

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held by teleconference, on March 11, 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
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. Tina Giesbrecht, General Counsel
Ms. Catherine MacNeill, Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel

Regrets: Mr. Stephen Mandel
Ms. Heidi Overguard

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

Mr. Weyant called the meeting to order at approximately 4:15 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, in the spirit of promoting reconciliation and gratitude, and in keeping with the calls to action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, on behalf of the Board, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that the work of AHS takes place on historical and contemporary Indigenous lands, including the territories of Treaties 6, 7 & 8 and the homeland of the Metis. I would also like to acknowledge the 46 First Nations communities within what we call Alberta, as well as the Metis and Inuit Peoples who form an important part of our healthcare system.

Our Board members are joining us from across the country and we acknowledge the Indigenous peoples' territories in which they live and work. We are grateful to those who have come before us and mindful of those who will follow us as we steward and protect these lands.

Before I address some administrative matters, I would like to share some good news with you.

Last week AHS was named one of Canada's Best Diversity Employers for the third consecutive year. This award recognizes employers across the country that have exceptional workplace diversity and inclusiveness programs. I am pleased AHS continues to receive national acclaim for ongoing efforts to develop programs, supports and resources that address the diverse needs of all Albertans, including our own workforce. Alberta, after all, is a province rich in diversity. As I said before, AHS wants all of our people, patients and families to feel safe, welcomed and valued at work and in their healthcare experience. That is important to this Board, and to Albertans.

I should point out this diversity award arrives just weeks after AHS was named one of Canada's Top 100 employers, one of Canada's top employers for young people and one of Alberta's top employers, all for the fourth consecutive year.

I would like to thank everyone involved in AHS's continued efforts to build excellent workplaces that embrace, support and promote diversity and inclusivity.

Next, I would like to invite our President & Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Verna Yiu, to share updates on our phased COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

❖ **Comments from the President & CEO**

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.

This week Alberta marked another milestone in our yearlong response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as more Albertans became eligible to book and receive COVID-19 immunization. Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine was recently approved by Health Canada and we received a first shipment of this vaccine just this past week. Eligible Albertans for the Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine include all Albertans born in 1957 and 1958. They are now able to book an immunization appointment using the AHS online booking tool, or by calling Health Link at 811. The other group is First Nations, Metis and Inuit Peoples born in 1972 and 1973. They are asked to call 811 to book an immunization appointment.

Pending vaccine supply, Albertans born in other years will be offered a chance to book in the coming days.

I am pleased to say, over the past two days we have booked over 23,000 Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccination appointments. Clinics for this vaccine opened this morning, and immunizations have begun. So we are moving quickly as we are working to immunize as many Albertans as possible as soon as possible.

There are a few things you should know about the Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine. First, it is provided in a two-dose regime, administered 16 weeks apart. But in booking you will only be able to book for the first dose and reminders will be sent out to book the second dose at a later date. Initial doses of the Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine will not be available at pharmacies. Covishield/AstraZeneca will be offered in communities in each AHS zone across the province; however, due to its limited supply resulting in limited distribution, some individuals may need to travel outside of their home community if they choose to receive this vaccine.

In general, Alberta Health is recommending Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine for Albertans, 18 to 64 years of age, without a contraindication, such as a severe reaction to a vaccine ingredient. Albertans in the target age group can choose if they want to receive the Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine now or wait until their sequenced phase to receive one of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines. Additional information will be provided in the coming days about who will be included and the timing of the next phases of the vaccine rollout. Individuals potentially belonging to those phases, including healthcare workers, can still choose to receive Covishield/AstraZeneca if eligible and they would prefer to be immunized sooner.

Like all of the vaccines currently approved for use in Canada, the Covidshield/AstraZeneca vaccine has proven to be highly effective in preventing serious illness and death in adults 18-64 years of age. We encourage all Albertans eligible to receive the Covishield/AstraZeneca vaccine to speak with their healthcare provider as they consider options. Of course, we are continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccination to all Albertans 75 years of age and older. If you are an Albertan 75 or older and have not already booked an appointment, you can do so now using the AHS online booking tool, or by calling Health Link at 811.

Although we are now rolling out the vaccines, it is really crucial for Albertans to know the pandemic is not over. COVID-19 and its variants of concern are still circulating, and they are still capable of causing life-threatening illnesses and putting immense pressures on our hospitals and intensive care units.

So I urge all Albertans to wash your hands regularly, maintain two metres of distance from people outside of your household, wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth when in public, and stay aware of public health measures and follow them to keep ourselves and others safe.

I know we are tired of this pandemic and want it to end. With the arrival of vaccines, there is now real hope to putting COVID-19 behind us. But it will not happen overnight and we must remain vigilant, and we must continue looking out for one another.

Before I close, I want to say thank you to our teams for working tirelessly on the immunization rollout. There has been significant work done to stabilize and improve the online booking tool, and additional improvements made to 811. These improvements are being made as we go, based on experience.

I also want to thank Albertans for responding to our requests to book using the online tool as much as possible, and to be patient if there are wait times. We know there is worry and anxiety. We feel it, too, and we are here to work with all of you to make sure everyone is vaccinated as quickly as possible.

Thank you to all Albertans.

Mr. Weyant noted that the Board was participating by teleconference and that, therefore, he would ask for a vote on the motion, and ask for those opposed or abstaining. Those who neither oppose nor abstain, would be viewed as in favour of the motion. If there were none, or a minority, who either oppose or abstain, the motion would be declared 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 March 11, 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.

Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Board Vice Chair, stated that as a physician she declared a potential conflict of interest with respect to two items on the agenda: Item 2, Radiologist Contracts, and Item 5 f) ii) Alberta Health Physician Grant Amending Agreements. Dr. Zielke indicated she would abstain from the discussion and voting on the matters.

Mr. Weyant declared a conflict with respect to Item 5 f) ii) Alberta Health Physician Grant Amending Agreements. He indicated he would abstain from the discussion and that he is only entitled to vote in Public Board meetings when there is a tie and if that happened he would abstain from voting.

1. **Approval of Minutes – January 28, 2021 and February 24, 2021**

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the AHS Board meetings held on January 28, 2021 and February 24, 2021 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. **Radiologist Contracts**

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

Mr. Carpenter advised that the Board was asked to consider for approval items related to the radiologist contracts. The Board has considered such contracts and the members support the approval. Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Vice Chair, abstained from voting.

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

a) **approved the following contracts on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Alberta Health Services Board with non-substantive changes that management considers necessary or advisable, each of which will have an effective date of March 18, 2021:**

1. **Bridging Letter Agreement with radiologists comprising the majority of the radiologists that Alberta Health Services contracts with;**
2. **Bridging Letter Agreement with radiologists from the Alberta Children’s Hospital;**
3. **Maintenance of Status Quo Letter Agreement with radiologists in the Perinatal Program in Edmonton Zone; and**
4. **Maintenance of Status Quo Letter Agreements with individual radiologists in the North Zone; and**

b) **delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute and deliver the radiologist contracts noted above in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.**

3. **Quality & Safety Committee**

Glenda Yeates, Chair of the Quality & Safety Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on February 18 and March 10, 2021. Ms. Yeates advised that the agenda items typically focus on access, quality and safety.

Ms. Yeates noted that at the Committee's February 18th meeting, the Committee received an update on the COVID-19 pandemic response and on the vaccine rollout. The Committee also received a Quality, Safety and Access Dashboard for discussion. The Committee discussed the status of the Alberta Surgical Initiative and received an update on the Strategic Quality Initiatives identified by the Quality Safety and Outcomes Improvement Executive Committee.

Ms. Yeates advised that at the Committee's March 10th meeting, the Committee received the Q2 2020-21 Patient Safety Report, a report on Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Health System and a report on Process Improvement for COVID-19 Testing. The Committee also received an update on AHS Virtual Health Strategy and Governance Structure.

Ms. Yeates stated that as Chair of the Quality & Safety Committee, she would be presenting one motion for Board approval.

a) Accreditation Annual Report

The Committee considered for recommendation for approval the Accreditation Annual Report. Ministerial Directive D5-2008 *Mandatory Accreditation in Alberta's Health System* requires AHS to provide information on accreditation activities and outcomes and accreditation status in an annual report to the Minister. Once approved, the Accreditation Annual Report must be submitted to Alberta Health by March 31, 2021.

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

- i) approved the Alberta Health Services Accreditation Status and Activities for Health Facilities and Programs Annual Report as reviewed by the Quality & Safety Committee and the Board, subject to any non-substantive changes that management deems necessary or advisable;**
- ii) supported the Board Chair delivering the Report to the Minister of Health by March 31, 2021; and**
- iii) directed management to make the Report available on the Alberta Health Services public website as soon as practical.**

4. Community Engagement Committee

Vicki Yellow Old Woman, Chair of the Community Engagement Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on February 18 and March 11, 2021.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman noted that at the Committee's meeting on February 18th, the Committee received presentations from both the Alberta Cancer Foundation and the Addiction & Mental Health Provincial Advisory Council. The Committee also reviewed and recommended member

appointments and renewals to Health Advisory Councils and Health Foundations. These appointments were approved at the Board meeting on February 24, 2021. The Committee also reviewed the Health Advisory Councils and Health Foundations satisfaction surveys and received a summary of the philanthropic strategy for Foundation funding priorities.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman stated she would be presenting one motion for Board approval.

a) Reappointments to Calgary Health Foundation

Ms. Yellow Old Woman advised that at the Committee's meeting earlier that day, the Committee considered the reappointments of Trustees to the Calgary Health Foundation.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman stated that AHS is very grateful for the commitment of volunteers across the province, values their work and appreciates their commitment to health care.

Ms. Yellow Old Woman noted that the responsibility to appoint Trustees to established Foundations lies with the AHS Board. The Committee recommended the Board approve the Trustee reappointments as reviewed by the Committee. The Board has considered such recommendation and the members support its approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the reappointments of Trustees to the Calgary Health Foundation for the terms as follows:

Trustee Reappointment – for a Three Year Term - effective March 20, 2021 to March 19, 2024	
Foundation	Name
Calgary Health Foundation	Bev Higham-Linehan
	Rob King

5. Finance Committee

David Carpenter, Chair of the Finance Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on February 19 and March 10, 2021.

Mr. Carpenter noted that at the February 19, 2021 meeting the Committee considered the Q3 2020-21 Investment Report, which is detailed below for approval. The Committee also received financial updates, a budget preparation update and a presentation on capital planning roles and responsibilities between AHS, Alberta Health and Alberta Infrastructure. Further the Committee reviewed the Delegation of Authority for amendments to Continuing Care Contracts which were approved on February 24, 2021.

Mr. Carpenter advised that at the March 10, 2021 meeting, the Committee received an update on the development of the Health & Business Plan, and the Budget Approval Process. The Committee also received a report on the Asset Optimization Committee meeting, a subcommittee of the Finance Committee.

The Committee reviewed several recommendations for approval as outlined in detail below.

Mr. Carpenter stated that he would be presenting nine motions for Board approval.

a) Q3 2020-21 Investment Report

The Committee reviewed the Q3 2019-20 Investment Report.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board ratified the investment portfolio and transactions described below:

- a) as at December 31, 2020, AHS held restricted and unrestricted funds managed by Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management (“PH&N”) and Manulife Financial totalling \$882 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 December 31, 2020, were invested in accordance with the Investment Bylaw and Investments Policy.**

b) COVID-19 Grant Agreement Amendment

The Committee reviewed an amendment to the Alberta Health grant agreement for the COVID-19 pandemic response to increase the grant funding. The Board reviewed the proposed amendments and the members support the approval.

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

- a) approved the amendment to the Alberta Health grant agreement for the COVID-19 pandemic response for the term April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, to increase the grant funding, on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board, with such non-substantive changes that management of AHS considers necessary or advisable; and**

- b) delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute the agreement to effect such amendment on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.**

c) Critical Worker Benefit Grant Agreement

The Committee reviewed the grant agreement between Alberta Health and AHS for the one-time lump-sum benefit payments to eligible workers identified as critical for the delivery of basic services to Albertans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board reviewed the proposed agreement and the members support the approval.

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

- a) approved the grant agreement between Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services for the one-time lump-sum benefit payments to eligible workers identified as critical for the delivery of basic services to Albertans in response to the COVID-19 pandemic for the fiscal year April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board, with such non-substantive changes that management considers necessary or advisable; and**
- b) delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute such Critical Worker Benefit grant agreement on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.**

d) 2021-22 Budget Approval

The Committee reviewed the 2021-22 Budget. The Board reviewed the Budget and the members support the approval.

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

- a) approved the 2021-22 Budget in the form reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board, with such non-substantive changes that management of Alberta Health Services considers necessary or advisable;**
- b) approved the following 2021-22 funding amounts for the three wholly-owned subsidiaries of Alberta Health Services, as provided for in the 2021-22 Budget:**

- i) up to \$137 million of funding for CapitalCare Group Inc.
 - ii) up to \$164 million of funding for Carewest
 - iii) up to \$791 million of funding for Alberta Precision Laboratories Ltd.
- c) authorized and directed management of Alberta Health Services to deliver the 2021-22 Budget to the Minister of Health for approval, and after receiving such approval, make the 2021-22 Budget available to the public through the Alberta Health Services website.
- e) Interim Authorization to Spend for COVID-19 Costs in 2021-22

The Committee reviewed the Interim Authorization to Spend for COVID-19 Costs in 2021-22. The Board reviewed the agreement and the members support the approval.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board authorized Alberta Health Services to incur the following costs for the COVID-19 pandemic response:

- a) maximum expenses of \$474 million for the period April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021; and
 - b) maximum capital expenditures of \$15 million for the period April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021.
- f) Approvals
- I. 21-22 Interim Funding Letters
 - a. Covenant Health

The Committee reviewed the 2021-22 Interim Funding for Covenant Health. The Board reviewed the funding amounts and the members support the approval.

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

- a) approved the 2021-22 interim funding (annual acute care funding) to Covenant Health on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board; and
- b) delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute and deliver the funding letter reflecting the above to Covenant Health in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.

b. Saskatchewan Health Authority

The Committee reviewed the 2021-22 Interim Funding for Saskatchewan Health Authority. The Board reviewed the funding amounts and the members support the approval.

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

- a) approved the 2021-22 interim funding (acute and clinical support) to Saskatchewan Health Authority on the terms and conditions reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board; and**
- b) delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute and deliver the funding letter reflecting the above to Saskatchewan Health Authority in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.**

II. Alberta Health Physician Grant Amending Agreements

The Committee reviewed the grant agreements for the Academic Medicine and Health Services Program (AMHSP South Sector) and the Academic Medicine and Health Services Program (AMHSP North Sector) and a grant agreement for the On Call Programs and provision of on call services by physicians. The Board reviewed the agreements and the members support the approval. David Weyant, Board Chair, QC, and Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Vice Chair, abstained from voting.

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

- a) approved the amendment to extend the term and increase the funding for the following Alberta Health grants, on the terms and conditions 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 provision of insured medical services, and education, research and leadership/administrative services at the University of Calgary and at Alberta Health Services facilities by physicians participating in the Academic Medicine and Health Services Program with an extension term of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022;**
 - ii) the provision of insured medical services, and education, research and leadership/administrative services at the University of Alberta and at Alberta Health Services facilities by physicians participating in the Academic Medicine**

and Health Services Program with an extension term of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022; and

iii) the operation and management of the On Call Programs and provision of on call services by physicians with an extension term of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022; and

b) delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute the agreement to effect such amendment on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.

III. Alberta Health Drug Grant Amending Agreements

The Committee reviewed the Alberta Health Drug Grant Amending Agreements. The Board reviewed the agreements and the members support the approval.

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

a) approved the amendment to extend the term and increase the funding for the following Alberta Health grants, on the terms and conditions 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 provision of cancer pharmaceuticals to outpatient cancer patients at no cost with an extension term of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022; and

ii) the provision of specialized high cost drugs, short-term exceptional drug therapy, and rare disease drugs to eligible Albertans at no cost with an extension term of April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022; and

b) delegated the authority to the Alberta Health Services President & CEO to execute the agreements to effect such amendment on behalf of Alberta Health Services in accordance with the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy*.

6. Audit & Risk Committee – Meeting Report

David Carpenter, Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on February 19, 2021. Standard practice is that the Office of the Auditor General and KPMG are guests at the meeting in their role as external auditors of AHS.

Mr. Carpenter advised that the Committee received updates on performance audits. The Committee also received a follow-up report on the Home Care Contract Monitoring and Quality Evaluation, a legal and privacy update, and the Q3 2020-21 Internal Audit & Enterprise Risk Management Portfolio Performance Report.

Mr. Carpenter stated that there were no items that came through the Committee for Board approval.

7. Human Resources Committee – Meeting Report

Dr. Sayeh Zielke, Board Vice Chair and Vice Chair of the Human Resources Committee of the Board, reported that the Committee met on February 24, 2021.

Dr. Zielke advised that the Committee received the Our People Results Quarterly Pulse Report, an update on Labour Relations and Psychological Health and Safety, the Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Testing Dashboard and Summary Report and an update on AHS Workforce COVID-19 Immunization.

Dr. Zielke stated that there were no items that came through the Committee for Board approval.

❖ **Adjournment**

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

Signed by _____
David Weyant, QC
Chair

Signed by _____
Catherine MacNeill
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel