

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](http://www.bcehs.ca/about/accountability/board-meetings)
- Media contact: BCEHS Communications at 250-953-3651

## **Summary of the August 25, 2016 Board Meeting**

The BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) board has six scheduled open board meetings per year. The August 25, 2016 meeting was held in Vancouver.

### **Question & Answer / Public Presentation Period**

In the spirit of its commitment to public accessibility, the BCEHS board provides opportunities for the public to schedule presentations and 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**

*Presentation: BCEHS Employees and Community Involvement*

Ms. Linda Lupini, Executive Vice President, PHSA & BCEHS, introduced the presenters - Mr. Joe Acker, Area Director, Vancouver Coastal Districts, Patient Care Delivery, BCEHS; and Ms. Marilyn Oberg, Unit Chief, Station 261 (Vancouver), Patient Care Delivery, BCEHS.

- Mr. Acker spoke about a vision for BCEHS to be an international leader in healthcare innovation and delivery, to become integrated into the health sector and into the communities it serves, and to become an exceptional employer.
- He noted paramedics and firefighters are the top two most trusted professions, and BCEHS has more than 4,000 employees who are passionate about their careers.
- He added the B.C Ambulance Service is one of the busiest he's ever seen, but paramedics still volunteer to engage with the community in their off-duty hours.

Ms. Oberg described community engagement activities, past and present, including:

- promoting bystander CPR;
- supporting PAD program to train public in availability and use of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs);
- recognition awards for paramedics;
- P.A.R.T.Y (Preventing Alcohol and Risk-related Trauma in Youth) program;
- community and charity events including Cops for Cancer, Honour House and the Vancouver PRIDE Parade; and
- Education through public safety messages.

Responding to a query regarding comparisons between B.C. and Australia, Mr. Acker acknowledged similarities in both having remote areas and reviewed some of best medical practices used in Australia. It was also noted during the question period that efforts are underway at the provincial level to encourage diversity hiring in health care.

## **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### *Update on the Community Paramedicine Initiative*

Ms. Jodi Jensen, Chief Operating Officer, BCEHS, provided an update on the Community Paramedicine Initiative. BCEHS is working in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, regional health authorities, the First Nations Health Authority and the Ambulance Paramedics of BC. In April 2016, Health Minister Terry Lake announced the first 73 rural and remote communities receiving the services of community paramedicine.

Ms. Jensen reported 34 of 37 candidates for Northern Health had been hired to date, with hiring for the Interior scheduled for the fall.

## **New Business**

### *Executive Update*

Ms. Lupini's update included the following:

- Based on feedback received from the Ministry of Health, amendments have been made to the Management Action Plan and Policy Framework, for the Minister's review.
- BCEHS continues to respond to an increasing number of overdoses across the province.
- Emergency Medical Responders around B.C. are being trained to administer Naloxone.
- BCEHS is working in conjunction with the Ministry of Health to enhance air ambulance services.

Responding to a query regarding the increasing number of overdoses across the province, Dr. William Dick, Vice President of Medical Programs, BCEHS also advised of a new fentanyl analog derivative street drug (carfentanil) that has been found imported into Canada, which is 10,000 times as potent as morphine. Dr. Dick said naloxone, typically used for treatment of opioid overdoses, may also be used in responding to a carfentanil overdose.

## **Board Committee Reports**

### **Quality & Access Committee**

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

- Mr. Ritchie advised BCEHS response times for 9-1-1 ambulance processing and cardiac arrest response times continue to be stable.
- The Quality and Safety report was reviewed noting that the use of the King Airway device represents a change in practice by paramedics.
- Three new critical patient safety events were raised, and it was noted the objective of reviewing these incidents is to learn, and prevent a recurrence.

### **Governance & Human Resources Committee**

Ms. Lorraine McGrath, Chair, Governance & Human Resources Committee advised of one item for approval.

The Committee recommended minor housekeeping changes after its annual review of policies. Amendments to three policies were recommended for approval. The policies reviewed were:

- Orientation & Education for New Directors;
- Influenza Control Policy; and,
- Taxpayer Accountability Principles.

The BCEHS Board of Directors approved the revised policies with the identified minor changes.

### **Finance Committee**

Mr. Tim Manning, Chair, Finance Committee, advised of one item for information and one for approval.

- For Information: Management provided the Committee with a Financial Summary for BC Emergency Health Services for three periods ended June 16, 2016. BCEHS is forecasting to end the fiscal year with a balanced budget.
- For Approval: Since the BCEHS 2016/17 Operating Budget was approved by the Board of Directors on April 21, 2016, the 2016/17 Preliminary Funding Letter from the Ministry of Health (MOH) has been received and reflects an increase in MOH funding of \$15.7 million for program changes and contract staff wage funding.

The BCEHS Board of Directors approved the proposed BC Emergency Health Services 2016/17 Adjusted Operating Budget.

### **Audit Committee**

Ms. Pauline Rafferty, Chair, Audit Committee, advised there were no items to report.

### **Research Committee**

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

### **Next meeting:**

October 20, 2016 in Vancouver.