

## PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held by teleconference on January 28, 2021.

### Attendees:

**Board Members:** Mr. David Weyant, QC (Chair)  
Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Deborah Apps  
Mr. David Carpenter  
Mr. Tony Dagnone, OC  
Ms. Sherri Fountain  
Mr. Stephen Mandel  
Ms. Natalia Reiman  
Mr. Brian Vaasjo  
Ms. Glenda Yeates, OC  
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. Catherine MacNeill, Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel

**Regrets:** Ms. Heidi Overguard

David Weyant, QC, acted as Chair of the meeting and Ms. MacNeill acted as Recording Secretary.

Mr. Weyant called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 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 and our reach goes beyond Alberta for this meeting. Our Board members are joining

us from across the country and we acknowledge their Indigenous peoples territories in which they live and work.

Today I am very pleased to introduce four new Board members who are joining us. We have in alphabetical order:

Deborah Apps, an experienced board director and charitable sector leader with more than 30 years of experience in government, healthcare, education and the arts.

Tony Dagnone, OC, who has an impressive career spanning nearly 40 years in healthcare, patient safety and public service, including hospital leadership and board service at the provincial, national and international level.

Sherri Fountain, an Alberta businessperson, educator, private equity investor, accredited Corporate Director and lawyer with strong experience in corporate and property law.

And Natalia Reiman, who brings additional board leadership, legal and small business experience to AHS' governing body.

Welcome, all.

Clearly my brief introductions do not do any of them justice and their biographies are available on the AHS website. I am confident these impressive professionals will be a tremendous asset to this Board and to AHS and accordingly to healthcare in Alberta. Indeed since being appointed earlier this week they have not only spent many hours in orientation, but have also participated in meetings all day today and some Committee meetings yesterday.

I would also like to thank and acknowledge former Board members Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn and Mr. Hugh Sommerville, QC, for their years of service to Albertans through this Board.

Today we have two motions for consideration. We are participating by teleconference today so 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 passed. But first, AHS President & Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Verna Yiu, has some brief remarks about the importance of kindness during this pandemic, as well as an update on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

❖ **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 very much David and good afternoon to everyone.

I would like to start by also welcoming our new Board members. We all look forward to working with you to make Alberta's health system the best it can be for all Albertans.

I would also like to thank Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn and Mr. Hugh Sommerville, QC, for their significant contributions to this Board and to AHS.

Today, I would like to share a few thoughts about kindness.

Throughout this pandemic, most Albertans have gone out of their way to express their appreciation and gratitude for healthcare workers. These acts of kindness have helped our people get through many gruelling and difficult days on the front lines of our pandemic response. To these Albertans, I wish to say thank you on behalf of all of us at AHS. Your words and deeds mean the world to us, and we know your thoughtfulness and gratitude represent what lives in the hearts of most Albertans.

Sadly, there have been a few instances in recent weeks where our staff, including public health inspectors, immunizers and other front-line workers have been mistreated, verbally abused and disrespected while carrying out their duties. This is not okay.

I understand COVID-19 restrictions can be difficult and that this is a stressful time for many Albertans. And I know sometimes stress can lead to heated emotions. But harassment and abuse are never appropriate ways to express frustration to anyone.

So today I would like to ask Albertans that, if they have an interaction with a member of the AHS team, please treat them with kindness and respect. They are here to help all Albertans and keep them safe. They are here to be good partners to communities across the province. They are here to work with businesses to provide further clarity on how to operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic. And, yes, part of the job can involve upholding public health guidelines, set out by the Government of Alberta and the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Their jobs are difficult during the best of times and have been made even more so by the pandemic. Please remember that our people are Albertans, too, and everyone is dealing with upheavals in their own personal and professional lives. COVID-19 is not easy on anyone. And we are all in this together. So let us all remind ourselves to treat one another with kindness during this public health crisis and that will help us all get through this together.

Finally, I would like to provide a quick update on the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

As you may know, AHS expanded COVID-19 vaccinations province wide just before Christmas. We made long-term care and designated supportive living residents a priority as there is no question that these residents have borne the brunt of this pandemic with more than 60 per cent of Alberta's COVID-19 cases reported within these facilities.

Our teams did an incredible job of getting shots in arms very quickly and vaccinated about 50,000 eligible residents and staff in AHS long-term care and designated supportive living facilities in under three weeks. This is a huge win in our fight against COVID-19 but, of course, there is much more to do.

We know many people are anxious to be immunized for COVID-19. The major issue we face right now is vaccine supply. We would love to get the vaccine to everyone right now but the fact is we do not have the product supply to do that.

We will continue to urgently triage vaccine supply as it becomes available and, as we continue to work with Alberta Health on the rollout, we will ensure to communicate transparently and openly to all Albertans.

I encourage Albertans to get immunized against COVID-19 once they become eligible. The vaccine is our best weapon to end this global pandemic. For now, though, please continue to follow basic public health measures that help reduce the spread of the virus. This means wearing a mask in public areas, maintaining physical distancing, vigilant hand hygiene and adhering to all public health measures. This will help protect yourself, others and the health system.

Thank you for listening and for your interest in Alberta Health Services.

Mr. Weyant made the following remarks:

Thank you Verna. I would like to reinforce the comments made by Verna and make it clear that this Board supports AHS staff, physicians and volunteers and will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure our people can do their important work safely without facing mistreatment or abuse.

❖ **Review of Agenda**

**UPON MOTION** duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the agenda for the meeting of the Board held on January 28, 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. Approval of Minutes – November 26, 2020 and December 16, 2020**

**UPON MOTION** duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the AHS Board meetings held on November 26, 2020, and December 16, 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 copies to the Minister of Health.

**2. Community Engagement Committee**

**a) Appointment of Trustee to Calgary Health Foundation**

Vicki Yellow Old Woman, Vice Chair of the Community Engagement Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on January 22, 2021.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman noted that she would be presenting one item for Board approval with respect to the appointment of Dr. Chris Eagle as Trustee of the Calgary Health Foundation.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman stated that the responsibility to appoint Trustees to established Foundations lies with the Alberta Health Services Board. The Committee recommended the Board approve the Trustee appointment as reviewed by the Committee. The Board considered such recommendation and the members supported its approval.

**UPON MOTION** duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the appointment of Dr. Chris Eagle as Trustee of the Calgary Health Foundation effective February 5, 2021 for a term of three years.

**3. Amendment to Outpatient Cancer Drug Grant Agreement**

David Carpenter, Chair of the Finance Committee of the Board presented one motion for approval.

The Board was asked to consider for approval an amendment to the Outpatient Cancer Drug Agreement between Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services. The Board considered such amendment and the members supported the approval.

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

- i) approved the amendment to the current Alberta Health grant agreement for the provision of cancer pharmaceuticals to outpatient cancer patients for the term April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, to increase the funding by up to \$45.3M for newly approved cancer drugs, on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Board, with such non-substantive changes that management of Alberta Health Services considers necessary or advisable; and
- ii) delegated the authority to the AHS President & CEO to execute the agreement to effect such amendment on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with Policy 1100 *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments*.

❖ **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

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Signed by  
David Weyant, QC  
Chair

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Signed by  
Catherine MacNeill  
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel