiesman’s Board appointments come to an end on December 31, 2021. Mr. Manning also

thanked Ms. Donna Wilson, Vice-President People and Culture who will be retiring by the end of January 2022.

5.0 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Chair acknowledged receipt of a question the public. Questions were to be submitted to the Board Office by November 22, 2021.

The following questions were received and addressed. Mr. Manning, stating that since these are operational questions, asked Dr. Maureen O'Donnell, Executive Vice President, Provincial Clinical Policy, Planning & Partnerships and Dr. David Byres, President and CEO to respond.

- 1) What are PHSA's observations of the PHSA's gender clinics, for both adults and children, of the effect of the SOGI curriculum in BC schools on trends in cross-gender identification? Has there been a change in frequency, type of patient, or duration of symptoms?

Dr. O'Donnell stated that PHSA is proud to support Two-Spirit, transgender, and gender diverse British Columbians in accessing the healthcare and support by providing education and clinical care in accordance with accepted international standards of care. PHSA has two programs specifically focused programs: **Trans Care BC** which is a provincial clinical program with a mandate to plan, coordinate, fund, and monitor trans health services in BC. In addition, the **Gender Clinic at BC Children's Hospital** offers puberty blockers and/or gender-affirming hormones in accordance with accepted international standards of care. None of PHSA's programs conduct research focused on data from across BC, nor do they have any way to make this linkage. Members of the public are encouraged to read the recent findings from the Trans Youth CAN which is available via open source at this link: [https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476\(21\)01085-4/fulltext](https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(21)01085-4/fulltext).

- 2) Question in relation to PHSA's implementation of COVID Protocols and PHSA's "Stop the Line" policy.

Dr. Byres stated that there are a number of groups across PHSA that work collaboratively to implement COVID-19 protocols, policies, procedures, guidance and orders. Working groups typically have involvement and/or consultation with teams such as legal services, our professional practice and policy team, infection prevention and control, human resources and workplace health and safety, communications, and operations.

- 3) Question requesting better transparency of data going forward.

Dr. Byres noted that PHSA has taken an active stance on combatting the spread of misinformation and monitors public dialogue through various social media channels, issues responses, prepare new content or directs people to accurate information PHSA regularly prepares content and offers credible spokespeople to ensure the public has accurate information and can feel assured that B.C.'s response to the pandemic has been informed by science.

- 4) Question regarding appropriate accommodations for unvaccinated nurses and addressing of staffing shortages as the result of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO)'s vaccine mandate.

Dr. Byres noted that the PHO's order made it clear that all health authority employees are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 and all health authority employers are required to follow this order. More than 98% of PHSA's workforce chose to get vaccinated and do not anticipate any major service disruption. The executive leadership team regularly hosts emergency operations committee (EOC) meetings to ensure all operational impacts are considered while ensuring that mitigation strategies are in place

Mr. Manning thanked members of the public for their questions and once again encouraged the public to send questions to the Board. Each of these questions will receive a formal response by email within a week of this meeting.

6.0 DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair requested the Directors to declare any conflict with the agenda items. No declarations came forward.

7.0 APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 24, 2021 MEETING AGENDA

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the meeting agenda was approved as circulated.

8.0 APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 5, 2021 PUBLIC BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the Public Board meeting held on October 5, 2021 be approved.

9.0 PRESENTATION

Women's Health Research Institute Initiatives: An Update

Ms. Susan Wannamaker, Executive Vice President Clinical Service Delivery introduced Dr. Lori Brotto, Executive Director of the Women's Health Research Institute (WHRI), and invited her to discuss three initiatives: (1) COVID-19 research study by sex and gender; (2) Trainee experiences survey and engagement; and (3) Equity, Diversity, and Inclusivity working group.

Dr. Brotto is a Professor in the UBC Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and a Registered Psychologist in Vancouver, Canada. She holds a Canada Research Chair in Women's Sexual Health and is the director of the UBC Sexual Health Laboratory where research primarily focuses on evaluating psychological and mindfulness-based interventions for individuals with sexual health concerns. Increasingly, her research focuses on digital health innovations of these treatments

General Overview:

- Women's Health Research Initiative (WHRI) has a mandate to conduct world class research to inform policy and delivery high quality care. WHRI represents the face of women's research and supports over 400 researchers and trainees engaged in women's research.
- COVID-19 RESPONSE Project: *Rapid Evidence Study of Provincial Population Based Cohort for Gender and Sex: As at December 10, 2020* 79.8 responded somewhat or very likely to receive a COVID-19 vaccine if it was available to the public and recommended for them, highlighting a positive attitude to vaccines.
- Trainee program: Incredible talent across trainee mentorship. Group came together to brainstorm what we can do in virtual environment to provide trainee on a larger scale than 1:1. Created event, open to any trainee across to respond to questions they wanted to address.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity working group: Application for a formal conference under review. If founded it would allow teams across Canada to create a platform which rests upon EDI principles and not just led by academics. Current activity finds that key to disseminating information is language; not access. Information written in a way that's understood and listening through storytelling, cartoons or other means.

Responding to queries, Dr. Brotto noted that:

- It is important to focus WHRI in advancing research and creating an environment that is aligned to knowledge translation and delivering the research to clinical practice.
- In the past, Canadian institutes have helped research, focusing on health with a view of the Canadian taxpayer dollars. We now work in an environment with a commitment to global research funding. Women's health research continues to be underfunded.
- Research is going back to family physicians and much work is being done on the mental health front using graphics and infographics. The team works to ensure comprehensive knowledge translation.
- Important to deliver the research message in a way that is accessible to physicians and understood by the public.

The Chair thanked Dr. Brotto highlighting the importance of the research in women's health and the data gathered by this research.

10.0 BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

10.1 Cultural Safety & Humility Committee

Ms. Sandra Martin Harris, in her capacity as Chair of the Cultural Safety & Humility Committee advised of one (1) item for information.

Matters for Information

Update Indigenous Women's Health

The leadership team from BC Women's Hospital brought forward three (3) separate research projects presentation through the voices of women's health researchers and Indigenous partners, sharing insights into specific areas of Indigenous women's health.

10.2 Quality and Safety

Dr. Kerry Jang, in his capacity as Chair, Quality & Safety Committee, advised of two (2) items for Board approval.

Matters for Board Approval

Medical Staff

The Committee reviewed and approved the medical staff privileges reports and brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Board of Directors of the Provincial Health Services Authority ("PHSA") approves the following Medical Staff Privileges Reports, namely the:

- i. BC Cancer Medical Staff Privileging Reports, and
- ii. BC Children's Hospital and Sunny Hill Child Health Centre and BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre Medical Staff Privileging Reports

Appointment of Department Head

The Committee reviewed and approved the motions relating to Department Head Appointments and brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolutions were passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Provincial Health Services Authority ("PHSA") approves the appointment of Laura Vicol, as the BC Children's and Women's Hospital Nurse Practitioner Department Head.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Provincial Health Services Authority ("PHSA") approves the appointment of Dr. Lisa Henczel, DNP, as the BC Cancer Nurse Practitioner Department Head.

10.3 People and Governance Committee

Mr. Robert Kiesman, in his capacity as Chair of the People and Governance Committee advised of four (4) items for approval.

Matters for Board Approval

Review Board reappointment & vacancies

To address vacancies due to end of terms of some Board Members, the Committee reviewed the proposed director terms and reappointment and brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolutions were passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Provincial Health Services Authority (“PHSA”) appoints Dr. Ken Bassett as Chair of the Research and Academic Development Committee as of January 1, 2022.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Directors of the Provincial Health Services Authority (“PHSA”) appoints Ms. Sharon Stromdahl as Chair of the People and Governance Committee as of January 1, 2022.

Orientation Plan for New Board Appointees

CABRO has agreed to schedule all PHSA Board Members to participate in the orientation program “*Governing in the Public Interest*” as a cohort. The Committee brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that all members of the PHSA Board of Directors participate in the online CABRO governance modules as a full board cohort.

Governance Improvements, Terms of Reference Updates

Update of the Audit Committee and Finance Committee Terms of Reference which facilitate alignment of responsibility, best practices and corporate governance. The Committee brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolutions were passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Directors approves changes to the terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Committee and rename it as the Audit Committee.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Directors approves changes to the terms of reference of the Finance Committee and rename it as the Finance and Operations Committee.

Policy Updates

The Committee carried out its scheduled review of Board Policies and Guidelines. Changes to the Policies and Terms of Reference were explained in the accompanying briefing notes. The Committee brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolutions was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board approves the revisions to the following Board Governance Policies and Guidelines, in the form presented at the Committee meeting:

- 1 Influenza Prevention Policy;
- 2 Board Evaluation Policy;
- 3 Code of Conduct and Conflict of Interest Guidelines;
- 4 Board Record Retention Policy; and
- 5 Long Term Board Renewal Plan

10.4 Research and Academic Development Committee

Ms. Sharon Stromdahl, in her capacity as Chair, Research and Academic Development Committee, advised of one (1) tem for information.

Matters for Information

PHSA Research Outcomes: Highlights from the 2020/21 Research Metrics Report

The Research and Academic Development Committee received rapid fire presentation from PHSA researchers on compelling outcomes achieved in the 2020/2021 fiscal year. These presentations illustrated examples of the many ways in which research driven by PHSA researchers is improving care and treatment for patients in BC and beyond. The annual research and student education metrics report are now available publicly on the PHSA website.

10.5 **Audit Committee**

Ms. Suki Gill, in her capacity as Chair of the Audit Committee advised of one (1) item for approval and one (1) item for information:

Matters for Board Approval

BC Cancer Uniform Guidance Audit Findings Report

PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) presented the FY2021 BC Cancer Reports on Federal Awards under Uniform Guidance. PwC did not identify any new reportable audit findings for FY2021. The Committee brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board of Directors of the Provincial Health Services Authority (“PHSA”) approves the BC Cancer Reports on Federal Awards in Accordance with the Program Specific Audit Option under Uniform Guidance for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2021.

Matters for Information

Update from the Office of the Auditor General

Stuart Newton from the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) provided an overview of the Auditor General’s Report on the Audit of the Public Accounts for Fiscal 2020/21. Fraud risk management will continue to be a key area of focus for the OAG in the coming year.

10.6 **Finance Committee**

Mr. David Turchen, in his capacity as Chair of the Finance Committee advised of one (1) item for approval:

Matters for Board Approval

Board Compensation and Expense Policy

Management has updated the wording in Section 2.2.3 (Maximum Payments) of the Policy to refer to the Treasury Board Directive and authorization from the Ministry of Health. The Committee brings forward the following:

Motion

Upon Motion, duly seconded, the following resolution was passed:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT that the Board approves the revised Board Compensation and Expense Policy.

11.0 **NEXT MEETING**

The next PHSA Board of Director’s meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 24, 2021.

12.0 **TERMINATION**

Meeting was terminated at 10:22 AM.