

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held by teleconference on September 17, 2021.

Attendees:

Board Members: Mr. David Weyant, QC, Chair
Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Vice-Chair
Ms. Deborah Apps
Ms. Sherri Fountain
Mr. Hartley Harris
Mr. Stephen Mandel
Ms. Heidi Overguard
Ms. Natalia Reiman
Mr. Brian Vaasjo
Ms. Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Management: Dr. Verna Yiu, President & Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Colleen Purdy, Vice President, Corporate Services & Chief Financial Officer
Ms. Colleen Turner, Vice President, Community Engagement & Communications
Ms. Tina Giesbrecht, General Counsel
Ms. Catherine MacNeill, Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel

Regrets: Mr. Tony Dagnone, CM
Mr. Jack Mintz, CM

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

Mr. Weyant called the meeting to order at approximately 4:45 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 Mr. David Weyant’s, Board Chair, remarks at the meeting. It is not an official transcript:

Good afternoon, everyone. I am David Weyant, Chair of the Alberta Health Services Board, and I would like to welcome you to this AHS Public Board meeting. Thank you for taking the time to join us. This is a meeting of the Board to consider six motions.

To start, in the spirit of promoting reconciliation and gratitude, and in keeping with the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that the work of Alberta Health Services takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7 & 8 and the homeland of the Metis. I would also like to acknowledge the 46 First Nations communities within what we call Alberta, as well as the Metis and Inuit Peoples who form an important part of our healthcare system. Our Board members are joining us from across the country and we acknowledge the Indigenous

peoples' territories in which they live and work. We are grateful to those who have come before us and mindful of those who will follow us as we steward and protect these lands.

The Board welcomes the new temporary public health measures announced by government on Wednesday night. And we hope these measures prove effective in slowing the spread of the COVID-19 virus throughout the province and easing pressures on our hospitals. These pressures are intense and unprecedented — and our President and CEO, Dr. Verna Yiu, would like to share an update on health system capacity in a few minutes.

But before I invite Verna to take the mic, I'd like to talk about the small but angry protests we've seen recently outside of a handful of our healthcare facilities. Let me be clear: I believe the right to peaceful protest is a cornerstone of democracy, and this Board supports the right for people to voice their opinion and dissent. However, I was disheartened and, in some cases, unsettled by the nature of the protests we've seen this week at some of our hospitals. There were instances where AHS employees were harassed and yelled at. And it's not just our staff and physicians. Some patients and families — who are already going through a stressful time in their lives — had to deal with being obstructed as they tried to access care at some of our facilities. That is uncalled for. It's wrong. We recognize people have the right to express those views in appropriate ways. Preferably they should express their views in an appropriate way to the people who are empowered to make the changes they seek. It is entirely inappropriate to take out your frustrations and anger on healthcare workers, who continue to do all they can to care for Albertans under extremely stressful circumstances. They do not deserve to be targeted and harassed. They deserve our respect, our gratitude and our support for everything they've done over the past 18 months of this terrible pandemic. This Board stands with healthcare workers, patients and their families — and I suspect the vast majority of Albertans do as well. We also support AHS to take all appropriate measures to ensure staff, physicians, patients and families are protected at our healthcare facilities from overzealous and aggressive protesters.

And now I'd like to pass the mic over to Verna.

❖ **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:

Good afternoon, everyone — and thank you, David, for your comments on the recent protests.

Further to what you mentioned, I'd like to extend my gratitude to our Protection Services teams around the province. In recent days, they have stepped into heated situations outside some of our hospitals and worked to protect the safety of physicians, staff, patients, families — and even the protesters themselves. These demonstrations have been unnerving, for sure. Our Protection Services teams have done a phenomenal job in de-escalating these situations, keeping people safe, and for that, I want to publicly thank them for their efforts.

Now I'd like to provide an update on hospital capacity. Our provincial healthcare system continues to experience severe capacity challenges, greater than we have faced throughout this long and exhausting pandemic. We currently have 322 ICU beds open in Alberta, including 149 additional 'surge' spaces. AHS has opened 49 additional ICU surge spaces in the past seven days. There are currently 260 patients in ICU, the vast majority of whom are COVID positive. Provincially, ICU capacity — including additional surge beds — is currently at 81 per cent. Without the additional surge spaces, provincial ICU capacity would be 150 per cent. The number of patients in ICU has increased by 13 per cent in the past seven days.

Because of this increasing pressure, we are taking two extremely difficult steps of reaching out to other provinces to see if they have available critical care space, and also asking if they have skilled front-line staff who may be willing to come to Alberta to assist us. We remain hopeful that it will not come to that as we continue to add critical care beds here in Alberta.

In addition, we are taking further steps to educate our clinical teams on our critical care triage protocol. To be clear, the protocol has not yet been implemented and would be an absolute last resort. AHS will continue to do all we can to add capacity and we will continue to do so until we have exhausted every single option.

I would like to once again acknowledge our incredible physicians and healthcare professionals, who somehow continue to go above and beyond every day. I am grateful and thankful for everything you are doing.

To any Albertan who has not yet been immunized and who may be hesitant, I urge you to consider. If you have questions or fears, please reach out to a healthcare provider, call 811 or visit the AHS website. If there is a barrier to you being immunized such as travel, please call 811 and ask for help.

Stay well and stay safe.

Thank you.

Mr. Weyant noted that the Board was participating by teleconference and that, therefore, he would ask for a vote on the motion, and ask for those opposed or abstaining. If there were none, or a minority, who either opposed or abstained, the motion would be declared carried.

❖ **Review of Agenda**

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the meeting of the Board held on September 17, 2021, which was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.

❖ **Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

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

1. Finance Committee

a) Report to the Board

Mr. Brian Vaasjo, Committee Chair, reported that the Finance Committee met on September 9, 2021.

Mr. Vaasjo noted the Committee received updates on the status of RFPs and reviewed a multi-year forecast.

Mr. Vaasjo stated that the Committee also discussed two recommendations for Board approval.

b) Q1 2021-22 Investment Report

The Committee reviewed the Q1 2021-22 Investment Report, and recommended Board approval. The Board reviewed the report, and the members support the approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board ratified the investment portfolio and transactions described as follows:

- a) as at June 30, 2021, Alberta Health Services held restricted and unrestricted funds managed by Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management and Manulife Financial totalling \$1,588 Million;**
- b) the funds were invested in short term treasury bills, federal, provincial, municipal and corporate fixed income bonds, pooled mortgage funds, bond funds, real estate funds, Canadian and Global equity funds; and**
- c) all of the funds invested during the quarter ended June 30, 2021, were invested in accordance with the Investment Bylaw and Investments Policy.**

c) Brenda Strafford Foundation Extension

The Committee reviewed amendments to the Brenda Strafford Foundation Amended and Restated Master Services Agreement and recommended same for Board approval. Board approval is required in accordance with Policy 1100 *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments*. The Board reviewed the recommendation, and the members support the approval.

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

1. The following amendments to the Brenda Strafford Foundation Amended and Restated Master Services Agreement:

a. For services at the existing Tudor Manor in Okotoks:

- i. to reduce the supportive living spaces by 63 resulting in a total of 89 supportive living spaces; and**
- ii. to add 63 long term care spaces resulting in a total of 63 long term care spaces.**

b. For services moving from the closing Clifton Manor to the new Clifton House in Calgary:

- i. to move the existing Specialty Long Term Care spaces from Clifton Manor to the new Clifton House;**
- ii. to move the existing Adult Day Program from Clifton Manor to the new Clifton House;**
- iii. to add long term care services at the new Clifton House for a total of 103 long term care spaces for a 5 year term;**
- iv. to add supportive living services at the new Clifton House for a total of 62 supportive living spaces for a 5 year term; and**
- v. to terminate 165 Long Term Care spaces at the old Clifton Manor;**

on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Finance Committee, with such non-substantive changes that management of Alberta Health Services considers necessary or advisable; and

2. delegate the authority to the Alberta Health Services President and CEO to execute the agreement to effect such amendments referred to above on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.

1. Audit & Risk Committee

a) Report to the Board

Ms. Natalia Reiman, Committee Vice Chair, reported that the Audit & Risk Committee met on September 9, 2021. Standard practice is that the Office of the Auditor General and KPMG are guests at the meeting in their role as external auditors of AHS.

Ms. Reiman noted the Committee received a quarterly financial report, an update on the outstanding and implemented audit recommendations, an overview of the enterprise risk management function, the quarterly enterprise risk management summary and a legal & privacy update.

There were no items that came through the Committee for Board approval.

2. Community Engagement Committee

a) Report to the Board

Ms. Vicki Yellow Old Woman, Committee Chair, reported that the Community Engagement Committee met on September 9, 2021 to consider two recommendations for Board approval relating to new appointments and term renewals of Advisory Council members and the appointment of Trustees to established Foundations.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman stated AHS is very grateful for the commitment of volunteers across the province. AHS' values their work and appreciates their commitment to health care. As is the Board's typical practice, given the number of appointments and renewals, the names of the members and Trustees will not be read in this meeting but will be incorporated into the minutes of the meeting and posted publicly following this meeting.

b) Health Advisory Council Appointments and Term Renewals

The Committee reviewed the new appointments and term renewals of members to Advisory Councils. The responsibility to appoint Advisory Council members lies with the AHS Board. The Committee recommended the Board approve the member new appointments and term renewals as reviewed by the Committee. The Board has considered such recommendation and the members support its approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved appointments and renewals of members to the Advisory Councils for the terms as follows:

Health Advisory Council Reappointments – for a Three-Year Term – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024	
Health Advisory Council	Name
David Thompson Health Advisory Council	Geraldine (Gerry) Greschner
Peace Health Advisory Council	Krista Schuett
Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council	Joyce McCoy
Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council	Natalie Castro-Gentili Evelyn Okoh Patience Akenbor
Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council	Cyndy Heslin

Health Advisory Council Appointments – for a Three-Year Term – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024	
Health Advisory Council	Name
Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council	Dakarai Mhlanga
Oldman River Health Advisory Council	Anne Michaelis Colleen Bianchi David Anderson
Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council	Janine Tolhurst Rachel Vossen Jeanette Devore Gop Majak
Peace Health Advisory Council	Kirti Sharma
Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council	Lea Caplan
Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council	Tumi Okonkwo

c) Appointments of Trustees to Health Foundations

Second, with respect to the appointments and reappointments of Trustees to Foundations. The responsibility to appoint Trustees to established Foundations lies with the AHS Board. The Committee recommended the Board approve the Trustee appointments and reappointments as reviewed by the Committee. The Board has considered such recommendation and the members support its approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the appointments and reappointments of Trustees to Health Foundations for the terms as follows:

Trustee Reappointments and Appointments – for Two and Three Year Terms	
Foundation	Name
Airdrie Health Foundation	Jody Cunningham – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
	Vitesh Sheopershad – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Alberta Cancer Foundation	Billy Morin – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Bassano & District Health Foundation	Irene Chauvet-Henry – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Calgary Health Foundation	Bruce Edgelow – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Sarah Hall – effective September 29, 2021 to September 28, 2024 Bonnie Healy – effective September 29, 2021 to September 28, 2024 Kathy Hnatiuk – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Lesley Hutcheson – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Sarah Kennedy – effective October 1, 2021 to September 13, 2024 Alice Lam – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Eda Libin – effective September 29, 2021 to September 28, 2024 Mark Owerko – effective September 29, 2021 to September 28, 2024 Peggy Perry – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 David Rouledge – effective October 1, 2021 to January 14, 2023

Fort Saskatchewan Community Health Foundation	Joan Bakke – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Lac La Biche Regional Health Foundation	Claudia Theroux – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Oyen and District Health Foundation	Lynda Grudecki – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Strathcona Community Hospital Foundation	Garry Stevenson – effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024
Vulcan County Health & Wellness Foundation	Shilo Andrews-Brauer - effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Darian Ashbacher - effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Lorelei Bexte - effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 Toni Lynn Garlock - effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024 James Hendry - effective October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2024

3. **Human Resources Committee**

a) Report to the Board

Ms. Heidi Overguard, Committee Chair, reported that the Human Resources Committee met on September 16, 2021.

Ms. Overguard noted the Committee received a labour relations update and an Our People results quarterly report.

There were no items that came through the Committee for Board approval.

4. **Quality & Safety Committee**

a) Report to the Board

Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Committee Chair, reported that the Quality & Safety Committee met on September 16, 2021. Dr. Zielke advised that the agenda items typically focus on access, quality and safety.

Dr. Zielke noted the Committee received updates on COVID-19 and vaccinations and the Quality Safety & Access Dashboard for discussion.

b) Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention & Control 2020/21 Annual Report to Alberta Health

The Committee reviewed the Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention and Control 2020/21 Annual Report to Alberta Health, which provides an overview of the outcomes achieved in partnership with programs across the province.

The Committee recommended that the Board approve the IPC Annual Report. The Board reviewed the IPC Annual Report and the members support the approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention and Control 2020/21 Annual Report to Alberta Health. The AHS Board Chair will submit the Annual Report to Alberta Health.

c) Appointment of External Member

The Board was asked to consider and recommend the appointment of Dr. William Ghali as a new external member of the Quality & Safety Committee for a term of two years commencing October 1, 2021. The Board is very appreciative of Dr. Ghali's willingness to participate on the Committee.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the appointment of external member, Dr. William Ghali, to the Quality & Safety Committee for a term of two years commencing October 1, 2021.

5. Approval of Minutes – July 22, 2021 and August 20, 2021

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the AHS Board meetings held on July 22, 2021 and August 20, 2021 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.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Signed by
David Weyant, QC
Chair

Signed by
Catherine MacNeill
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel