

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held by teleconference on October 8, 2020.

Attendees:

Board Members: Mr. David Weyant (Chair)
Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn (Vice-Chair)
Mr. David Carpenter
Mr. Stephen Mandel
Ms. Heidi Overguard
Mr. Hugh Sommerville
Mr. Brian Vaasjo
Ms. Glenda Yeates
Ms. Vicki Yellow Old Woman
Dr. Sayeh Zielke

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

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

Mr. Weyant called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 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 AHS Board, and I would like to welcome you to this AHS Public Board meeting. Thank you for taking the time to join us.

To start, we the AHS Board would like to recognize that our work takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7 & 8 and the homeland of the Metis.

We also acknowledge the many Indigenous communities that have been forged in urban centres across Alberta.

Our Board members are joining us from across the province and elsewhere in the country and we acknowledge their Indigenous peoples territories in which they live and work.

Today, we have several motions for consideration from the Board’s various Committees.

As well, AHS President and CEO Dr. Verna Yiu has some brief remarks about our ongoing pandemic response and the province's upcoming influenza immunization campaign.

But first I am excited to introduce two new members of the AHS Board: Vicki Yellow Old Woman and Dr. Sayeh Zielke.

Vicki Yellow Old Woman is an experienced financial professional and member of the Institute of Corporate Directors who has served in various financial and board roles, including serving as the Corporate Financial Officer for Siksika Health Services.

Dr. Sayeh Zielke is an author, business owner and physician based in Lethbridge, specializing in the treatment of patients with heart disease. She has served on the executive of the Alberta Medical Association and holds faculty appointments at the University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge.

My brief introductions do not do justice to their full scales and experience. These impressive professionals bring a wealth of experience and expertise in their fields and will be tremendous assets to the Board and to all of AHS.

Vicki and Sayeh join at an exciting time as the Board, the governing body of AHS, oversees the organization's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of changes arising out of the recent performance review, and the continued development of AHS' strategic direction.

I am confident that they will provide valuable perspectives as the Board continues this important work for the benefit of all Albertans.

Welcome aboard, Vicki and Sayeh.

We are participating by teleconference today. When I ask for a vote on the motion, I will ask for those opposed or abstaining. For those who neither oppose nor abstain I will take it that you are in favour of the motion. If there are none, or a minority, who either oppose or abstain, I will declare the motion 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 October 8, 2020, 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. **Approval of Minutes – June 24, 2020, July 23, 2020, August 11, 2020 & September 21, 2020**

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the AHS Board meetings held on June 24, 2020, July 23, 2020, August 11, 2020, and September 21, 2020 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.

2. 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:

Thank you, David, and good afternoon, everyone.

It is good to join all of you here online and, wherever you are listening from, I do hope you are having a chance to enjoy what has been a lovely Alberta autumn.

I would also like to welcome Vicki Yellow Old Woman and Dr. Sayeh Zielke to the AHS Board and I look forward to the opportunity to work with both of you.

Thanksgiving long weekend is coming up and I know I am looking forward to spending some time contemplating what I am grateful for, even in a year as difficult, challenging and tragic as 2020 has been.

Certainly, I am thankful to the staff, physicians and volunteers at AHS for the hard work, dedication and courage they have demonstrated throughout the year and especially since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in the province just over seven months ago.

Our teams, those on the front lines and those working behind the scenes, continue to do everything possible to protect the health and safety of Albertans and each other. And I am grateful for the many contributions of our philanthropic, business and academic partners, who have helped AHS and Albertans in countless ways, including, developing and manufacturing made-in-Alberta personal protective and medical equipment, funding projects that support mental wellness, and helping us build a field hospital in Calgary that gives us additional acute care capacity if we need it.

Meanwhile, medical students at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta joined our contact tracing team over the summer in an effort to limit the spread of the virus.

I am so grateful for all of these contributions to our shared pandemic response. I am also grateful to the sacrifices Albertans have made to protect one another and ensure our hospitals continue to have enough inpatient and intensive care beds to treat individuals who fall seriously ill from the coronavirus or need a high level of care for any other reason.

By late April, our teams across the province had freed up more than 2,200 inpatient beds, including about 1,000 intensive care spaces, in anticipation for a surge of COVID-19 patients. I am thankful that capacity has never come close to being exceeded.

Today, with many businesses around the province reopened, and with many children and youth back in classes for a new school year, we must remain vigilant in our approach to COVID-19 because it a very present and real threat. Thousands of Albertans have contracted the virus, and many lives have

been lost. My heart goes out to all people and families who have lost loved ones, or whose lives have been otherwise impacted by this terrible virus.

I am confident that AHS is doing everything we can to keep Albertans safe. At the beginning of the pandemic in March, we were performing about 35 COVID-19 tests per day. Last week, we performed an average of more than 15,000 tests daily, with capacity to do more.

As of last month, we cumulatively tested more than one million Albertans with positive cases followed by comprehensive contact tracing because we know, for now, testing and contact tracing are among our best weapons to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Again, I urge Albertans to continue doing their part by following public health guidelines, including maintaining a two-metre distance, wearing a mask in public places where that distance cannot be maintained, and staying home when sick.

As usual at this time of year, I also encourage Albertans to protect themselves and others by getting immunized against influenza this fall. This year, more than ever before, Albertans should get their flu shot.

Alberta's immunization program begins Monday, October 19. When you get immunized, you protect yourself and your loved ones as well as more vulnerable seniors, young children and those with chronic health conditions. By keeping the number of influenza cases and outbreaks low, we are also doing our part to help healthcare workers focus on the COVID-19 response.

As we learn to live with COVID-19, we are adapting influenza service delivery to reduce the risk of transmission and protect Albertans. This year, AHS will focus the vaccine offered through its public health clinics to: children under five years of age and their family and household members, individuals who do not have a provincial health care number, and people who live in a community where there are no other immunizing health care providers.

If you are eligible to be immunized by AHS, it will be by appointment. AHS will be offering an online influenza immunization appointment booking tool, to launch this upcoming Tuesday, October 13. All other Albertans are encouraged to call their pharmacist or physician's office, to plan ahead and get in for immunization.

This year our health system will need to respond to both COVID-19 and influenza. Immunization is the single most effective means of arming yourself, and your loved ones, against influenza. It also helps people stay healthy and out of hospital which, during a time of pandemic, is crucial for the health system because we continue to need open beds for Albertans who need them.

Although Thanksgiving is still a few days away, allow me to once again thank our amazing healthcare workers and teams across the province for the effort, dedication and selflessness they exhibit each and every day, often under the most trying of circumstances. They truly are, as many Albertans have called them, healthcare heroes and I am proud to call them my colleagues.

I would also to thank the people of this province for pulling together and doing what is necessary to help each other get through this global health crisis. This has been a difficult time for all of us. We

are all feeling COVID-19 fatigue and yet there are many more months of pandemic ahead of us. But I know we will get through this, as we always do, together.

And, finally, thank you for being here today and for your interest in AHS.

3. Quality & Safety Committee

a) Report to the Board

Ms. Glenda Yeates, Committee Chair, reported that the Quality & Safety Committee met on September 16, 2020. Ms. Yeates advised that the agenda items typically focus on access, quality and safety.

Ms. Yeates noted that she would be presenting one motion for approval.

b) Infection Prevention and Control 2019/20 Annual Report

Ms. Glenda Yeates, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee reviewed the Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention and Control 2019/20 Annual Report to Alberta Health (IPC Annual Report), which provides an overview of the outcomes achieved in partnership with programs across the province, including:

- connect care
- accountability and monitoring;
- province wide surveillance;
- human resource capacity;
- physical environment and infrastructure;
- public awareness and education; and
- hand hygiene.

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

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the Alberta Health Services Infection Prevention and Control 2019/20 Annual Report to Alberta Health, and directed the Board Chair to submit the same to the Minister of Health.

4. Finance Committee

a) Report to the Board

Mr. David Carpenter, Committee Chair, reported that the Finance Committee met on September 17, 2020.

Mr. Carpenter noted that he would be presenting three items for approval of the Board.

b) Q1 2020/21 Investment Report

First, Mr. David Carpenter, Committee Chair, reported that the Committee considered the First Quarter 2020-21 Investment Report. As mandated by Alberta Health Services' Investment Bylaw, the Committee is required to review reports prepared by management and investment managers summarizing the activities and performance of Alberta Health Services' investment portfolio on a quarterly basis. The Committee was presented the First Quarter 2020-21 Investment Report and recommended that the Board ratify the transactions. The Board reviewed the recommendation and the members supported the approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board ratified the investment portfolio and transactions as described below, and as certified by signed investment compliance certificates from Alberta Health Services and Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management:

- a) as at June 30, 2020, AHS held restricted and unrestricted funds managed by Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management and Manulife Financial totalling \$851 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, 2020, were invested in accordance with the Investment Bylaw and Investments Policy as certified by signed investment compliance certificates from Alberta Health Services and Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management.

c) Delegation of Authority Over \$90M

i. Aster Joint Venture Limited Partnership

Mr. Carpenter advised that the second item considered by the Committee was the consolidation of all current agreements with Aster Joint Venture Limited Partnership under one Master Services Agreement, along with an amendment to renew the long term care services at AgeCare Seton in Calgary for an additional 5 years commencing November 30, 2020. The Committee recommended Board approval. The Board reviewed the proposed amendments and the members supported the approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the following, on the terms reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board with such non-substantive changes that management of Alberta Health Services considers necessary or advisable:

- i. the consolidation of the current agreements with Aster Joint Venture Limited Partnership relating to Sagewood Seniors Community Inc., Seton Senior Community Inc., Walden Heights Senior Community Inc., Skypointe Seniors Community Inc. and Sunrise Gardens General Partnership under one new Master Services Agreement with Aster Joint Venture Limited Partnership;

- ii. the amendment to renew the long term care services at AgeCare Seton in Calgary for an additional 5 years commencing November 30, 2020; and
- iii. the delegation of authority to the President and Chief Executive Officer to execute the above agreement and amendment on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with Policy 1100 *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments*.

ii. Associated Ambulance

Lastly, Mr. Carpenter advised that the Committee reviewed a proposed 17 month contract extension to the Service Agreement between Alberta Health Services and Associated Ambulance and Services Ltd. with respect to ground ambulance support, which currently expires March 31, 2021. The Committee recommended Board approval of the extension. The Board reviewed the extension and the members supported the approval.

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

- a) approved the extension to the Service Agreement between Alberta Health Services and Associated Ambulance and Services Ltd. for the term from April 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022; and
- b) delegated authority for the President and Chief Executive Officer to execute this extension in accordance with Policy 1100 *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments*.

5. Community Engagement Committee

a) Report to the Board

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on September 18, 2020.

Dr. Hemmelgarn noted that she would be presenting one item for approval of the Board.

b) Mental Health Foundation Bylaws Amendments

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn, Committee Chair, advised that the board members of the Mental Health Foundation voted to amend a provision of their bylaws to expand the scope of the Foundation from Edmonton to communities throughout Alberta. The Mental Health Foundation is an established foundation and any amendment to its bylaws is required to be approved by the AHS Board and then submitted to the Minister of Health for approval. The amendment will be effective upon Ministerial approval.

The Committee reviewed the proposed amendment to the expanded definition of communities as well as minor non-substantive amendments. The Committee recommended that the Board

approve the bylaw amendments. The Board also reviewed the amendments and the members supported the approval.

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

- 1. approved the proposed amendment to the Mental Health Foundation Bylaws to redefine the term “communities” to be communities throughout Alberta as well as minor non-substantive amendments, as reviewed by the Committee and the Board; and**
- 2. directed the Board Chair to sign the amended Bylaws on behalf of AHS and management to forward the same to the Minister of Health for approval.**

Prior to ending the meeting, Mr. Weyant acknowledged that completely unrelated to her role on the AHS Board, Dr. Hemmelgarn is the Dean of the University of Alberta’s Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the home of Dr. Michael Houghton, who was just named as the recipient of the Nobel Prize in part for his role in the discovery of Hepatitis C. Mr. Weyant stated that the Board extends their congratulations to Dr. Houghton and that they are very proud of him, as they are of the unsung researchers and staff at each of the educational and clinical institutions.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

_____/s/_____
David Weyant
Chair

_____/s/_____
Catherine MacNeill
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel