

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held at Boardroom A, Main Floor, Seventh Street Plaza, 10030-107 Street NW, Edmonton, on March 29, 2017.

Attendees:

Board Members: Ms. Linda Hughes (Chair)
Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn (Vice-Chair)
Mr. David Carpenter
Mr. Richard Dicerni
Ms. Heather Hirsch
Mr. Hugh Sommerville
Ms. Marliss Taylor
Ms. Glenda Yeates

Management: Dr. Verna Yiu, President & Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Deborah Rhodes, Vice President, Corporate Services & Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Catherine MacNeill, Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel

Ms. Hughes acted as Chair of the meeting and Ms. MacNeill acted as Recording Secretary.

Ms. Hughes called the meeting to order at approximately 2:15 p.m. Notice of the meeting had been properly given and quorum was met.

❖ **Welcome & Comments from the Chair**

The following is an abstract of Ms. Linda Hughes’, Board Chair, remarks at the meeting. It is not an official transcript:

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Linda Hughes. I am the Chair of the AHS Board and I am pleased to welcome you to our public board meeting.

We have several items on the agenda. In a few minutes, our President & CEO, Dr. Verna Yiu, will say a few words about the role of our province’s health foundations and trusts in the delivery of healthcare. She also has a great video to show you that captures foundation leaders explaining why they have chosen to devote themselves and so much of their time to healthcare philanthropy.

First, I would like to address a couple of items of business from this month. About two weeks ago, the Government of Alberta released its 2017-18 provincial budget, which included a 2.5 per cent increase in our base operating funding. This investment will help AHS make further improvements to healthcare delivery.

This Board and the AHS Executive Leadership Team know the province continues to face difficult economic challenges so, in this climate, the increase to our base operating funding is very much appreciated. Nevertheless, given inflation, population growth, increasing demands on and complexity within the healthcare system, this will not be an easy budget for AHS. But, we remain committed to finding savings and efficiencies in the system without compromising the quality of care and will continue to invest healthcare dollars in priority areas that are important to Albertans. For

instance we will continue enhancing care in the community, including home care, which currently enables more than 116,000 people in the province to get the care they need where they want to be — in their own homes.

We will continue providing additional supports for people with mental health and addiction issues, and working to stem the rising rates of opioid-related deaths through sustained education, awareness and harm-reduction efforts. We will continue working together with Albertans to create healthier communities.

That brings me to my second item of business, and that is the March Wellness Blitz campaign that is wrapping up later this week within AHS. We wanted to help all Albertans be as healthy as they can be — and this includes our staff, physicians and volunteers. Throughout March, we have provided our people and all Albertans via social media with wellness tips, tools and challenges, and invited them to share their own tips and ideas on how they bring wellness to the workplace. I am pleased to say we have had a terrific response. Organizers have been tracking the steps taken by all of our people throughout the month to see how far they could walk collectively. I understand they have already walked around the world once and are now taking another trip down to the South Pole just for fun this week.

This was an initiative designed to encourage exercise and healthy lifestyles both inside and outside AHS. On behalf of the Board, I would like to congratulate the many AHS teams involved in pulling the campaign together, as well as everybody who took part. And I am pleased organizers are now surveying our staff for their ideas on how AHS might turn this month-long blitz into a year-round employee health and wellness movement. It is part of AHS leading by example. If you want any more information about this and want to read about the wellness tips please visit www.AHS.ca.

Now onto today's agenda.

❖ **Review of Agenda**

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the meeting of the Board held on March 29, 2017, which was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

❖ **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

Ms. Hughes requested that any conflicts of interest relevant to the meeting or items noted on the agenda be declared. None were declared.

1. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2017, March 1, 2017 and March 10, 2017

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the AHS Board meetings held on January 27, 2017, March 1, 2017 and March 10, 2017 were approved and the Chair of the Board and Corporate Secretary were authorized and directed to sign the minutes in the form so approved; and the Corporate Secretary was directed to file them, together with all ancillary documents attached thereto, in the corporate records of AHS and to deliver a copy of these to the Minister of Health (“Minister”).

2. **Comments**

Comments from the President & Chief Executive Officer

The following is an abstract of Dr. Verna Yiu's, President & Chief Executive Officer, remarks at the meeting. It is not an official transcript:

Thanks very much Linda, and good afternoon to everyone. It is hard to believe that it is almost April. It will be Christmas again soon I guess.

I often say and you have heard me say this in the past, healthcare is really a team sport, and AHS is really only able to achieve its goals with the support of our many partners, whether they be within academics, business, communities and community agencies and obviously supported by Government.

Today, I would like to spend a few minutes recognizing our partners in philanthropy. They are Alberta's 69 health foundations and trusts; and they play a very significant role in improving healthcare delivery for all Albertans. These foundations and trusts harness the generosity and altruism of Albertans, where almost \$200 million every year is raised to be invested into healthcare supporting the communities of Alberta. This money is invested in: promising new research, community programs, world-class infrastructure, recruitment efforts, and state-of-the art equipment. For instance, here in Edmonton, local foundations have helped to fund Canada's first stroke ambulance that will improve stroke response for patients in rural communities, research into anxiety and depression in pregnant women and the long-term effects of those emotions on the mothers and their children, expanded operating rooms at the Stollery Children's Hospital, and a new therapeutic playground for young patients at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital.

There are countless other examples of foundation contributions to healthcare in this city and across the province. We also know that Foundations have been involved in helping us build a new obstetrical operating room in Red Deer, which will open next month, enabling young cancer patients in Calgary to receive chemotherapy at home, freeing up ambulances in southwest Alberta with the purchase of several transfer vans, funding youth mental wellness programs in northern Alberta and most recently I was in High River last week where I saw first and foremost how they raised money to support an outpatient chemotherapy centre. It is suffice to say, patient outcomes and the patient experience are significantly enhanced thanks to the tireless efforts of Alberta's health foundations and trusts.

We meet regularly with the foundations and trust representatives to make sure that we are supporting each other and that the donated dollars are being invested where they will have the most impact. Progress often requires a robust exchange of ideas and no doubt that our discussions can continue to be lively because AHS and foundations both care passionately about always doing what is best for Albertans. It is difficult work but it is also rewarding work and, at a recent meeting with AHS, we asked some of our foundation partners to tell us what drives them to raise funds across Alberta. I ask you to look at the screen to hear what they had to say.

[A video was shown with respect to foundations and trusts in Alberta].

On behalf of AHS, I would really like to thank all 69 of Alberta's health foundations and trusts for their contributions to healthcare delivery in their communities. I look forward to continuing to strengthen our vital relationships and also to looking at what breakthroughs are possible. I would also like to congratulate both the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation for their recent 15th anniversary celebration, as well as the Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation, which is celebrating their 10th anniversary this year. These are wonderful milestones. The Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation recently produced a five-minute video that provides a poignant reminder that the most important milestones in any hospital involve the patients and families that we serve.

I would like to close my remarks with this video and thank you for your time this afternoon.

[A video was shown with respect to the Alberta Children's Hospital].

3. Quality & Safety Committee

a) Report to the Board

Ms. Glenda Yeates, Committee Chair, reported on the Quality & Safety Committee meeting on March 20, 2017. The Committee had a presentation and discussion on the use of data and analytics to identify opportunities to improve health outcomes. The Committee heard of some of the many organizational work going on and initiatives across the organization to improve quality and to focus efforts on quality. The Committee had a very interesting discussion on avoidable injuries. The Committee reviewed and discussed a number of quality and safety reports including topics such as medication management, radiation safety and overall patient safety. The Committee considered for recommendation for approval the Accreditation Canada Annual Report.

b) [QSC17-15] Accreditation Annual Report

Ms. Glenda Yeates, Committee Chair, advised that AHS is mandated to provide information on accreditation activities and outcomes and accreditation status in an annual report to the Minister. The Committee reviewed a draft of the AHS Accreditation Status and Activities for Health Facilities and Programs Annual Report and recommended that the AHS Board approve the Report and the Board Chair deliver the Report to the Minister by March 31, 2017.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board:

- (a) approved the Alberta Health Services Accreditation Status and Activities for Health Facilities and Programs Annual Report (the "Report");**
- (b) supported the Board Chair delivering the Report to the Minister of Health by March 31, 2017; and**
- (c) directed management to make the Report available on the AHS public website as soon as practical.**

4. **Finance Committee**

a) Report to the Board

Mr. David Carpenter, Committee Chair, reported on the Finance Committee meeting on March 27, 2017. He noted that all Board members were in attendance for this meeting. In addition to the item recommended for approval discussed below, the Committee reviewed and discussed a draft of the Business Plan, strategic details of budget submission to Alberta Health and other budget related matters. The Committee discussed an authorization to spend recommendation for Board approval.

b) [FC17-20] 2017/18 Authorization to Spend

Mr. David Carpenter, Committee Chair, advised that the 2017/18 budget for AHS will not be approved prior to April 1, 2017 so the Finance Committee has recommended that the Board approve an authorization to spend until the final budget is approved. In addition to AHS's own source revenues, AHS has received assurances from Alberta Health regarding the first five semi-monthly base operating grant payments.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the authorization for AHS to incur:

(a) maximum expenses of \$3.2 billion for the period April 1, 2017 to June 15, 2017; and

(b) maximum capital expenditures of \$100 million for the period April 1, 2017 to June 15, 2017.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Linda Hughes
Chair

Catherine MacNeill
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel