

Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, January 23, 2019
NSHA Provincial Offices, Halifax, NS

Discussion Highlights

Nova Scotia Health Authority's Board of Directors met on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at the NSHA Provincial Offices in Halifax. The following outlines the highlights of the Board's discussions:

- The Governance Committee brought forward a Board Evaluation Framework. The framework provides an overview of all recommended board evaluation tools and processes to support and further the vision, mission and values of NSHA. The framework outlines the frequency of evaluation and the process by which data is obtained, analyzed and how the results are reported back to the Board. The surveys are consistent with Accreditation Canada Governance Standards.
- The Board heard from a Health System Impact Fellow whose work is focused on the development of a policy framework for population health. The purpose of the presentation was to outline for the Board of Directors the relevance of this policy framework to NSHA's mandate; share the components of the framework; outline the current activities underway to support implementation; and, to seek the Board's feedback. The Board will receive updates as the development of the framework continues.
- As part of its meeting package, the Board of Directors received a report from the President and CEO which included a narrative on key activities in support of NSHA's strategic plan and business plan, and issues being addressed; a progress report on the President and CEO's goals and objectives for current year 2018-19; and, a summary report on the previously approved Board key priority indicators.
- In addition, the Board received detailed updates on the following priority areas:
 - Need a Family Practice Registry
 - As of January 1, 2019, 52,680 individuals were on this list; a decrease of 6,252 from the previous month. Approximately 61,299 people in Nova Scotia have found a primary care provider through the Need a Family Practice registry (to the end of December 2018).
 - Research and Innovation
 - A team of NSHA researchers has benefited from Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) funding to conduct evaluation of point of care MRI testing in an emergency room. This is a significant project for NSHA as it brings together NSHA scientists and clinicians with Dalhousie University and business partners.

- Leading Practice
 - NSHA’s patient and family stories process which is used to bring a patient focus to discussions and meetings has been recognized by Accreditation Canada as a leading practice.
- Recruitment
 - Recruitment and retention strategies are key to a healthy, high-performing workplace. As of January 3, 2019, 30 graduating nurses have received conditional hire letters; 325 interviews have been completed and 187 more are in progress. The Nurse Practitioner Education Incentive Program, announced by government in the fall will have candidates supporting Shelburne, Cape Breton County and Inverness County.
- QEII New Generation Project
 - The projects within the QEII New Generation Project continue to move forward on-time and on budget.
 - Functional programming status.
- Cape Breton Redevelopment Project
 - The project team is in place and over 20 meetings with key stakeholders have been held.
 - Overview of the physician and clinical co-lead teams; and, announcement that Dr. Kevin Orrell is joining the Cape Breton Redevelopment team as the senior medical director for the project.
 - Functional planning is being completed.
- As part of the iterative development process of the 2019-20 Quality and Sustainability Plan, the Board continued its discussion around determining priorities.
- The current Strategic Plan is set to expire in 2019. The Board received an update on the Strategic Plan refresh which will take the plan to 2022. NSHA is asking for insights and feedback from staff, physicians, volunteers, learners and stakeholders including the public to build on our existing plan, reaffirm the organization’s values and the third strategic priority. Based on feedback received strategic directions one and two will remain the same, and the third direction will be strengthened to better reflect a focus on the determinants of health and health outcomes. There are various opportunities and methods to engage with internal and external stakeholders throughout the refresh process.
- An update on NSHA’s physician recruitment activities since the last meeting was provided, including a report that as of December 31, 2018, 107 physicians have started practice in Nova Scotia in this fiscal year, representing 51 family physicians and 56 specialists. Other key activities were reviewed and discussed including efforts to fill the recruitment team vacancies.