



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 2006  
COAST DISCOVERY INN  
975 SHOPPERS' ROW, CAMPBELL RIVER, BC**

Present: Jac Kreut, Chair  
Woody Hayes  
Don Carlow  
Ellen Godfrey  
Michael Costello  
Brian Stamp  
Brenda Nunns Shoemaker  
Linda Petch  
Ed Robinson

Staff Present: Howard Waldner  
Mike Conroy  
Dr. Glen Lowther  
Michelle Stewart  
Lynn Stevenson  
Dr. Charmaine Enns  
Janet Shute  
Monique Hebert, Recorder

1. Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda

Chair Kreut called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. It was noted that a quorum was present. He welcomed the members of the public in attendance and roundtable introductions of the Board were made.

The agenda was adopted as circulated. Chair Kreut noted that included with the President & CEO's Report will be a presentation from Dr. Charmaine Enns, Medical Health Officer, on Water Quality and Safety.

The minutes of May 31, 2006 were adopted as circulated.

2. Health Quality Committee

Director Nunns Shoemaker indicated that the Board wished to publicly note the sad passing of Dr. Howard Dyan, the Executive Medical Director for Quality and Patient Safety. He was well respected as a physician and his work on quality and patient safety, and will be deeply missed by his family, friends and co-workers at VIHA.

Director Nunns Shoemaker gave an overview of the issues discussed at the two meetings yesterday:

- System Capacity Update - At the forefront of priorities for VIHA are access, timeliness and safety. The Committee has a standing agenda item to review system performance and risk mitigation strategies associated with patient flow including:

- Emergency Department Wait Time Targets at Victoria General Hospital being met, due in part to the introduction of the Over Capacity Protocol at that site two months ago. The Over Capacity Protocol involves balancing congestion in the Emergency Department across the hospital in-patient units rather than leaving admitted patients in the Emergency Department. The protocol is being rolled out at other sites over the next few months. An update will be provided to the Committee at its September meeting.
- Both Campbell River and Cowichan District Hospitals continue to experience higher Alternate Level of Care (ALC) rates. Strategies to address this pressure continue to be implemented, including, in the longer term, the construction of new residential care facilities in these communities, slated to open in 2008. .
- Heart Catheterization Lab – VIHA provides a Centre for Excellence in cardiac care. Waittimes have increased, due in part to changing and aging population demographics, and accordingly, VIHA is now just outside the benchmark 6 week wait time for scheduled angioplasty. Staff will be expanding operating hours to address the waitlist while management works with the Provincial Health Services Authority to address the increase in demand.
- CT wait times in Campbell River and the Comox Valley are lower than the VIHA average and within the VIHA target.
- Presentations to the Committee – Allison Cutler, Executive Director for Chronic Disease Management/Medicine/Primary Health Care and Dr. Brian Weinerman, Medical Director for Medicine presented their Annual Report to the Committee. As the Committee had just received the Primary Health Care & Chronic Disease Management plans in March, the focus of the presentation was on Medicine and the Quality Improvement Structures implemented for that portfolio. The Committee was pleased with the progress to date. The Committee asked for a VIHA-wide action plan to increase staff influenza immunization rates for this coming season. It is well documented that immunization against influenza increases wellness of staff and decreases risk to patients and clients.
- The Committee received an update on VIHA's activities, as well as a number of federally funded initiatives, with respect to the health of Aboriginal populations and looks forward to further updates in the future. It is great to see increased collaboration between the health authorities and First Nations groups.
- An Incident Reporting Policy has been developed.

It was MOVED, SECONDED and CARRIED that the Board endorse the Incident Reporting Policy as circulated.

- Water Safety – Dr. Richard Stanwick and Dr. Charmaine Enns provided fascinating and descriptive presentations of two water systems – one

protected and one un-protected. As the Chair noted at the start of the meeting, Dr. Enns will be giving a presentation on the Comox Valley Water System later in the meeting.

- Luncheon with Medical Staff – The Committee held a very productive meeting with medical staff from this area.

It was queried what the Board could do to encourage increased staff participation across the health authority with respect to immunization against influenza. Mr. Waldner advised that management will be requesting Clinical Leaders to develop strategies to increase compliance in their respective areas. Scheduled and roaming immunization clinics will be conducted. Management is confident that next year's compliance rate will be increased.

It was queried what issues the local medical staff brought forward at the meeting. Director Nunns Shoemaker advised that a number of issues were brought forward including:

- Manpower Group Sizes
- Recruitment Challenges
- Emergency Department Design
- Complexities for funding for staff in Mental Health and Addiction Services
- E-Health Record
- Telehealth
- Portable MRI Service
- Future for Acute Care Services in Campbell River/Comox Valley

3. Governance and Human Resources Committee

Director Stamp advised that there was nothing new to report since the May meeting.

4. Finance and Audit Committee

Director Robinson advised that the Committee met yesterday.

- Financial Results were reviewed for Period 3. Confirmation has not yet been received from government regarding final funding. Quarterly financial results are published on the VIHA website.
- Statistical Performance Report comparison to the same period last year revealed the following:
  - 17% increase in Knee Replacements
  - 6% increase in Hip Replacements
  - 40% increase in Assisted Living Units
- IM-IT Update – Review of current IM-IT projects is a standing agenda item. The Committee reviews each project to ensure it is within budget, on schedule and the degree to which the project is meeting its original

objectives. The Committee is satisfied with the action plans in place for all projects.

- Policy Review – The Committee reviewed a number of policies including Amalgamation and Transfer, Investment Management, Spending Authority and Strategic Procurement. The Committee endorsed all policies subject to recommended amendments.

#### 5. Committee of the Whole

Director Petch advised that four significant items were on this Committee's agenda for review:

- 2006 Accreditation Leadership & Partnership Standards – VIHA is on a rolling Accreditation schedule. The teams up for review this year were last reviewed three years ago. The Canadian Council for Health Services Accreditation evaluates the quality of the organization's services against national standards. The CCHSA Accreditation Survey Team will do a site visit in October, to be followed up with a report.
- Comox Strathcona Consultation Process - Significant time was spent directing management on what further information the Board will require when reviewing the options, before a decision is made at the September Board Meeting. Patients will be front and centre in the Board's decision making process – Patient Quality and Safety – Sustainability – Access – Equity
- Foundations/Auxiliaries – There are 12 Foundations within VIHA, all of which are non-profit organizations governed by volunteer boards. Due to time constraints, a preliminary discussion was held regarding the process to strengthen VIHA's relationship with its Foundations and Auxiliaries, and there will be further discussion on the matter in the next few months.
- External Stakeholder Survey – VIHA recognizes the importance of community engagement and awareness. 114 community groups comprised of community leaders and groups were requested to complete a survey, and 61% responded. The Board reviewed a summary of the responses received in detail. Some of the feedback has already been addressed, such as the Board's Open House following the General Board meeting, a new Quarterly CEO Report for stakeholders, and increased consultation and communication with communities and their leaders (ie Mt. Waddington Consultations).

#### 6. President & CEO Report

Mr. Waldner provided a brief overview of consultations in the North Island with respect to key components of the Strategic Plan.

Dr. Charmaine Enns provided an informative presentation regarding the Comox Lake Watershed and the risks inherent with a watershed that is not protected

and utilized for a multitude of purposes including recreation, industrial and hydro provision. She stressed the need for all stakeholders to work collaboratively to mitigate the risks as water quality tests are demonstrating a decline in water quality for this particular watershed.

Chair Kreut thanked Dr. Enns for her presentation and noted that many people are not aware that Health Protection is also within the mandate of the VIHA Board.

## 7. Presentations

### Timber West

Domenico Iannidinardo was welcomed and introduced to the meeting. Domenico advised that he is a Resource Specialist for Timber West and circulated a package of information to Board Members outlining various activities of Timber West to mitigate risks to the environment, including the Comox Lake Watershed, of which Timber West is a major land owner. He provided an overview of the various legislations under which they are governed.

Mr. Iannidinardo thanked the Board the opportunity to present to the Board and advised that healthy dialogue with VIHA staff is already under way and there will continue to be a shared commitment to maintaining drinking water quality.

Chair Kreut thanked Mr. Iannidinardo and advised that VIHA looks forward to working with Timber West, and other companies, in finding ways to keep drinking water safe for the citizens of the health authority in all communities.

### Medical Services in Port Alice

Chair Kreut welcomed Jim Overland to the meeting and advised that the Board had been to Port Alice a year ago and heard the community's concerns directly at that time. Mr. Overland provided an overview of concerns he has with respect to the delivery of health services in his community including:

- physician recruitment and retention
- access to services in other Mt. Waddington communities
- palliative care
- laboratory services
- travel
- RN recruitment and retention

Mr. Overland provided an update on the status of the mill operations.

Chair Kreut queried what the population of the community is now. Mr. Overland advised approximately 800 with approximately 100 more coming daily to work.

Mr. Waldner advised that Mike Conroy and Dr. Glen Lowther would review the information provided today and will respond directly or through Dr. Levis. By way of information, physicians are not employed by VIHA, they are independent practitioners governed by the rules negotiated between the BC Medical Association and government. The clinic in Port Alice is owned by a physician that resides in the Lower Mainland. Further discussions will be held with him.

Increasing Public Input on Options for Acute Care Services in North Island

Jo Taylor was welcomed to the meeting. Ms. Taylor will be presenting to the Board on behalf of Juanita Munroe who is unable to attend. Ms. Taylor outlined concerns regarding the consultation process with respect to the Options for Acute Care Services in North Island.

Mr. Waldner noted that VIHA is aware how challenging this issue is for everyone and he provided an overview of the numerous methods by which input was sought from community members over the past nine months. A summary of the most recent feedback received during the Town Hall meeting and Open Houses held in June will be posted on the VIHA website shortly.

Chair Kreut thanks Ms. Taylor for her presentation on behalf of Ms. Munroe. The Board plans to make a decision on a preferred option to put forward as a recommendation to government at its September meeting.

8. Questions and Answers

Chair Kreut noted that there were a number of questions submitted and the written responses had been distributed at the meeting, and will be posted on our website at [www.viha.ca](http://www.viha.ca).

10. Other Business:

Mayor MacDonnell, of the City of Campbell River, presented a trophy to President & CEO, Howard Waldner, in recognition of VIHA staff winning the 10,000 Steps Challenge between the two organizations.

11. Adjournment:

Chair Kreut noted that in response to feedback received, the Board would now be holding a one-hour open house following each Board meeting. He invited everyone to join the Board and senior staff for refreshments and discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.