



Our Vision: Healthy People, Healthy Island Communities, Seamless Service

October 21, 2011

Dear Mount Waddington Health Services Stabilization - Local Working Group (LWG) Member:

Please accept our sincere appreciation and thanks for agreeing to participate on this important Committee. We acknowledge that this is not an easy task, and that there is not one simple answer, but by working together we can develop lasting, long term solutions that reflect local realities. We have the utmost faith in the members and co-Chairs of the LWG to meet this challenge.

Stuart Culbertson (the contracted Facilitator) has developed a Draft Terms of Reference that outlines the Goal and Mandate for the LWG. To add to that, we take this opportunity to highlight our Board and Executive commitments to the citizens of Mount Waddington, given at the Board Meeting in September:

- VIHA commits to keep all three acute care sites open (no Hospital closures).
- VIHA commits to finding solutions to keep all three acute Emergency Rooms open 24/7/365, although, we recognize this may not always be possible until physician manpower and staffing issues are resolved.
- VIHA commits to the creation of both a Physician and a Staff Recruitment and Retention Strategy for the Mount Waddington area.
- VIHA commits to the collaborative development of an improved Primary Health Care model for Mount Waddington, to include a single site multi-disciplinary primary health care clinic to include new investment for Nurse Practitioners, if that contributes to the model.

We would ask that all recommendations coming forth from the LWG reflect these commitments. In addition, all recommendations must respect the current provincial Physician Master Agreement (PMA) or provincial Collective Agreements.

In order to assist the LWG in its work, VIHA Executive has endorsed the formation of an Executive Steering Committee that we will Chair (comprised of Victoria Power, Dr. Ron Hiebert, Doug Blackie and Dr. Taj Baidwan) to receive regular reports from the LWG. The Steering Committee will be tasked with removing barriers and expediting decisions promptly. Your Co-Chairs will meet with this group every month to ensure forward movement on your work plans.

Given the above-noted commitments from the VIHA Board and Executive, it is possible that the future service models and recruitment/retention plans will require additional operational and/or capital investments in order to implement, even after redistribution of existing resources based on population health needs.

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The VIHA Board and Executive have committed to make any investment recommendations a priority when additional funding opportunities arise (e.g. yearly budgeting process, provincial funding opportunities, etc.).

We hope you find this information helpful as you embark in this important work. On behalf of the VIHA Board and Executive, we again thank you for committing to this process and look forward to receiving your reports and recommendations over the coming months.

Regards,



Allison Cutler
Executive Director
Population & Community Health

Regards,



Dr. Robert (Bob) Burns
Executive Medical Director
Population & Community Health

cc: Alison Mitchell, Co-Chair Mount Waddington Health System Stabilization LWG
Dr. Richard Scragg, Co-Chair, Mount Waddington Health System Stabilization LWG
Victoria Power, Director, Primary Health Care, Chronic Disease Management and Rural Health Services
Dr. Ron Hiebert, Medical Director, Rural Health Services