

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING, MARCH 2009

The Alberta Health Services Board met on March 25, 2009, at the Red Deer Regional Hospital. Following is an account of the motions that were passed at the meeting. From this point forward a summary will be released following each Board meeting and posted on the AHS external and internal websites and bulletin boards. The meeting can also be viewed in its entirety from a link on the www.albertahealthservices.ca website. If you have any questions regarding these reports please do not hesitate to contact the Board Office at ahsb.admin@albertahealthservices.ca or at 1-866-943-1120 or the designated contact person.

MAIN ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Winding up of ProvLab Corp and Dissolution of ProvLab Board

- The Board approved Report AF09-23, which calls for the dissolution of the ProvLab Board and approves operating the Provincial Public Health Laboratory as a division of Alberta Health Services.

Third Quarter Performance Report

- The Third Quarter Performance Report was compiled with input from all eleven entities and blends provincial strategies and local performance measures in order to fulfill Ministerial requirements. Work is underway between Alberta Health Services and Alberta Health and Wellness to revise previous planning and reporting requirements to reflect the new Alberta Health Services structure and the partnership between the two organizations.
- The Board approved Report AF09-24, Third Quarter Performance Report, and will forward a copy to the Minister of Alberta Health and Wellness for approval.

Quarterly Financial Report for Period Ending December 31, 2008 – Alberta Health and Wellness

- Alberta Health and Wellness requires that Regional Health Authorities file with them summarized financial information within 30 days of a quarter end. The Board reviewed the financial statements for the period ending December 31, 2008.
- The Board approved Report AF09-27, Quarterly Financial Report for the Period Ending December 31, 2008, for submission to Alberta Health and Wellness.

Third Quarter Investment Report

- In order to comply with existing bylaws and policies the Board must approve its investment report on a quarterly basis. All investments continue to be managed within the limits and criteria established by our investment bylaw.

- The Board approved Report AF09-28, Third Quarter Investment Report.

Investment Bylaw

- Alberta Health Services is required to make bylaws respecting its investment powers pursuant to the *Regional Health Authorities Regulation*. Each of the entities, with the exception of AADAC, currently has its own borrowing bylaw, which will remain in force until April 1, 2009. If Alberta Health Services does not have a new investment bylaw enacted by April 1, 2009, the investment bylaw for East Central Health will be in effect for all of Alberta Health Services until it is replaced.
- The Board approved Report AF09-29, Investment Bylaw, and will provide a copy of the report to the Minister of Health and Wellness for approval.

Borrowing Bylaw

- Alberta Health Services is required to make bylaws respecting debt, guarantees, indemnities and capital leasing powers and limitations pursuant to the *Regional Health Authorities Regulation*. Each of the entities, with the exception of AADAC and Alberta Cancer Board, currently has its own borrowing bylaw, which will remain in force until April 1, 2009. If Alberta Health Services does not have a new bylaw enacted by April 1, 2009, the borrowing bylaw for East Central Health would remain in effect for all of Alberta Health Services until it is replaced.
- The Board approved Report AF09-31, Borrowing Bylaw, and will forward a copy of the report to the Minister of Health and Wellness for approval.

Signing Authority Resolution

- The 12 entities comprising Alberta Health Services currently manage over 160 bank accounts, various lines and letters of credit with a number of financial institutions. Such accounts will remain until the selection process for a single financial institution via issuance of a Banking Services RFP is complete, which is expected to occur prior to year end. In the interim period, effective April 1, 2009, a resolution is required to place all financial accounts into the name of Alberta Health Services and to designate signing authority over the accounts in order to be able to continue to conduct financial matters on behalf of Alberta Health Services.
- The Board approved Report AF09-33, Signing Authority Resolution.

Mediators Recommendation on Peace Country Health Emergency Medical Services Collective Agreement

- Peace Country Health negotiates separately with Health Sciences Association of Alberta (HSAA) for its EMS Collective Agreement. In the fall of 2008, HSAA applied for binding arbitration, and a mediator was appointed in December 2008 to resolve the dispute. The mediator recommended terms of settlement on March 2, 2009, which includes a pay increase to occur over the next 3 years and leveling costs to bring rates of pay, premiums and benefits to the same standards as others in the Alberta Health Services/HSAA agreement.
- The Board approved Report HR09-15, Mediators Recommendation on Peace Country Health Emergency Medical Services Collective Agreement; and further, ratified the Mediator's Recommended Terms of Settlement.

Board Member Remuneration and Expense Reimbursement

- In order to reflect open and transparent governance the Board approved an administrative policy that incorporated into Alberta Health Services' policy the processes for remuneration and expense reimbursement of its members as approved by the Minister of Health and Wellness
- Subsequent to the meeting additional information with respect to remuneration and expense is provided here for clarity: The Minister of Health and Wellness establishes the compensation levels for the Board. For the period of May 15, 2008 to December 15, 2008, the seven original board members were compensated at an interim level. Upon appointment of the permanent Board on December 1, the Minister established the new compensation to reflect the work load, scope, and scale of responsibilities, in a manner consistent with compensation practices of other public and private sector boards in Canada.
- The Board approved Report GOV09-13, Board Member Remuneration and Expense Reimbursement Policy.

Transitional Governance Documents

- Effective April 1, 2009, the boundaries of East Central are amended to encompass all areas within the province of Alberta and the name of the body corporate will change to Alberta Health Services. The former Authorities (with the exception of East Central) are disestablished and their affairs are wound up. Except for East Central, all Board approved bylaws, policies and other Board approved governance documents of all other regional health authorities, ACB, AMHB and AADAC will not be in effect as of April 1, 2009. Legal Services and the Governance Committee is recommending that all Board and Management approved governance documents/policies currently existing within the 12 entities, their departments or their facilities will remain in effect except to the extent that they are in conflict with policies that have been approved by the Board or Management since May 15,

2008 and in effect April 1, 2009 or until replaced or repealed by the Board or management. This will allow Alberta Health Services more time to ensure a timely review and transition of all former regions and entities policies and amalgamation into a single form. A timeframe of September 30, 2009 has been set for this transition to be completed.

- The Board approved Report GOV09-15 Transitional Governance Documents

Corporate Turnkey Policies 30-60-90-120 Day

- The Corporate Policy Division has prepared a listing and proposed work plan of priority corporate policies. The proposed work plan identifies the related policy subject matter, approval authority, and anticipated development timeline as part of the overall Strategic Governance Document Framework rollout. The Corporate Turnkey Policies 30-60-90-120 work plan is designed to set the foundation for corporate policy controls following a timeline for ongoing policy work with stakeholders.
- The Board approved Report GOV09-17, Corporate Turnkey Policies 30-60-90-120 Day Work Plan.

Quality Assurance Committees

- The Board confirmed that all committees currently designated as quality assurance committees by the entities now comprising Alberta Health Services, pursuant to Section 9 of the *Alberta Evidence Act*, shall continue to be designated as quality assurance committees of Alberta Health Services effective April 1, 2009.
- The Board approved Report CW09-01, Quality Assurance Committees.

Interim Expenditure Authority for the 2009 – 2010 Budget

- The full AHS operating budget will not be finalized until late in April, for review at the Audit and Finance Committee meeting on May 14, 2009, and approval by the Board on May 28, 2009. In order to ensure the ongoing delivery of healthcare services until such time as a budget has been announced by the provincial government the Board approved an interim expenditure authority to June 30, 2009 which allows operations to continue at the same level of service. During this time management will continue to work with government in finalizing the 2009-2010 budget.
- The Board approved Report CW09-04, Interim Expenditure Authority.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES IN RED DEER

In addition to the public meeting, the Board met as Committee of the Whole receiving a presentation from Community and Rural Corporate Operating Officer, Pam Whitnack who provided an overview and information on primary care.

On Tuesday evening, the Board hosted a dinner for community leaders, educators, local organizations, elected officials, and former Board members of the David Thompson Health Region. The event featured a speech by Chair Ken Hughes recognizing the former Board members contributions to health care through their years of service.

During the two-day visit to Red Deer, the Board also toured the Red Deer Regional Hospital, received a presentation about central Alberta demographics, health services and recent achievements, and participated in the launch of a unique smoking cessation program for pregnant women in local area.

The next Public Board Meeting will be held in Lethbridge on April 29, 2009.

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES BOARD