



Annual General Meeting - July 6, 2021

Report from the Ad Hoc Public Engagement Committee (2020-21)

The Public Engagement Committee was established to support the Board in fulfilling its mandate to provide governance oversight related to Nova Scotia Health's legislated role for public engagement. This includes the integration of public engagement into health services planning and delivery, and the inclusion of the community, patient/family and stakeholder voices in the strategy and direction of the organization including communications planning.

In the past year, the Public Engagement Committee:

- Provided governance oversight and support to the many communications and engagement requirements related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- Oversaw strategic relationships and partnerships with community, government, and other stakeholders to support the organization's strategic objectives, including its relationship with Community Health Boards
- Supported communications and engagement activities related to the restructuring of Nova Scotia Health to ensure better alignment of resources to zone operations and a structure that supports local connections with community partners and local health teams
- Developed a board engagement plan that includes virtual modes of engagement and recognizes the necessity to engage with diverse, disadvantaged and under-represented populations
- Supported the engagement of patients and families in the delivery of health services to improve the patient experience or patient experiences
- Supported the President and CEO with engaging in discussions with staff, physicians and partners to better understand how systemic racism and health inequity impacts all facets of Nova Scotia Health, and to create a path forward for addressing the barriers experienced by Black, Indigenous and People of Colour.
- Initiated a review of the Community Health Boards to assess boundaries, processes, relationships, and structure

Committee Membership during 2020-21:

David Graham (Chair), Stephen Augustine, Dr. OmiSoore Dryden (non-director committee member, voting), Beryl MacDonald, Ed MacDonald, Sheila Sears, Frank van Schaayk (Board Chair, ex-officio, voting), Dr. Brendan Carr (President & CEO, ex-officio, non-voting), Krista Grant (VP, Communications, Public Engagement and Stakeholder Relations, non-voting)

Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Sears, Chair, Public Engagement Committee