NEW WESTMINSTER - Fraser Health held an open meeting of its Board of Directors on November 10, 2011 at Royal Columbian Hospital. The Board received an update from Fraser Health President & CEO Dr. Nigel Murray and heard several presentations related to Royal Columbian Hospital – B.C.’s first hospital.

CEO Progress Update

Dr. Nigel Murray gave a presentation to the Board of Directors on three strategies underway to ensure patients get the services they need in B.C.’s largest and fastest growing region:

1. **Access and Flow**: By becoming more efficient in its operations and eliminating unnecessary waste, Fraser Health can improve access for patients and lead to better health outcomes. One example is reducing patient length of stay by just one day to make additional hospital bed capacity available. Dr. Murray highlighted several strategies Fraser Health is using to improve access and flow such as *Home is Best, Bed Allocation Methodology, iCare redesign,* and development of community alternatives.

2. **Workforce Optimization**: Dr. Murray indicated several initiatives were underway in the health authority to improve the efficiency of its workforce. By reducing the use of overtime, sick-time and supporting employees to return to work from long-term disability, Fraser Health can contribute to a sustainable future for health care.

3. **Building care capacity**: Information was provided on a number of capital projects that are underway to serve Fraser Health’s rapidly growing population. Updates were provided on the:
   - Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre
   - Surrey Memorial Hospital Redevelopment and Expansion project
   - Mission Community Health Project
   - maternity expansion at Langley Memorial Hospital
   - Dr. Murray also explained that Fraser Health is working constructively with government to advance the planning of RCH expansion to the next stage – business case development.

At the midpoint of the fiscal year, Dr. Murray reported the year-to-date budget is narrowly balanced, with the majority of the winter surge period still to come. As a result, management has been instructed to focus on strong stewardship of Fraser Health’s financial resources in the last half of our year by:

- Reducing or deferring discretionary spending including consultant services where possible;
- Deferring hiring into vacant administration and administration support positions where appropriate; and
- Accelerating implementation of projects to improve efficiency and productivity.

The CEO report concluded with news that Royal Columbian will be celebrating its 150th Anniversary in 2012, a historic health care milestone in BC.
New Westminster Health Services and Royal Columbian Hospital (RCH)

Fraser Health Executive Director Vivian Giglio provided information on health challenges and solutions for the New Westminster community. A snapshot of Fraser Health services in the city was provided along with recognition of Royal Columbian Hospital’s proud history as it approaches its 150th anniversary in 2012. As part of her presentation, Ms. Giglio explained the varied and valuable health care roles RCH provides locally, regionally and provincially. These include:

- RCH is part of the Fraser Health and Provincial network of hospitals. It serves as the Regional hospital serving Burnaby, New Westminster, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody, Maple Ridge, and Pitt Meadows.
- Tertiary Centre in designated areas - Neurosciences, Neonatology, Vascular / Thoracic Surgery, Critical Care, Interventional Radiology, Cardiac Services, and Renal Services.
- Level 1 Trauma Centre serving Fraser Health and B.C.

Information on RCH’s services in 2010/11 was also provided:
- 410 beds
- 61,000 visits to the ER
- 9700 surgeries
- 2920 newborns
- 842 open heart surgeries

Royal Columbian Hospital 150th Year Celebrations

In a joint presentation, Fraser Health’s Chief Communications Officer David Plug and the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation’s President and CEO Adrienne Bakker spoke about RCH’s 150th anniversary in 2012. Mr. Plug informed the Board that Fraser Health will be inviting patients and communities to participate in events, both in person and online, to celebrate this important health care milestone in B.C.

Next year, appropriate recognition for employees and physicians will take place and RCH’s heritage will be taken to BC communities via a travelling exhibit and commemorative products through partnerships with sponsors and archives.

Ms. Bakker outlined a series of events and activities the RCH Foundation will embark upon in 2012 to increase philanthropic engagement through their ‘150 Reasons to Give’ campaign. Information was also shared on RCH Foundation having raised over $70 million in its 34 year history, and their current $2.8 million campaign for a Multipurpose Interventional Suite is nearing completion.

Cardiac Care Services

Dr. Gerald Simkus, Fraser Health’s Program Medical Director, gave a presentation on services that are meeting the cardiac care needs of Fraser Health residents. Dr. Simkus shared data and statistics on RCH’s Interventional program, which include:

- RCH is among the top 10 busiest catheterization laboratories (Cathlab) in Canada
  - 2 Cathlabs
  - 6 Interventional Cardiologists
  - 5000 Diagnostic procedures per year
• 2200 Coronary Angioplasties per year
  • Top 3 Primary PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention) programs in Canada
    o 500-750 Primary PCI/year since 2004
  • The most efficient Cathlab in the Canada
    o Largest Cathlab in BC for last 8 years

Information was also provided on Cardiac surgery at RCH. Four Cardiac surgeons provide 850 heart surgeries per year using two Cardiac operating theaters.

Trauma Services

Dr. Ian MacPhail, Program Medical Director for Trauma services, provided information on the magnitude of trauma injuries in BC and advised the Board that trauma is the leading cause of death and hospitalization in the 1-44 age group. Additionally, disability from trauma far exceeds death rates, and injuries are responsible for the loss of more economically productive years than heart disease and cancer combined. On a yearly basis, the direct and indirect costs of trauma injuries in B.C. are $2.8 billion. Fraser Health’s Trauma program received 10,000 admissions per year at its two designated Trauma centres - RCH and Abbotsford Regional Hospital.

Board Committee Reports

The Finance and Audit committee reported Fraser Health showing a $6.3 million surplus at the end of the Period 6, with management forecasting a balanced budget by end of the year. The committee also indicated that Patient Focused Funding is making an important contribution to Fraser Health’s performance and patients’ access to services. The report closed with information about presentations the committee had received on Fraser Health’s Risk Register and on the national Accreditation Canada Survey process.

The Governance & Human Resources committee provided an update on the Health Employers Association of B.C.’s key performance indicators for the province’s health care workforce. In Fraser Health, overtime hours have increased in the first half of the year but rigorous plans are in place to manage this to year end. In addition, new Board Member orientation policies have been reviewed by the committee and it was determined no changes are required at this time.

The Quality Performance committee brought forward a motion to approve the Terms of Reference for Fraser Health’s Patient Advisory Council, which was unanimously passed by the Board. The committee also shared information on a recent Infection Control report that showed rates of hand hygiene compliance by employees and physicians can be improved. The committee mentioned a public awareness campaign that is underway through media ads on the importance of flu vaccination in the community. Their report closed with an explanation on how Fraser Health’s Patient Care Quality Office process works in response to patient concerns or complaints.

Public Question and Answer Session

As part of the Board’s commitment to public accessibility, the Board provides opportunities for the public to schedule presentations to the Board and to ask questions following open Board meetings.
Presentations to public Board meetings and a RSS feed for news releases are also available online: www.fraserhealth.ca.

Fraser Health provides a wide range of integrated health services to the largest and fastest growing population in B.C. The health authority is committed to improving the health of the population and the quality of life of more than 1.6 million people living in communities from Burnaby to White Rock to Hope.

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