

Board Highlights

November 2013



Introduction

The following are highlights from the Northern Regional Health Authority (NRHA) Board of Directors meeting held on November 27, 2013 in Thompson. Board Highlights are usually produced within a few days of Board meetings as a way to share timely information about the outcomes and decisions of each board meeting.

The highlights are consistent with our commitment to communicate open, transparent and timely information with our stakeholders. The highlights are posted on the Region's website. For more information or clarification on any issue in these highlights, please contact Doug Lauvstad, NRHA Board Chair or Helga Bryant, Chief Executive Officer.

Community Connections

The Chair and CEO recently met with the new Minister of Health. While acknowledging the fiscal challenges faced by government, the Minister reiterated her commitment to patient safety, service delivery and access to quality patient care.

Leaf Rapids Healthy Foods Initiative has become a not-for-profit organization with Dale Seddon as one of the initial Board Members.

CBC has been in Lynn Lake talking to residents concerned about higher than usual cancer rates they attribute to mine tailings. The Region shares the residents' concerns and making inquiries.

The Board entered into a debriefing discussion on the recent Annual Meeting of the Region in The Pas and made some suggestions regarding future AGMs.

MB/SK Reciprocity Agreement for Flin Flon

There is a formula based on population that funds us for the services we provide to the residents in Saskatchewan along the MB/SK border. Just under \$4 million annually flows as a result of the agreement. We are currently looking into whether the funding we receive matches the services we provide to these residents.

Quality Improvement/Accreditation

The Region's Continuous Quality Improvement Teams are very active now and working on their respective work plans. Work is progressing at completing accreditation surveys throughout the organization. A group of 10 surveyors will be in the Region next June as part of the accreditation process.

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy (MCHP) Workshop/Conference

The Board is looking at organizing a workshop/conference with MCHP to learn more about their work and recent research findings. A working group has been established to move forward on the planning & execution.

CEO Report

At each meeting, the CEO presents a report based on the strategic directions as developed by the Board. These strategic directions set the course of action for programs & services delivered in the Region. In addition, these directions also incorporate the priorities developed by Manitoba Health & the provincial priorities as committed to by the Manitoba government. A verbal update was also provided which included:

- Access to Services – Dr. Azzam spoke about access to the clinics. In Flin Flon, we are going to be dealing with demand issues in December and early in the New Year. Wait times are expected to grow but will be actively managed. In The Pas, we still have a mismatch between supply and demand which we are monitoring. In Thompson, we currently have physician vacancies. We are relatively stable for specialists regionally with the exception of surgery. We also have an obstetrics gap in Flin Flon & The Pas. Dr. Azzam informed the Board that between February and April a total of 6 new physicians will be joining the Region. At least 3 new Nurse Practitioners will be starting in the Region in the New Year, they will practice in Snow Lake, Flin Flon and Thompson in the New Year.
- FFGH ER Redevelopment – A steering committee was formed to lead the plans for the FFGH ER Redevelopment project. Stakeholder communication will be an important part of this project.
- Dental Caries – A brief presentation informed and educated the Board about the important issue of dental care, particularly in pre-school aged children within the Region. This has been an ongoing problem and a number of proactive strategies were shared that are targeting long-term solutions.

Board Monitoring Reports

Following review of the reports, the Board accepted monitoring reports of Board Policy EL-5 Emergency Executive Succession, EL-7 Patient Safety, EL-12 Information Systems, EL-13 Partnerships, EL-15 Accreditation, Quality Improvement and Risk Management and EL-17 Organizational Culture.

Finance Committee Report

Following a recommendation for approval by the Finance Committee, the Board accepted EL-4 Financial Condition Monitoring Report as well as the financial statements. The Board directed that a letter be sent to the Minister asking that the Region’s funding letter be provided forthwith to enable us to more accurately reflect our actual financial position. In addition, following a recommendation from the Committee, the Board approved the Terms of Reference Audit Committee.

Governance Committee Report

Following a recommendation by the Governance Committee, the Board approved the Terms of Reference for the Aboriginal Health and Human Resources Committee. In addition, following a recommendation from the Committee, the Board approved the Governance Manual in principle subject to an external edit process.

Patient Safety and Quality Committee

The Committee gave the Board an update on their work to date.

Corporate Risk Profile Framework

The Board received a presentation on the framework which outlined risk assessment, identification and mitigation strategies that the Region has adopted and employs.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Board meetings are open to the public (except in camera portions) & will rotate between the Region’s major centres. The Board will utilize Telehealth to reduce travel during the winter months & support Board members by making it easier to attend Board meetings closer to their home community. Upcoming meeting dates are:

Jan. 29, 2014	1:00 – 5:00 pm	Beatrice Wilson Health Centre at OCN	Regular Board Meeting
Feb. 26, 2014	1:00 – 5:00 pm	4 th Floor Boardroom, Flin Flon General Hospital,	Regular Board Meeting
March 26, 2014	1:00 – 5:00 pm	Thompson Regional Office Rm. 141 & 143	Regular Board Meeting