

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the Alberta Health Services (“AHS”) Board (the “Board”) held by teleconference on April 21, 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. Heidi Overguard
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

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

Mr. Weyant called the meeting to order at approximately 4:50 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, on behalf of the AHS Board, I would like to again express to our CEO, Senior Executive, other staff, physicians and volunteers our heartfelt gratitude for their hard work, dedication and sacrifice during this global health crisis.

We knew our pandemic response would be a marathon and tomorrow marks the 59th week since the first case of COVID-19 was confirmed in this province. And yet, as the number of new and active cases in the province continues to spike, we know there are still many difficult days ahead for Albertans, including our people on the front lines who are once again working tirelessly to manage the increasing COVID-related hospitalizations and ICU admissions. We know this is not easy work, physically or emotionally.

I am so grateful for the efforts of our front-line healthcare providers, as well as for our people working at our immunization sites and the behind-the-scenes staff who support them. We can all do our part to bring this pandemic to an end by getting vaccinated. Please book your appointments for a COVID-19 vaccine as soon as you are eligible to do so.

Immunization is our most powerful weapon in our response to this virus and I would like to invite our President and CEO, Dr. Verna Yiu, to share an update on the province's immunization efforts.

❖ **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.

As David mentioned, mass public immunization will be the means by which we bring this terrible pandemic to an end.

AHS is working to immunize as many eligible Albertans as possible as quickly as possible, while continually monitoring evolving evidence from around the world regarding the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Yesterday, Albertans born in 1981 and earlier became eligible to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine through participating pharmacies and AHS immunization sites. Alberta's decision to reduce the age of eligibility for AstraZeneca from 55 to 40 is based on public health recommendations looking at the benefit this vaccine offers weighed against the small risk of adverse events from this vaccine.

AstraZeneca has been shown to be 60 to 70 per cent effective at preventing COVID-19 illness and is 80 per cent effective at preventing severe outcomes, such as hospitalization. Lowering the eligibility age means more than 575,000 additional Albertans can be vaccinated. This also means 2.3 million Albertans are now eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, and that number will continue to grow in the days and weeks ahead. I strongly recommend that everyone book their appointment to get immunized as soon as they are able.

Variants of concern are spreading quickly throughout the province, with an increasing number of Albertans requiring hospital and ICU care due to severe outcomes. Getting immunized as soon as you are eligible helps keep you safe, and will help prevent the health system from becoming overwhelmed during this third wave of the pandemic.

All eligible individuals can book their appointment today via the AHS online booking tool at ahs.ca/vaccine, by calling HealthLink at 811 or through a participating pharmacy.

I also wish to remind Albertans that, even once they get the first dose of vaccine, they still need to follow the existing public health measures in order to keep themselves and others safe, and help us reduce the spike of new and active cases in the province. That means wash your hands regularly, adhere to restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings, wear a mask when in public, practice physical distancing, and if you feel sick, stay home, get tested, and follow mandatory isolation requirements while waiting for results.

I understand people's fatigue with the pandemic and with public health measures. But now, with the vaccine, we have an opportunity to slowly bring an end to this pandemic. Until then, by doing our part and following public health measures for a few months more, we need to do our best to keep one another safe and minimize further loss of life.

I would like to close by thanking everyone at AHS, including those on the front lines and at our immunization sites, for their ongoing hard work, dedication and courage. They are truly heroes and, I offer gratitude and thanks for what they have done, day in and day out, for more than a year and for the difficult weeks and months ahead.

To our AHS teams, thank you and thanks to everyone watching for your interest in Alberta Health Services.

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 April 21, 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 – March 11, 2021**

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried, the minutes of the AHS Board meeting held on March 11, 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. **Governance Committee**

Ms. Sherri Fountain, Committee Chair, reported that the Governance Committee met on March 23, 2021.

Ms. Fountain noted that the Committee received the Ethics & Compliance Office Q3 2020/21 Report for discussion, and reviewed the Board Member Terms of Reference, the annual Board Skills and Competencies Matrix, and a proposed meeting survey that would be circulated on a routine basis. In addition, the Committee considered refinements to meeting processes to include electronic participation.

Ms. Fountain stated that as Chair of the Governance Committee, she would be presenting one motion for Board approval.

a) Conflict of Interest Bylaw Amendments

The Committee considered amendments to the Conflict of Interest Bylaw. The Committee recommended Board approval of the amendments subject to input from the Minister of Health and the Ethics Commissioner. Once the Amended Bylaw is approved by the Board, it will be submitted sequentially to the Ethics Commissioner and the Minister of Health with requests for formal approval. The final approved Bylaw will be posted on the AHS public website. 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:

- i) approved the amendments to the AHS Conflict of Interest Bylaw as reviewed by the Governance Committee and the Board; and**
- ii) directed management to submit the same to the Ethics Commissioner and the Minister of Health for approval.**

3. Finance Committee

David Carpenter, Committee Chair, reported that the Finance Committee met on April 7, 2021.

Mr. Carpenter noted that the Committee received updates on National Health Expenditures, Cost Drivers and Opportunities, the Financial Sustainability Risk Report, and an update on the Capital Equipment Risk. The Committee also discussed the 2020-21 Annual Report format, development of the Health & Business Plan, and the Budget Approval Process. The Committee also approved the appointment of external members, Irv Kipnes and Stephen Livergant, QC, to the Asset Optimization Committee, a subcommittee of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Carpenter stated that the Committee reviewed recommendations as outlined in detail below and that he would be presenting two motions for Board approval.

a) AHS Investment Bylaw Amendments

The Committee reviewed a revision to amendments to the Alberta Health Services Investment Bylaw. The Board reviewed the revision and the members supported the approval. The amended Investment Bylaw will be posted on the AHS public website once approved by the Minister of Health.

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

- i) approved the revised amendment to the Investment Bylaw as reviewed by the Finance Committee and the Board; and**
- ii) directed the Board Chair to sign the revised amended Investment Bylaw on behalf of AHS and to re-submit the same to the Minister of Health for approval.**

b) *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy #1100* Amendments

Second, the Committee reviewed amendments to the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy #1100*.

The Committee reviewed the amendments to the Policy. The Board reviewed the amendments and the members supported the approval. The amended Policy will be posted on the AHS public website.

UPON MOTION duly moved, seconded and unanimously carried the Alberta Health Services Board approved the proposed amendments to the *Delegation of Authority and Establishment of Controls for Commitments Policy #1100.*

4. Audit & Risk Committee – Meeting Report

a) Report to the Board

David Carpenter, Committee Chair, reported that the Audit & Risk Committee met on April 7, 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 the preparation of the Year-End March 31, 2021 Financial Statements, which are anticipated to be presented for Board approval in June. The Committee also received an internal audit report on Addiction & Mental Health Contract and Quality Management, updates on Information and Cyber Security, Legal and Privacy, and Enterprise Risk. The Committee also received the Internal Controls over Financial Reporting Final Report 2020-21.

Mr. Carpenter 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 5:05 p.m.

Signed by
David Weyant, QC
Chair

Signed by
Catherine MacNeill
Corporate Secretary & Legal Counsel