

Board briefs summarize the board meetings of BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS). These briefs are shared with BCEHS agencies, government, media and other stakeholders to keep them informed about the activities of BCEHS.

- Board briefs are available online at: www.bcehs.ca/about/accountability/board-meetings
- Media contact: BCEHS Communications at 250-953-3651

Summary of the June 29, 2016 Board Meeting

The BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) board has six scheduled open board meetings per year. The June 29, 2016 meeting was held in Vancouver.

Question & Answer / Public Presentation Period

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the board of BCEHS provides opportunities for the public to schedule presentations and to ask questions of the board prior to the beginning of every open board meeting.

- No questions were submitted.
- No presentation requests were submitted.

Business Meeting

Exercise Coastal Response – Event Summary

Mr. John Lavery, Executive Director, Health Emergency Management BC, Mr. Sunny Dhaliwal, Executive Director, Provincial Programs, BCEHS and Mr. Peter Hennecke, Clinical Operations Director, BC Mobile Medical Unit delivered a presentation summarizing Exercise Coastal Response conducted in the Port Alberni Valley from June 7 to 10, 2016.

In this scenario to test BC's revised Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP), a 9.0 earthquake was simulated on the Vancouver Island Coast which also generated a tsunami on the west coast of Vancouver Island minutes after the initial shock. BC Emergency Health Services, Health Emergency Management BC, the Mobile Medical Unit and other first responder agencies participated in the Exercise. Approximately 50 employees were involved in the Exercise.

Mr. Dhaliwal reviewed:

- Preparation
- Activation during the Exercise
- Air Operations
- Provincial Emergency Operations Centre
- District Operations Centres
- Triage response for mass casualty
- Heavy Urban Search and Rescue
- Business continuity plan, station evacuation and re-establishment
- Action report and lessons learned – revisions required to emergency plans.

Mr. Hennecke reviewed the Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) as follows:

- The MMU is a high tech, flexible clinical space with a number of units including a hospital trailer, support trailer, dually truck, inflatable tests, etc.
- MMU's role
- Education delivery
- Exercise lessons learned include re-supply challenges, importance of practice, communication, volunteer and clinician engagement.

In response to questions, Mr. Lavery:

- Answered a question about reporting structure and communications in such an emergency
- Advised an urban exercise event is being considered for Metro Vancouver in the next three years and that every two years, a plane crash exercise is conducted at YVR
- Noted in terms of chain of command, ultimately the Premier of the Province is in charge in the case of a catastrophic event.

After the presentation, the Chair directed the Board Liaison to arrange a tour of the MMU for new and other interested directors.

New Business

Executive Update

Ms. Linda Lupini advised the Board the BCEHS Management Action Plan and Policy Framework has been finalized and submitted to the Ministry of Health.

Ms. Lupini also advised BCEHS continues to respond to an increasing number of overdoses. To date, 1,763 firefighters across B.C have been trained to administer naloxone under the new first responders program, and emergency medical responder paramedics in rural areas are being trained to administer Naloxone.

Ms. Lupini also advised recruiting is underway for the Community Paramedicine Initiative.

Board Committee Reports

Quality & Access Committee

Mr. Allan Ritchie, Chair, Quality & Access Committee reported on three items for information:

BCEHS response times for ambulance processing and cardiac arrest response times continue to be stable and slightly below their targets.

BCEHS has an improvement initiative to improve patient experience while ambulating patients.

The Committee reviewed Quality & Access goals for 2016/17.

Governance and Human Resources Committee

Ms. Lorraine McGrath, Chair, Governance & Human Resources Committee, provided two items for approval:

The Board was advised that Management undertook a significant refresh of the Mission, Vision and Values. An extensive consultation place took place with employees, patients and visitors and through Leaders' Forums and site-based road shows. The refreshed Mission, Vision and Values were approved as presented.

The Governance and Human Resources Committee conducted its annual review of Board Governance Guidelines and Policies. Terms of reference supplied were approved.

Finance Committee

Mr. Tim Manning, Chair, Finance Committee reported management has provided a list of key future projects. Three key BCEHS projects include: (1) initial planning to replace two older facilities located on the Riverview site; (2) implementation of the community paramedicine program; (3) strategic investment of new resources to manage demand.

Audit Committee

Ms. Pauline Rafferty reported the annual review of the BCEHS Auditor Independence policy and determined is complete and no revisions were required.

The Audit Committee recommended to the BCEHS Board the reappointment of Price Waterhouse Coopers as the external auditors for BCEHS for the 2016/17 fiscal year. This action was approved.

The 2015/16 Financial Statements for BC Emergency Health Services were presented to the BCEHS Board and approved.

Research Committee

Mr. George Peary, Chair, Research Committee, advised there were no items to report.

Next meeting

August 25, 2016 in Vancouver.