

Board Briefs

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 December 8, 2016 Board Meeting

The BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) board has six scheduled open board meetings per year. The December 8, 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 for this meeting.
- No presentation requests were submitted.

Business Meeting

Presentation on the Opioid Crisis and the “Delta Nine” Event

Mr. Neil Lilley, Director of BCEHS Patient Care, Communications & Planning, provided a presentation on the methods used by dispatchers and paramedics in dealing with opioid overdoses across BC. He noted the demand for overdose responses has been increasing significantly for both Patient Care Communications and Planning and Patient Care Delivery, with fentanyl being the most common cause of overdose deaths.

Mr. Lilley and Mr. Dan McLeod, BCEHS Dispatch Supervisor, also described the circumstances of a unique occurrence on September 1, 2016, referred to as the “Delta Nine” event. Nine youths in a small geographic area in Delta had inadvertently taken drugs contaminated with fentanyl. The presenters described how all nine were saved due to the quick response and teamwork of a number of BCEHS staff. Mr. McLeod provided a review of the call process on that night, and emphasized how critical it is that patients receive assistance quickly.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Wynne Powell thanked all BCEHS staff for their dedication and commitment in the work they do every day and throughout the current overdose crisis.

New Business

Executive Update

With reference to the opioid crisis, Ms. Linda Lupini, BCEHS Executive VP, noted the provincial government has provided \$5 million in additional funding to help address the crisis. Ms. Lupini advised overdose tracking is showing Vancouver with the highest numbers, followed by Surrey and Victoria. BCEHS has been responding to more than 100 overdoses on some days, with the majority being in Vancouver.

Ms. Lupini also noted that sending ambulances to high acuity overdoses is affecting hospitals. She stated BCEHS has reached out to health authority partners, particularly Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal, to work with BCEHS to relieve pressures on the system. Satellite facilities are also being set up in high overdose areas.

Ms. Lupini also advised recruitment continues for a Chief Operating Officer for BCEHS. Ms. Barbara Fitzsimmons is serving as Interim Chief Operating Officer.

Board Committee Reports

Quality & Access Committee

Committee Chair Allan Ritchie reported BCEHS 911 call-processing times are slightly below target, but stable. He noted demand has increased and management is handling this well. Regarding Quality & Safety Goals, BCEHS successfully transferred 143 calls to HealthLink over the reporting period, resulting in no ambulance response being required for these calls.

Governance and Human Resources Committee

Committee Chair Lorraine McGrath advised that Vice Chair Tim Manning has been appointed BCEHS Chair effective January 1, 2017, leaving a vacancy in the office of Vice Chair. Allan Ritchie was elected unanimously by the BCEHS Board of Directors to the position of Vice Chair effective January 1, 2017. Mr. Ritchie abstained from voting.

Given these changes to the Board Chair and Vice-Chair positions, a review was conducted of the Committee Chair membership. The BCEHS Board of Directors voted unanimously to appoint Mr. Robert Kiesman as Chair of the Audit Committee, Mr. David Turchen as Chair of the Finance Committee, and Ms. Pauline Rafferty as Chair of the Governance & Human Resources Committee. Mr. Kiesman, Mr. Turchen and Ms. Rafferty abstained from voting.

There are no changes to the Chairs of the Quality & Access Committee (Allan Ritchie), and the Research Committee (George Peary).

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Tim Manning advised the BCEHS Financial Summary for the seven periods ending October 6, 2016 indicates BCEHS will end the fiscal year with a balanced budget.

Audit Committee

Committee Chair Pauline Rafferty advised of revisions to the Internal Audit Charter to: define the nature of consulting and advisory services performed by Internal Audit; and, to better define the scope exclusion regarding "specific clinical risk". This revised Internal Audit Charter for BCEHS was approved unanimously by the BCEHS Board of Directors.

Research Committee

Committee Chair George Peary advised the committee has reviewed in detail the 2015/16 Annual Metrics Reports for Practice Education and Research. He noted BCEHS plays a significant role in practice education as well as supporting collaborative research. Highlights:

- BCEHS provided 75,264 student hours of training for paramedics in the areas of advanced care, primary care and critical care as well as dispatch.
- BCEHS offered training for 20 primary care paramedic preceptors and seven advanced care paramedic preceptors.
- BCEHS accounts for approximately \$3 million of the nearly \$4 million estimated annual cost of training students across PHSA.
- In addition to participating in collaborative research, BCEHS provides unique data on emergency medical services and patient care through its participation in the Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (ROC). ROC is a clinical trial network focused on research in the area of pre-hospital cardiopulmonary arrest and severe traumatic injury.
- BCEHS is also participating in a cross-Canada study to determine the efficacy and safety of provision of an intravenous drug initiated by paramedics when patients have insufficient blood flow to the brain.

Other Business

Mr. Wynne Powell advised his term as Chair of BCEHS will conclude on December 31, 2016 and that Tim Manning will assume the Chairmanship in the New Year. Mr. Powell thanked the Board and staff for their commitment and dedication to the health of British Columbians. Mr. Manning, Vice Chair, thanked Mr. Powell for his 15 years of leadership and devotion in the role of Chair.

Ms. Lorraine McGrath's term also concludes on December 31, 2016 and she was thanked for her service.

Next meeting

Thursday February 23, 2017 in Vancouver.