
Board Brief summarizes the board meetings of BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS). It is shared with BCEHS agencies, government, media and other stakeholders to keep them informed about the activities of BCEHS.

- BCEHS Board Briefs are available online at: <http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/ehsc/about/>
 - *Media contact:* BCEHS Communications at 250-953-3651
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Summary of February 20, 2014 Board Meeting

The BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) Board has six scheduled open board meetings per year. BCEHS is committed to holding open board meetings outside the Lower Mainland twice a year. The December 5, 2013 open board meeting was held in Vancouver.

Question & Answer / Public Presentation Period

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

Jay Brownlee, Vice President-Lower Mainland Region, BC Professional Fire Fighters Association, posed several questions to the board regarding the process and results of the Resource Allocation Plan update and future role of first responders in the pre-hospital health care system. The board, BCEHS staff and Mr. Brownlee discussed several aspects of the changes.

Are you available to meet with myself and Nine Leemhius (CAO) West Vancouver?

A meeting is being scheduled now between senior BCEHS staff, Mr. Brownlee and Ms. Leemhius.

When is BCEHS going to provide ability for municipalities to self-determine the level of medical response in their community?

BCEHS recognizes that there are divergent opinions within local governments and first responder groups, both rural and urban, regarding the level of medical response these entities wish to provide for their communities. The BCEHS consultation process that is currently underway with local governments aims to get clarity on this aspect of service delivery. The aim is to refine the provincial pre-hospital health care system by aligning the interests of individual municipalities and first responders with the services provided by BCEHS in order to provide the safest and best care possible for patients. BCEHS is aware that there are a number of local governments that wish to provide a higher level of service and what is sometimes referred to as 'comfort care' to their citizens.

When is BCEHS going to provide ability for municipal fire departments to access and utilize higher levels of medical training?

It is important that all pre-hospital care provided to patients throughout BC, by paramedics and first responders, meets provincial standards for quality of care and safety. BCEHS takes our statutory responsibility in this regard very seriously. BCEHS is working with several stakeholders, including first responders, to review our consent framework to ensure that we are providing first responders with the support and direction required to ensure optimal pre-hospital patient care. The details of the updated first responder consent framework will be available when the review is completed.

Can you please clarify the stakeholders on the RAP Committee?

BCEHS Board of Directors believes that changes to the provincial pre-hospital care system must be undertaken in a systematic manner, using evidence-based processes that consider the interests of key

partners, including first responders. Our goal is to provide the best care for patients while operating in a manner that is both effective and efficient.

Presentations

No presentations.

Board Committee Reports

The Quality & Access Committee reported there is a very high standard of excellence for accrediting emergency dispatch, through the Accredited Centre of Excellence (ACE) accreditation program. BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) has provided our submission to the National Academies of Emergency Dispatch and expects to hear the results of the review prior to March 31, 2014. If successful, BCAS would be the largest, most complex Dispatch Operation in Canada to be awarded the accolade. Board Members were encouraged to read the Infection Prevention and Control Program Update that was circulated in the committee package.

The Finance Committee advised that management reported on the financial results for Period 10, ending January 2, 2014. Management presented that BCEHS operated at a surplus of \$200,000 year-to-date and continues to forecast a balanced budget to the end of the year.

Next Meeting of the board in public is scheduled for April 24, 2014 in Vancouver.