



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
GENERAL BOARD MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2011  
WESTERLY HOTEL  
1590 CLIFF AVENUE, COURTENAY, BC**

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**Directors** Don Hubbard, Chair  
Present: Frank Carson  
Michael Costello  
Shelley Garside  
Ellen Godfrey  
David Kruyt  
Brenda Nunns Shoemaker  
Vern Slaney

**Staff** Howard Waldner  
Present: Catherine Mackay  
Richard Crow  
Neil Sweeney  
Bill Boomer  
Georgina MacDonald  
Ann Bozoian  
Janet Shute, Recorder

Regrets: Hans van de Sande

1. Call to Order

Chair Hubbard called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm. He confirmed that a quorum was present and welcomed the elected officials and members of the public in attendance.

Roundtable introductions of the Board were made.

The agenda was adopted as circulated.

The minutes of November 24, 2010 were adopted as circulated.

Chair Hubbard noted that this was Brenda Nunns Shoemaker's last meeting, after serving the VIHA Board for the past nine years, and VIHA's predecessor organization, the Capital Health Region, prior to that. He acknowledged Brenda's passion and tireless support of quality health care, and thanked her for her many years of contributions.

Chair Hubbard also acknowledged the work that the former Board Chair, Jac Kreut, did to support and improve health care on Vancouver Island.

2. Health Quality Committee

Director Nunns Shoemaker noted that the Health Quality Committee held its regular meeting on Tuesday, January 26<sup>th</sup>.

- We received the semi-annual update from the Population & Community Health portfolio, and heard an excellent presentation on the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Victoria General Hospital, which is a tertiary program providing services to children across the Island.

- We also received the semi-annual update from the Quality, Research and Safety portfolio, and a presentation on the new Patient Safety Learning System. VIHA has been working towards implementing an electronic system to record incidents and provide robust summaries for learning. The Board is very pleased to see the implementation of this system across the organization, which is having a positive impact on improving patient care.
- We also had some focused discussion on Infection Prevention and Control, and the on-going work in this area.
- We received an annual update from the Chief Medical Officer, which included an overview of the Medical Advisory structure in VIHA. The co-management model VIHA has in place ensures strong involvement of physicians, and there are currently 159 physician leaders across the organization.
- At each meeting the committee reviews issues impacting VIHA's ability to provide accessible, timely, safe, and high-quality healthcare services. This month included an update on the Enrolment of Aboriginal Students in the Island Medical Program, which has been very successful; Surgical Wait Times, for which VIHA continues to meet Ministry of Health performance targets with respect to hip replacement, knee replacement and cataract surgery; and Patient Flow and Capacity Management, which continues to be a challenge across VIHA, and in other jurisdictions across the province, as well as across Canada. VIHA has undertaken a number of initiatives to mitigate the seasonal surge of activity we are currently experiencing.

### 3. Governance & Human Resources Committee

Director Slaney reported that the committee had a relatively short meeting on Tuesday afternoon that focused on governance issues, including the annual review of the governance manual, and a review of the Board Evaluation Questionnaire. The Board will be completing its annual evaluation in February, and reviewing the results at our March meeting. A copy of the questionnaire is available on our website for anyone interested in reviewing the document.

### 4. Finance & Audit Committee

Director Costello noted that the committee met on Tuesday afternoon.

- We reviewed the Period 9 Financial Results. VIHA is currently projecting a small surplus by fiscal year-end.
- The committee also received an update on the budget process that is currently underway for the next fiscal year. More information on this process will come forward at our next meeting.
- Annually the committee receives an update on the status of VIHA's investment portfolio and reviews the investment policy. No changes are required to the policy at this time, and the committee is satisfied with the rate of return on investments as compared to benchmark indices.

- At each meeting the committee reviews the status of Major IM/IT Projects to ensure they are within budget, on schedule, and the degree to which the project is meeting its original objectives. The committee continues to be satisfied with the action plans in place for all projects.
- The committee receives regular reports and updates from the Director of Internal Audit, and there are no areas of concern with respect to this on-going work.
- At each meeting the committee also reviews the status of major capital projects. VIHA currently has two major capital projects underway. The new Patient Care Centre at Royal Jubilee Hospital continues to be on-time and on-budget. The building is now substantially complete, and on target for admission of patients in March 2011. The new Emergency Department at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital is in the early stages of construction and is also on-time and on-budget.

## 5. Committee of the Whole

Director Kruyt advised that the Committee of the Whole met on Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the Committee of the Whole is to provide an opportunity for the Board to discuss strategic matters related to planning, quality and enterprise risk management.

- We received a semi-annual update on the major strategic challenges facing the organization and the mitigation strategies identified and underway to address gaps.
- We also did a more focused review of the work plan for Emergency Preparedness in VIHA, to ensure systems are in place in the event of any type of emergency or disaster.
- VIHA is in the process of preparing for our Accreditation Survey in April 2011, and the Board reviewed the current status of work underway across the organization, as well as reviewing the Governance Standards for which we are responsible, to ensure our work remains on track and that the Board is prepared for the upcoming site visit.

## 6. Presentation by President & CEO, Howard Waldner

Howard welcomed Don Hubbard, the new Chair, and Frank Carson, a new member, to the VIHA Board. He noted that they both have great experience which will help VIHA continue to move forward.

The Board last met in the Comox Valley two years ago, when we presented our two hospital vision to the community, and a lot has happened since then:

- The Comox-Strathcona Regional Hospital District approved their share of funding for the hospitals project.
- The Provincial Government changed the way major projects overseen. The Project Board has been formed, and Grant Hollett from VIHA's Planning Department was named the Project Director.
- As previously announced, a site was selected in Campbell River.

- A Consultant Team has been selected to help prepare the business case to be submitted to Government.
- With respect to the site of the Comox Valley Hospital, VIHA looked at a number of sites in and around the Comox Valley, and we are pleased to advise that a preferred site for the new proposed Comox Valley Hospital is in Courtenay, on Ryan Road in the Crown Isle community area.
- Grant Hollett will be given a more detailed presentation on this later in the meeting.
- We recently learned that Michael Pontus, President & CEO for St. Joseph's General Hospital in Comox, is planning to retire in the summer. We recognize that with his retirement will go a tireless supporter of health care for the Comox Valley, and we wish him and his family all the best in the future.
- St. Joseph's Hospital has a great group of staff and physicians who work hard every day to take care of their patients, and I am confident that the issues surrounding Accreditation status are being addressed. I want to assure the public that VIHA is doing everything we can to support St. Joseph's in their return to accredited status.
- As with all Island communities, there are mental health and addictions issues in the Comox Valley. This year, an additional \$100,000 in base funding was provided to the Comox Valley to support women's detox beds, as well as mental health peer support. Over the coming year, an additional \$285,000 will be added to the Comox Valley mental health budget. This is in addition to the \$215,000 that will be added to support mental health and addictions work in Campbell River. We know that communities outside of Nanaimo and Victoria have been underserved and we are taking steps to provide new and better mental health services across the Island.
- The Oceanside Primary Health Care Centre is another very exciting project that will bring new primary and urgent care services to the Parksville-Qualicum area, and we are very pleased to announce that the proposed Oceanside Primary Health Care Centre will be located at Trillium Lodge in Parksville, subject to approval by the Ministry to subdivide this land to allow for new construction.

#### 7. Presentation – North Island Health Services Update

Grant Hollett gave a presentation on the North Island Health Services. A copy of the presentation is posted on the website at:

[http://www.viha.ca/about\\_viha/board\\_of\\_directors/meetings/minutes.htm](http://www.viha.ca/about_viha/board_of_directors/meetings/minutes.htm)

#### 8. Presentations

Wachiay Friendship Centre Re: Aboriginal Liaison Nurse and First Nations and Urban Aboriginal Consultation for North Island Hospitals – Roger Kishi & Cora Beddows

Roger Kishi acknowledged the traditional territories of the K'omoks First Nation. He noted that Wachiay is one of five Friendship Centres on Vancouver Island. When the Comox Valley Urban Aboriginal Health Strategy was developed in March 2009

and one of the key issues identified was access. As a result of this work a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in June 2009 to confirm the intent to establish an Aboriginal Liaison Nurse position in the Comox Valley. He was very pleased to recently be advised that the funding for this position will be available in the next fiscal year, and he looks forward to the establishment of this position to assist people in navigating the sometimes complex health system.

With respect to the engagement process for the North Island Hospitals, meetings have been held with Grant Hollett to develop a process for Urban and Aboriginal participation, and he is very pleased to see the commitment for respectful and transparent consultation over the next few months.

Cora Beddows noted that the Wachiy Friendship Centre is very pleased to be able to partner with VIHA on a number of health initiatives, and she hopes that the strong working relationship and partnership that has been developed continues.

Chair Hubbard thanked Roger Kishi and Cora Beddows for their presentation.

#### Continuing Care Fees Regulation – Marco Costa

Mr. Costa thanked the Board for the opportunity to make a presentation today. He is concerned about the looming number of baby-boomers who are about to retire, the claims that seniors will put an undue weight on health systems, and that these systems are not prepared to handle their needs. This messaging has a negative effect on seniors and other segments of the population. If we put more money into home and community care, involve ourselves with providing families the opportunity to stay at home as long as possible and direct people to seek assistance with their finances it would help ease the burden on seniors.

Chair Hubbard thanked Mr. Costa for taking the time to share his viewpoints with the Board.

#### 9. Questions & Answers

Chair Hubbard noted that written Questions & Answers, submitted in advance of the meeting, were distributed with the agenda, and will be posted on the VIHA website. He opened the floor for questions from the public.

- Tom Davies, on behalf of the Federation of Oceanside Residents' Association, thanked the Board for the significant announcement today regarding the location of the new Oceanside Primary Health Care Centre. This is a significant step forward and they look forward to this work progressing.
- The title of Grant Hollett's presentation was North Island Health Services, and yet the focus was on acute care. A functional plan was completed in 2006 that identified the need for new space for public and community health, and it queried whether this was being taken into consideration.

Howard Waldner advised that one of the benefits of selecting a large site for the new proposed Comox Valley Hospital is that it provides the opportunity to look at the alignment of community services in an adjacent commercial building. This will be taken into consideration and plans move forward.

- It would be nice to see St. Joseph's involve front-line staff in the accreditation work the way VIHA has involved its front-line staff.

Chair Hubbard noted that while VIHA does fund St. Joseph's Hospital, they have their own management and Board, and we cannot get involved in the day to day operations, except when we are invited to assist them.

- Why, if the Department of Psychiatry at St. Joseph's Hospital is going to be moved to Campbell River, has there been no consultation with staff.

Howard Waldner advised that, in the initial planning it was determined that, for a variety of reasons, the largest in-patient component for Mental Health would be in Campbell River. This does not mean that there will not be any psychiatric services in Comox. As outlined in the presentation earlier, we are just moving to consultation on the specific details of services to be provided at each hospital.

- It is great to hear that there will be some regional services at both of the new hospitals, since that has always been the situation. It was queried whether the current existing hospital services will be included in the business plan.

Howard Waldner advised that VIHA has stated publicly many times that it is the health authority's intent that both communities continue to have a hospital providing a range of services that currently exist, such as emergency and day surgery, and that higher levels of sub-specialty services will only be provided at one site, with the majority of those in the Comox Valley.

- There has been a lot of controversy about the proposal to centralize Microbiology Services and it was queried what type of consultation process would be undertaken to look at this issue.

Three physicians from outside of VIHA have been contracted to complete an independent review on the impact of any changes to Microbiology Services. The physicians engaged to do this review were agreed upon by the medical staff in both Campbell River and Nanaimo. We anticipate receiving the results from this review towards the end of March or early April.

- It is hoped that the consultation process on the North Island Hospitals will include people from Mt. Waddington, as they often use the hospitals in both Campbell River and Comox.

Howard Waldner advised that Grant Hollett has already connected with the Mt. Waddington Health Network to seek input from that group.

- David Ridley took a moment to recognize the significant contribution that Brenda Nunns Shoemaker has made to health quality on Vancouver Island in the 9 years she has served on the VIHA Board, and the previous time she spent on the Capital Health Region Board.
- End of Life Care on the North Island is a concern and does not appear to have been addressed.

Howard Waldner noted that as we consult on where services will be located, it is intended that End of Life Care would be located at the current St. Joseph's Hospital, as well as primary and complex care. Discussions are still on-going, but that is the intent.

#### 10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm and members of the public were invited to join the Board and Executive at the open house.