



Board of Directors Regular Meeting

February 16, 2022 – 5:00 to 6:00 pm (held via Livestream)

Board Members

Doug Cochrane (chair)
Karen Hamling
Spring Hawes
Diane Jules
Selena Lawrie
Allan Louis
Cindy Popescul
Cindy Stewart

Resource Staff

Susan Brown, President & CEO
Diane Shendruk, VP Clinical Operations IH North
Debi Morris, MHSU Network Director
Dr. Sue Pollock, interim Chief Medical Health Officer

Guests

Item 2.1:
Kane Tse, President, Health Sciences Association (HSA)
David Bieber, Membership Services Coordinator (HSA)
Item 2.2:
Bob Hughes, CEO, ASK Wellness Society

Item		Discussion	Action & Person Responsible
1.0	CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm	
1.1	Territorial Acknowledgement	Chair Cochrane provided the Territorial Acknowledgement.	
1.2	Declaration of Conflict of Interest	There were no changes to the recorded conflicts of interest on file.	
1.3	Approval of Agenda	The Board of Directors adopted the agenda of February 16, 2022 as presented.	
2.0	NEW BUSINESS		
2.1	Health Sciences Association (HSA):	<p>Chair Cochrane introduced Mr. Kane Tse, President, HSA and Mr. David Bieber, Membership Services Coordinator, HSA.</p> <p>The purpose of today’s presentation is to provide the Board with information on health science professional shortages amongst the pandemic. Mr. Kane Tse presented. Highlights of the presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HSA represents over 20,000 health science and community social service professionals at over 250 hospitals, long-term care facilities, child development centres and non-profits. 	



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 and impact on pre-existing professional shortages among health science professionals. • Solutions to shortages include implementing targeted recruitment and retention measures; competitive wages with other provinces and the private sector (BC). <p>Questions and discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working together on recruitment and retention of staff. COVID-19 highlighted staffing challenges and it will be important to work together on strategies to address the issues. • Opportunities for clinical leadership roles within scope of practice. • Data related to clinical leadership opportunities, question was raised if that data is drawn provincially or is specific to each health authority. Talent management is an important consideration for succession planning, recruitment and retention. • HSA members are vital to the delivery of health care services. IH is proud to have allied health professionals working across the various sectors, including on IH leadership teams. IH will continue to welcome allied health professionals into leadership streams. <p>The Board acknowledged Mr. Tse and Mr. Biebers on their informative presentation and for making the time to attend this meeting.</p> <p>The presentation is available on the IH website, Board of Directors page, at www.interiorhealth.ca.</p>	
2.2	Partnership in Action: Interior Health and ASK Wellness	<p>Chair Cochrane introduced Mr. Bob Hughes, CEO, ASK Wellnes Society, Ms. Diane Shendruk, VP Clinical Operations IH North, and Ms. Debi Morris, MHSU Network Director, IH.</p> <p>The purpose of today’s presentation is to provide the Board with information on the partnership with Interior Health and the ASK Wellness Society to support marginalized and persons at risk in the interior region. Mr. Hughes and Ms.</p>	



		<p>Morris presented. Highlights of the presentation included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• An overview about ASK Wellness. Their vision is to work towards a society that recognizes the value and potential of each individual. ASK Wellness has been providing client-centered services for 30 years for marginalized and persons at risk, offering a variety of support programs across a continuum of streets, to homes, to health, to employment.• Homelessness, substance use and mental health are areas of focus for IH communities.• Collective impacts include a collaborative client centred approach, reduced hospitalization with community based care, critical partnership facing opiate, homelessness and pandemic concurrently, daily collaboration with ASK providing life-skills and housing and IH staff leading clinical care. ASK has expanded its housing portfolio to currently provide 735 units of housing across Kamloops, Merritt and Penticton.• This collaboration is an example of the positive impact on working in partnership with organizations to improve pathways from homelessness and substance misuse to recovery and engagement.• Helping people get into housing is the beginning with recovery and health care following.• The magnitude of the overdose crisis has further impacted the situation and more focused attention is needed in this area. <p>Questions and discussion points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communications and getting the message out about these services to the communities. It is important to engage across multiple sectors, and work together in partnership. There is focused attention provincially to continue to support this population.• Housing is important to the determinants of health, people need to live somewhere that is warm, dry and safe to reinstate their dignity and move forward with recovery and healing.	
--	--	--	--



		<p>The Board acknowledged the incredible services that ASK Wellness provides to the marginalized populations in IH communities, and is proud of the work that ASK and IH are doing in partnership to improve health outcomes of this population.</p> <p>Mr. Hughes and Ms. Morris were acknowledged for their informative presentation and for making the time to attend this meeting.</p> <p>The presentation is available on the IH website, Board of Directors page, at www.interiorhealth.ca.</p>	
3.0	STANDING REPORTS		
3.1	President & CEO	<p>Ms. Susan Brown provided an update. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This month has been challenging for IH due to increased positivity rates of COVID-19, which led to an increase in sick calls and affected health care services across the region. • Significant efforts have been focused on recruitment which will provide some stability for health services in rural areas. • The postponement of surgeries has been a concern for many people and IH acknowledges these concerns. Those people who had their surgeries postponed will be first in line and all efforts will be made to ensure people get their surgeries as quickly as possible. • IH will be home to 108 new nursing graduates. • 400 potential candidates registered recently during the IH Digital Career Fair. • The COVID-19 vaccination campaign continues with a number of clinics in various communities still open so that the public can receive the first, second or booster doses. • The capital project at Royal Inland Hospital (RIH) is within a few months of opening. An indigenous artist has been engaged to lead the creation of a cultural wall in the new tower. 	



3.2	Board Chair	<p>Chair Doug Cochrane provided an update. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The past six weeks have been incredibly challenging due to the direct and indirect impacts of the Omicron virus. On behalf of the Board, we wish to acknowledge IH staff, and those communities who have been considerate of what needed to be done to ensure the safety and well-being of our patients and staff. • The health authority board chairs meet regularly and a particular area of focus is on anti-indigenous racism and the actions to be taken to address the In Plain Sight report. There is a coordinated effort provincially to move this important work forward. • The chairs are also focused on pandemic recovery; specifically, Health Human Resources, Primary Care, and Long-Term Care. • The health authorities and the Ministry of Health are working together to define priority items for 2022 and 2023. <p>Question received on line: Q: Will the role of patient ambassadors at acute care and long-term care facilities continue as we go forward? A: Ms. Brown noted that the ambassador role was a new role implemented due to the pandemic. This role helped to support the safety of patients, clients and staff. These roles will continue to be in place for the foreseeable future in acute care and long-term care settings.</p> <p>Chair Cochrane closed the meeting and thanked everyone for participating.</p>	
4.0	ADJOURNMENT – the meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm. The next meeting will take place on June 15, 2022.		