



Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

Membertou Trade and Convention Centre, Sydney NS

Discussion Highlights

Nova Scotia Health Authority's Board of Directors met on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at the Membertou Trade and Convention Centre in Sydney. The following outlines the highlights of the Board's discussions:

- The Finance and Audit Committee brought forward an updated committee terms of reference that strengthens the committee's oversight around the efficient and effective use of NSHA financial resources, internal and external audit processes, accounting practices, business planning, financial reporting, risk management and internal controls. In addition, a terms of reference for the newly formed Investment Committee was brought forward and approved by the Board.
- The Board received a report from the Governance Committee regarding the plans for the 2018/19 Annual General Meeting (AGM). The theme of this year's AGM is *Quality Through Caring*. The meeting will be held in Truro on July 10, 2019.
- 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 2018-19; and, a summary report on the previously approved Board key priority indicators.
- The Vice President and Chief, Zone Operations has been hired. Darlene Mackinnon will start in this role on June 3, 2019. Darlene will provide focused attention to zone and site leadership and related operational issues to strengthen decision-making and provide role clarity between local, zone and executive leadership, as well as between zone leadership and provincial program leadership.
- An update on NSHA's physician recruitment and retention activities since the last meeting was provided to the Board. In February, 5 physicians started practice, for a total of 125 physicians starting to date this fiscal year. This equates to a 21% increase over the previous fiscal year. 57 of these are family physicians, and 68 are specialists. \$200,000 to support physician recruitment in communities was announced in the Province's 2019-20 budget as part of the Culture Innovation Fund. The previous four months (Nov-Feb) each showed a reduction in unattached patients versus the previous month.

- The Board received a fulsome overview of the process, strategies and risks related to ambulance offloads, emergency department overcrowding and patient flow. Ambulance offload times are a priority for NSHA, and activities, metrics and outcomes will be closely monitored. The Board passed a motion related to the tracking of the timelines of policy development and implementation, performance metrics and communications.
- A detailed overview of the Continuing Care System in Nova Scotia was provided to the Board. The presentation highlighted the services, funding, roles, initiatives, and wait times within the Continuing Care Program. A number of research projects related to improving the quality of care throughout the continuing care client's journey were noted. The Board engaged in a detailed discussion to broaden their understanding of the program, opportunities, risks and strategies.
- The Board continued its discussion around priorities for the 2019-20 Quality and Sustainability Plan and related discussions with the Department of Health and Wellness.
- Representatives from the Eastern Zone Community Health Boards (CHBs) presented an overview of the nine CHBs in the Eastern Zone, highlighting the diversity and geography of the zone, health planning, priorities, wellness funds and successes. The Board also heard about the challenges faced by the CHBs and areas requiring support.
- The Board welcomed representatives from the Eastern Zone foundations and the group engaged in a conversation regarding how to optimize working relationships and collaborate efforts around supporting healthy people and healthy communities. The opportunity to collaborate and share good news stories with the media and public was a focus of the discussion. The foundations offered their support in the long-term planning of the health system.