

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING, APRIL 2009

The Alberta Health Services Board met on April 29, 2009 at the Chinook Regional Hospital. The following is an account of the motions that were passed at the meeting. A summary is released following each Board meeting and posted on the AHS website 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.

MAIN ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Revised spending limits on capital projects

- The spending limits for three large capital projects in Calgary (South Health Campus, Rockyview General Hospital and Sheldon M. Chumir Health Centre) have been revised by government (Alberta Health and Wellness and, for the first two, Alberta Infrastructure) as advised in letters dating back to May 5 2008 (Reports AF09-35, 36 and 37). The Board delegated the President and Chief Executive Officer the authority to make financial commitments and payments as required, in accordance with the increased budget set by the Provincial Government.

Internal Audit Plan

- The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-40, 2009/2010 Internal Audit Plan. A requirement within the AHS approved internal Audit Charter is the development of a risk-based audit plan to be submitted annually to the Audit and Finance Committee. Progress on the status of the Audit Plan will be reported quarterly to the Committee. Projects by focus area for 2009/2010 include: Integration and Special Projects; Finance; Major Capital Projects; Information technology; Procurement and Contracting; and Other Business processes.

Non-Substantive (“Housekeeping”) Changes

- Over the past year the Alberta Health Services Board (“AHSB”) has approved certain policies, reports and other documents. From time to time non-substantive amendments may be required to those documents and the formal process of reviewing such “housekeeping” amendments is not the best use of the AHSB time. Housekeeping changes in the texts of policies, reports and other documents following AHSB approval is not uncommon. The revisions are not intended to alter the purpose or substance of the documents. In some cases, the changes correct typographical errors. In other cases, changes are made in one document to correspond with the text in other documents to ensure consistency.

- The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report GOV09-21, Non-Substantive (“Housekeeping”) Changes authorizing General Counsel or designate to make non-substantive changes to documents previously approved by the AHSB.

Alberta Health Services Strategic Plan

- The Alberta Health Services approved commencement of an internal consultation process for the Draft Alberta Strategic Direction 2009 – 2012: Defining our Focus, Measuring our Progress.
- Alberta Health Services is a new organization officially launched April 1, 2009. The Strategic Direction is a document which describes Alberta Health Services principles, goals, focus and key priorities. These priorities address goals established by the Government of Alberta and are aligned with Vision 2020. The Alberta Health Services Strategic Plan will guide the organization. The Plan will be operationalized by implementation of key initiatives and will be refreshed every year. Employees throughout the organization will contribute to achieving the priorities through portfolio specific action plans and measured through accountability agreements.
- This document will be presented for final approval to the Board in June 2009.

Alberta Health Services Organizational Structure

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AHSB09-04, Alberta Health Services New Organizational Structure. The Organizational Structure will be made public and communicated to all staff, with an effective date of June 1, 2009.

- The Alberta Health Services organizational structure will be the model to move the organization forward following the past year of transition. The new structure is based on four principles: clear and unambiguous line accountability; flattening of the organization; integration of services and units as close as possible to the front line; and a direct link to strategy and implementation at the Executive level.

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES IN LETHBRIDGE

In addition to the public meeting, the Board met as a Committee of the Whole. The Committee of the Whole discussed the emergence of Influenza A (H1N1) and Alberta Health Services’ emergency preparedness planning; and received a presentation from Lynn Redford, VP Community Connections, with respect to Community Engagement and the future of Community Health Councils.

On Tuesday evening, the Board hosted a dinner for community leaders, educators, local organizations, elected officials, and former Board members of the Chinook Health Region. The event featured a speech by Chair Ken Hughes recognizing the former Board members' contributions to health care and updating the community regarding the work being done within Alberta Health Services.

Mr. Hughes also spoke at a breakfast meeting of the Lethbridge Chamber of Commerce on the same topics.

During the two-day visit to Lethbridge, the Board toured Chinook Regional Hospital, and received a presentation regarding the health services, accomplishments, opportunities and challenges in southern Alberta.

The next Public Board Meeting will be held in Grande Prairie on May 28, 2009.

ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES BOARD