

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC BOARD MEETING, JUNE 2009

The Alberta Health Services Board met on June 30, 2009 at the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary. 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 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.

MAIN ITEMS OF DISCUSSION

Strategic Direction

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AHSB09-06, Strategic Direction 2009-2012 – Defining our Focus, Measuring our Progress. The development of an organization-wide Strategic Direction was required to create a shared understanding and to guide Alberta Health Services over the next several years. This strategic direction is a critical foundation for Alberta Health Services' planning, operations, and accountability.

A draft plan, which proposed AHS values, goals, focus and key priorities, was developed and released for consultation on May 1st, and 8,038 people submitted responses. The Strategic Direction, once approved, will have a broad distribution including posting on the Alberta Health Services website.

Ethics and Quality Committee – Name Change

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report EQ09-21, Ethics and Quality Committee – Name Change, and approved changing the name of the Ethics and Quality Committee to the Quality and Safety Committee. The change was made in order to better reflect the mandate and work that will be undertaken by the committee.

Quality and Patient Safety Strategic Outline

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report EQ09-15, Quality and Patient Safety Strategic Outline. The Quality and Patient Safety Strategic Outline captures the key elements from previous versions of the Provincial Quality and Patient Safety Framework. It aligns with the Alberta Health Services Strategic Direction and the draft Quality and Patient Safety Performance Measures Dashboard. The outline includes three key drivers: patients as partners; accountability for quality through measurement and evaluation; and skilled people and supportive culture.

Selection of Investment Manager

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-57, Selection of Investment Manager, and authorized the Chief Executive Officer (or delegate) to commence discussions with Alberta Investment Management Corporation. The selection of a qualified and competent investment manager is a critical element of Alberta Health Services' accountability for prudent financial stewardship. Previously, investment management practices across the former entities varied, and were managed by different investment managers and brokers.

2008-09 Financial Statement Approvals

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-58, 2008-09 Financial Statement Approvals. Alberta Health and Wellness requires approval by the Board of the 2008-2009 financial statements of the nine former regions, Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission, Alberta Cancer Board and the Alberta Mental Health Board. The Auditor General will sign the auditors' reports following Board approval and submit them to Alberta Health and Wellness on June 30, 2009.

2008/2009 Annual Report

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-59, Alberta Health Services 2008/2009 Annual Report: Strategic Initiatives, Accomplishments and Performance Results Section and Financial Statement Analysis. Alberta Health Services is required to prepare and submit an annual report to the Minister of Health and Wellness in compliance with the Government Accountability Act and the Regional Health Authorities Act. The Annual Report is a key accountability document that reports the manner in which Alberta Health Services discharged its legislated responsibilities and any other responsibilities delegated by the Minister of Health and Wellness. The Minister will table the report in the Legislative Assembly. The Annual Report details the strategic initiatives, accomplishments and performance results, and includes a financial summary. The report will be filed by July 31, 2009.

2009/2010 Budget

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-60, 2009/10 Budget. This budget will help ensure Alberta Health Services meets its goals of access, quality and sustainability of health care services for Albertans. The budget approves expenses of \$10.8 billion for 2009/10.

The budget strategy is to begin bringing revenue and expenses into line, starting with \$250 million of net integration savings this year and rising to \$650 million next year. Alberta Health Services is working to save money by streamlining management, harnessing the benefits of integration, implementing province-wide procurement and supply management, as well as utilizing available resources efficiently. The vacancy management process will continue until early fall, allowing the organization to meet budget goals through attrition and avoid layoffs. The

President and CEO has been directed by the board to present a report by December 2009 outlining the major reasons for Alberta's higher per capita health care costs compared to the per capita health care costs for the rest of Canada, and strategies to reduce the difference.

2009 AHS Funded Physician Rate Increase

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-61, 2009 AHS Funded Physician Rate Increases. In order for Alberta Health Services physician agreements to remain competitive with fee-for-service opportunities, and for AHS to honour its obligations to those physician contracts that specify annual adjustments, physician payment rates need to increase. Work is underway to standardize physician payment rates and annual increases from the wide range provided by the former health entities into one uniform AHS grid and process.

Fourth Quarter Investment Report

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report AF09-63, Fourth Quarter Investment Report, and authorized the Chief Executive Officer (or designate) to liquidate any significant existing investments or investment portfolios designated as unrestricted funds for operating purposes as required. Of the total investment value held, 21% is currently designated as unrestricted investment funds. Alberta Health Services needs to begin the process of liquidating such unrestricted investment funds and portfolios to address operating cash flow needs as required.

Revised MOU

The Board approved Report GOV09-25, Revised MOU. The Memorandum of Understanding on Governance dated May 29, 2008 between the Minister of Health and Wellness, the Alberta Health Services Board and the Chief Executive Officer of Alberta Health Services must be affirmed by all three parties. According to the terms of the MOU, it must be affirmed if Alberta Health Services has a new President and Chief Executive Officer of Alberta, which it does. The parties also wished to revise certain terms. The Board resolved that the Chair is authorized to execute the revised MOU on behalf of the Board.

Review of Terms of Reference

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report GOV09-26, Review of Terms of Reference for the Board, Chair, Board Members, President and Chief Executive Officer and Governance Committee. The Terms of Reference were reviewed and revised in order to ensure relevance and alignment with the vision, mission, and goals, and the revised MOU (referenced above).

Disestablishment of Community Health Councils

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report GOV09-32, Disestablishment Bylaws of Community Health Councils. In order to implement a standardized and revised framework for Health Advisory Councils under AHS, the existing Community Health Councils need to be disestablished. Letters of notification and of thanks will be sent to all members of the previous Community Health Councils in appreciation of their contributions to health care in Alberta.

Establishment of Health Advisory Councils and acceptance of Health Advisory Councils Charter

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report GOV09-33, Establishment Bylaws of Health Advisory Councils. Alberta Health Services is committed to ensuring that councils are in place to seek community input into health services. Councils formally exist and are defined under the Act, the Community Health Councils Regulation and the Councils Ministerial Regulation. They can be named Health Advisory Councils for operational purposes, so will be referenced as such in the establishment bylaws. The Board also approved Report HAC09-15, Health Advisory Council Charter, which has been developed to outline the ongoing role of the Councils.

Disestablishment of the Waiver Committee

The Alberta Health Services Board approved report GOV09-36, Disestablishment of the Waiver Committee, which disestablishes the Board's Waiver Committee upon the conclusion of its current hearing, and authorizes the President and Chief Executive Officer to establish a waiver committee comprised of officers or other employees of Alberta Health Services. An executive administration committee will now take on the role in hearing waiver applications under the Public Health Act.

Bylaw Approval for the Vermilion and Region Health and Wellness Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report GOV09-34, Bylaw Approval for the Vermilion and Region Health and Wellness Foundation. The request to establish the Vermilion and Region Health and Wellness Foundation was initiated in 2007 by members of the local community. Due to the dissolution of the East Central Health Board in July 2007 and subsequent establishment of the Board in May 2008, there has not been an opportunity until now to have the new bylaw approved by an appropriate board. The local community is supportive of establishing this foundation and is anxious to begin formal fundraising activities.

Appointment of Initial Board of Trustees to the Vermilion & Region Health and Wellness Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-03, appointing the following Trustees to the Vermilion and Region Health and Wellness Foundation.

- Gordon Hills to a three-year term (June 2012),
- Ralph Troschke to a three-year term (June 2012),
- Martha Wessel to a three-year term (June 2012),
- George Crooker to a three-year term (June 2012),
- Jan Scott to a three-year term (June 2012), and
- Lil Wilson to a three-year term (June 2012).

Appointment of Trustees to the Alberta Cancer Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-04, appointing the following Trustees to the Alberta Cancer Foundation:

- Angela Boehm to a three-year term (September 2012),
- Dr. Brent Saik to a three-year term (September 2012),
- John Osler reappointed to a three-year term (September 2012), and
- Dianne Kipnes reappointed to a three-year term (September 2012).

Appointments of Trustees to the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-05, appointing the following Trustees to the Crowsnest Pass Health Foundation:

- Dustin Bedward to a two-year term (March 2011) and,
- Becky Rinaldi to a two-year term (March 2011).

Appointment of Trustee to the Fort Macleod & District Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-06, appointing the following Trustee to the Fort Macleod and District Health Foundation:

- Debbie Vanee to a three-year term (July 2012).

Appointments of Trustees to the Medicine Hat & District Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-07, appointing the following Trustees to the Medicine Hat and District Health Foundation:

- Stephen Brosinsky to a three-year term (March 2012),
- Tyler Hauber to a three-year term (March 2012), and
- the re-appointment of Michael Dolan to an additional three-year term (March 2012).

Appointment of Trustees and Re-appointment of Chair to the Stettler Health Services Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-08, appointing the following Trustees to the Stettler Health Services Foundation:

- Deb Gitzel to a three-year term (March 2012),
- Karen Phibbs to a three-year term (March 2012), and
- Leona Thorogood re-appointed to a three-year term (March 2012) as Chairperson.

Appointments of Trustees to the Viking Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-09, appointing the following Trustees to the Viking Health Foundation:

- Phyllis Lefsrud to an additional one-year term (March 2010) as Chair, and
- Clair Prior to a one-year term (March 2010).

Appointment of Members to the Alberta Hospital Edmonton & Community Mental Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-10, appointing the following Members to the Alberta Edmonton and Community Mental Health Foundation:

- Dianne Young to a three-year term (March 2012)
- Pamela Schiwinsky to a three-year term (June 2012), and
- Krishna Balachandra to a three-year term (June 2012).

Appointment of Members to the Claresholm & District Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-11, appointing the following Members to the Claresholm and District Health Foundation:

- Bev Senos to a three-year term (March 2012), and
- David Hunt to a three-year term (March 2012).

Appointment of Members to the Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-12, appointing the following Members to the Fort Saskatchewan Community Hospital Foundation.

- Emily Lennstrom to a three-year term (July 2012), and
- Tony Taylor to a three-year term (July 2012).

Appointments of Members to the Northwest Health Foundation

The Alberta Health Services Board approved Report HAC09-13, appointing the following Members to the Northwest Health Foundation:

- Sylvia Kennedy to a three-year term (March 2012), and
- Noreen McAteer to a three-year term (March 2012).

OTHER BOARD ACTIVITIES IN CALGARY

In addition to the public meeting, the Board met as a Committee of the Whole and spent the majority of the meeting time reviewing the 2009-2010 Budget.

Board members also received a tour of the Alberta Children's Hospital. As a family- and child-centred community of care, the Alberta Children's Hospital is a clear illustration of many of the principles guiding the transformation now underway in health care in Alberta: community-based service provision, with its balance between inpatient and outpatient services; multidisciplinary, collaborative care; and an intensive patient and family focus.

The next Public Board Meeting is scheduled to be held in Fort McMurray on September 24, 2009. Please check the Alberta Health Services website for further information.