

Category: BOARD POLICY – BOARD PROCESS	
Title: TERMS OF REFERENCE: Board Chair	Reference Number: BCEHS-AB 100
Approved by: BCEHS Board of Directors	Last Approved: September 17, 2020 Last Reviewed: September 17, 2020

I. INTRODUCTION

- A.** The Board Chair of BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) is appointed by the Minister of Health.
- B.** The Board Chair’s primary role is to act as the presiding Director at Board meetings and to manage the affairs of the BCEHS Board of Directors (the “Board”) including ensuring the effectiveness and integrity of the Board’s governance process. This includes ensuring that the Board is organized properly, functions effectively and fulfills its obligations and responsibilities.
- C.** The Board Chair works with the President and Chief Executive Officer (the “CEO”) to ensure effective relations with the Government and stakeholders.
- D.** The Board Chair is an ex-officio and voting member of Committees where he/she is not appointed as a full member.
- E.** The Board Chair works closely with the Directors, Chairs of the Board Committees, the Acting Chair, Secretary, and Management, as required.

II. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Working With Management

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- i) act as a sounding board, counselor and confidant for the CEO, including helping to review strategies, define issues, maintain accountability, and build relationships;
- ii) in conjunction with the CEO, assist in representing BCEHS publicly as required;
- iii) ensure the CEO is aware of concerns of the Government, the Board and other stakeholders;

- iv) participate with Management in overseeing succession plans for key Management roles and lead the Board in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the CEO, ensuring the accountability of the CEO, and ensuring implementation of the management succession and development plans by the CEO;
- v) serve as the Board's central point of official communication and work with the CEO to ensure Management strategies, plans, performance, Board policy direction and decisions, and matters of interest/concern are appropriately represented to the Board;
- vi) act as the primary spokesperson for the Board; and
- vii) facilitate effective communication between Directors and Management inside and outside of Board meetings.

To support discharge of Board Chair responsibilities management will:

- i) provide access to management and information;
- ii) provide administrative and corporate secretary support as required; and
- iii) provide legal counsel as required.

B. Managing the Board

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- i) ensure the Board is aware of its obligations to BCEHS, the Government and other stakeholders;
- ii) chair Board meetings and ensure that the appropriate matters are addressed;
- iii) establish the frequency of Board meetings and review such frequency from time to time, as considered appropriate or as requested by the Board;
- iv) assist the People and Governance Committee in developing Director criteria for consideration in identifying potential candidates to be recommended to the Government for appointment to the Board and to communicate with Government regarding the criteria;

- v) supervise the Board's other officers in the execution of their duties;
- vi) together with the People & Governance Committee, recommend the Committee members and Committee Chair appointments to the Board for approval and review and report to the Board the need for, and the performance and suitability of, those Committees;
- vii) maintain a liaison and communication with all Directors and Committee Chairs to co-ordinate input from Directors, and optimize the effectiveness of the Board and its Committees;
- viii) ensure the co-ordination of the agenda, information packages and related events for Board meetings in conjunction with the CEO;
- ix) ensure major BCEHS initiatives have proper and timely Board understanding, consideration, oversight and approval;
- x) ensure the Board receives adequate and regular updates from the CEO on all issues important to the welfare and future of BCEHS;
- xi) build consensus and develop teamwork within the Board;
- xii) ensure that the Board hears all sides of a debate or discussion and that meetings are conducted according to applicable legislation, by-laws, governance policies and Rules of Order;
- xiii) review and respond to Director conflict of interest issues as they arise;
- xiv) in collaboration with the CEO, ensure information requested by Directors or Committees of the Board is provided and meets their needs;
- xv) together with the People & Governance Committee, review and assess Director attendance and performance and the size and composition of the Board and make recommendations to the Government as required;
- xvi) sign certificates and other instruments on behalf of BCEHS as required;
- xvii) utilize a practice of referencing Board policies in discussions in order to support the decision-making processes of the Board; and
- xviii) attend and participate at meetings of Board Committees.

C. Relations with the Government and other Stakeholders

The Board Chair has the responsibility to:

- i) in consultation with the CEO, act as the principal interface between the Board and the Minister; and
- ii) in consultation with the CEO, review the communications plan with stakeholders to ensure that it meets the needs of BCEHS and its stakeholders.

D. Representation

- i) Act as the primary spokesperson for the Board including cultivating a collegial working relationship with the Regional Health Authorities and First Nations Health Authority Board.

E. Reporting

- i) Report regularly and promptly to the Board regarding issues that are relevant to its governance responsibilities.

F. Board Conduct

- i) Set a high standard for Board conduct and enforce policies and by-laws regarding Director conduct.

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