

Chair: Colleen Nyce**Recorder:** Desa Chipman**Board:**

- Frank Everitt
- John Kurjata
- Wilfred Adam
- Linda Locke
- Patricia Sterritt

- Shannon Anderson
- Shayna Dolan
- Russ Beerling
- Brian Kennelly

Executive:

- Cathy Ulrich
- Fraser Bell
- Mark De Croos
- David Williams
- Kelly Gunn
- Nicole Cross
- Steve Raper

- Dr. Ronald Chapman
- Dr. Helene Smith
- Dr. Jong Kim
- Tanis Hampe
- Penny Anguish
- Ciro Panessa
- Angela De Smit

Public Minutes

1. Call to Order & Welcome and Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

Chair Nyce called the meeting to order at 1:18pm and acknowledged, with respect and gratitude, the Lheidli T'enneh traditional territory where the meeting was being held. Chair Nyce also welcomed participants to the first in person meeting in over two years and expressed how nice it was to see everyone together in one room.

2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

Chair Nyce asked if any Director present had a conflict of interest they wish to declare regarding any business before the Northern Health Board at this meeting.

- There were no conflict of interest declarations made related to the June 13, 2022 Public agenda.

3. Approval of Agenda

Moved by R Beerling seconded by J Kurjata

The Northern Health Board approves the June 13, 2022 public agenda as presented

4. CEO Report

- An overview of the Public CEO Report was provided for information with the following topics being highlighted:
 - The Select Standing Committee on Health
 - The Committee is an all-party committee that has been asked by the Legislative Assembly to examine the Toxic Drug Crisis in relation to:

- Responding to the crisis with reforms and initiatives by the Province and local governments, including those which may require federal approval;
- Continuing to build an evidence-based continuum of care that encompasses prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery; and,
- Expanding access to safer drug supplies, implementing decriminalization, and disrupting illicit toxic drug supplies.
- Report back to the Legislative Assembly by November 2, 2022
- On May 24, the Deputy Minister of Health and Deputy Minister of Mental Health and Addictions presented governments response over the last six years to the toxic drug crisis including the across government actions to realize the vision in A Pathway to Hope, from prevention, to harm reduction, and treatment and recovery. The presentation included Prescribed Safer Supply, Nurse Prescribing, and work to expand across to harm reduction services.
- Health Authority presentations to the Select standing Committee took place on Wednesday May 25th. Northern Health presenters included:
 - Cathy Ulrich, President and Chief Executive Officer
 - Dr. Jong Kim, Chief Medical Health Officer
 - Kelly Gunn, Vice President Primary & Community Care and Professional Practice
- The presentation provided details on work that Northern Health is undertaking to address the toxic drug crisis in the following areas:
 - Health Promotion and Prevention
 - Drug Toxicity Deaths by Health Authority
 - Peer Engagement and Stigma Reduction
 - Community Action Teams – Area of Focus
 - Harm Reduction
 - Access to Treatment and Support
- Quality Forum 2022
 - BC Quality Awards A Collaboration between Northern Health, Prince George Cougars, and the Spirit of the North Healthcare Foundation won the Strengthening Health and Wellness Award for the Spirit of Healthy Kids Regional Program. The award was presented at the Quality Forum in Vancouver. The program supports hockey players to visit schools to engage with students to encourage adopting healthy behaviours and to give back to their communities.
 - Storyboard Tanya Stevens-Fleming, Outpatient Services Manager at Fort St John Hospital and Cat Martin, Professional Practice lead presented a storyboard on an initiative they have implemented successfully at the Fort St John Hospital at the 2022 Quality Forum – Integrating Licensed Practical Nurses into the Fort St John Emergency Room Using a Primary and Team Nursing Model. The Storyboard won the award for the best storyboard at the Forum.
- Chronic Disease program
 - Cardiac Device
 - UHNBC's participation in the provincial PRE/PERI/POSTOperative Provincial Pacemaker Project resulted in improvements to the NH Cardiac Device Program.
 - Implementation of cardiac device remote monitoring kiosks in Terrace (May 2021) and Fort St John (July 2021) with plans to implement in another 6 sites in 2022.
 - Kidney Care update
 - 2020-2025 Kidney Care Action Plan developed through a collaborative effort between staff, physicians, patients, and leadership following the completion of the 2014-2019 strategy.
- Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

- Dr. Margo Greenwood has been appointed the Interim Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health for a term of the next three years. The Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health will now be hosted at the University of Northern BC.

4.1. Human Resources Report

- An overview of the Human Resources report was provided with additional information on workforce planning strategies underway in Northern Health.
- Key successes and upcoming initiatives highlighted were:
 - Continuing automation of workforce analytics
 - Full refresh of the HHR Strategy, including development of additional profession plans
 - Contributing to the pandemic response efforts
 - Facilitating Operational Workforce Planning.
- An update on the recruitment and the current context was provided which included information on Provincial Ministry Initiatives, specific Northern Health Ministry Initiatives and Northern Health Initiatives.

5. Audit and Finance Committee

5.1. Fiscal Year End 2021-22

- An update was provided on the status of the audit of Northern Health's 2021-22 financial statements, and government requirements regarding disclosure of the audited financial statements to the general public.
- The audited financial statements will be submitted to the Ministry of Health for its review and approval to release to the general public. Once Ministry approval is received, Northern Health's 2021-22 audited financial statements will be posted on the Northern Health's website.

5.2. Capital Expenditure Plan Update

- The Northern Health Board approved the 2021-22 capital expenditure plan in January 2021, with an amendment in July 2021. The updated plan approves total expenditures of \$274.4M, with funding support from the Ministry of Health (\$165.3M, 60%), Six Regional Hospital Districts (\$90.7M, 33%), Foundations, Auxiliaries and Other Entities (\$2.5M, 1%), and Northern Health (\$15.8M, 6%).
- Year to date Period 13 (ending March 31, 2022), \$204.6M was spent towards the execution of the plan which was summarized in the briefing note.

Moved by J Kurjata seconded by W Adam

The Northern Health Board receives the Period 13 update on the 2021-22 Capital Expenditure Plan.

6. Performance Planning and Priorities Committee

6.1. Population Health – Partnering for Healthy Communities: Community Granting

- An update on the growth and development of Community Granting Program, as a reflection of Population and Public Health's Advances in partnering with, and supporting, healthy communities.
- The 2021-22 Northern Health Community Granting Program included the standing Northern Resilient Communities Grant, along with two new provincially funded programs: Rural, Remote and Indigenous Food Action Grant and Vision 0 in Road Safety.
- Details were shared on key actions, changes and progress as follows:
 - **Program Growth.** Northern Health's Community Granting portfolio doubled to a total of \$614,000 (as of April 1, 2021 budget was \$280,000) because of two additional provincial granting programs. The new granting streams were introduced in 2021-22 and have

been renewed for 2022-23. These funds come to Northern Health with specific focus areas (food security, road safety), as articulated by the funding Ministries.

- **Distribution of Funding Across the North.** With increased funding and more diverse granting streams, we awarded more grants to communities across the North. We funded projects across HSDAs; however as with previous cycles, there tends to be the most interest and awards in the Northwest, followed by the Northern Interior and then the North East. Most granting cycles were considerably over-subscribed, indicating opportunity for further growth and partnership.
- **Partnership within PPH, and with FNHA North.** Collaboration within and beyond Northern Health strengthened grant processes with respect to inclusiveness, accessibility, and cultural safety. For example, the design, promotion, assessment, and evaluation processes for the Rural, Remote and Indigenous Food Actions (RRIFA) grants were fully shared with FNHA North. This continued partnership will build a strategic approach to the next grant cycle and share support for unfunded programs in the most recent cycle.
- The briefing note also included an overview of any risks and mitigation strategies in place.

7. Indigenous Health & Cultural Safety Committee

7.1. Northern Partnership Accord

- The Northern Partnership Accord was written in 2012 and lapsed in 2017, since that time the working and governance relationship between First Nations Health Authority, Northern First Nations and Northern Health has continued in the same manner as in previous years.
- In Spring of 2022, FNHA moved forward with a virtual voting process for Chiefs to ratify the Northern Partnership Accord. On May 6, 2022 the results of the vote concluded with ratification of the Northern Partnership Accord. The Northern Health Board Chair and NH President and CEO and executive were invited to a signing ceremony held on May 10, 2022 for an evening celebration at the Northern Caucus.
- Moving forward NH Indigenous Health and FNHA Northern team will work collaboratively on the discussion and corresponding development to implement key deliverables.

7.2. Northern Health and Métis Nation BC (MNBC) Letter of Understanding

- An update was provided on the Letter of Understanding between Métis Nation British Columbia and Northern Health Authority which was signed on June 8, 2020. The Letter of Understanding enabled the establishment of the MNBC-NH Leadership Committee which is committed to meeting regularly.
- At the Leadership Committee meeting in January 2022 the VP Indigenous Health, NH and the Senior Director of Health MNBC reviewed a newly drafted MNBC-NH Health and Wellness Plan with the members.
- The four health priorities as identified by the MNBC-NH Leadership committee are as follows:
 1. Anti-Indigenous Racism Training
 2. Complaints Processes
 3. Health Services: Access, Data Collection, and Delivery
 4. Human Resources
- A second document articulating the Terms of Reference for the MNBC-NH Leadership Committee was drafted February 23, 2022. This document, along with the Health & Wellness Plan will be reviewed at the next upcoming meeting.
- Key activities NH has undertaken alongside MNBC include establishing a Métis-specific Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee (AHIC) and implementation of new and existing positions supporting Métis people's health and wellness
- Recently a Métis Aboriginal Health Improvement Committee (AHIC) was established and financial support from NH totaling \$10,000 was used to develop and implement health-

promoting resources including a resource tool for Northern Health with information on locations of all Métis chartered communities including community-based resources and contacts within the Métis Nation.

- To further uphold commitments outlined in the LOU, NH provided MNBC funding to support MNBC's Northern Regional Health Coordinator position, for one year (2021/22).

7.3. Cultural Safety Education Plan

- An overview and update was provided on the Cultural Safety and Anti-Indigenous Racism Education Strategy in Northern Health as follows;
- Recommendations from the Ministry of Health's investigation are integrated into Northern Health's change agenda. In response to the Recommendations, Northern Health has developed an Education Strategy that articulates components of an approach for the provision of cultural safety education and training for NH staff and physicians. The intent of the Strategy is to support the provision of culturally respectful and safe health care services within NH.
- The Education Strategy is comprised of 5 pillars of activities which are:
 1. Orientation
 2. Respectful Relationships Culturally Safe Indigenous Health Care: A Series of Learning Modules
 3. Community – led cultural experiences
 4. Tailored cultural safety and anti-Indigenous racism workshops
 5. Professional development
- To fully implement Pillar 2 of the Education Strategy, a new 20-hour, asynchronous (online), self-paced cultural safety curriculum for the organization entitled *Respectful Relationships: Culturally Safe Indigenous Health Care* was piloted from February 17 – April 30, 2022 with approximately 40 individuals from clinical and regional program across Northern Health enrolled in the course and providing course evaluations.
- The overarching goals of the 4-module curriculum are to:
 - Understand cultural safety in context of respectful relationships
 - Gain understanding of the roles of past events in contemporary realities for Indigenous peoples
 - Acquire and enhance critical self-reflection in practice
 - Develop, enhance and deepen understanding through the practical application of the skills and knowledge gained in this learning series to case studies and scenarios
- The course was developed in partnership between NH and the National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) with technical and financial support provided by the University of Northern British Columbia and offered through Continuing Studies, UNBC. NH Indigenous Health and the NCCIH are currently revising course content following review of evaluative feedback from the pilot phase.
- Next steps are to finalize the *Respectful Relationships Culturally Safe Indigenous Health Care* course for Northern Health employees and physicians and to continue to develop and deliver tailored, interactive workshops for NH staff and physicians during the 2022/23 operational and budget planning cycle.

8. Governance and Management Relations Committee

8.1. Board Policy Manual BRD 200 Series

- The revised Board Policy Manual BRD 200 Series were presented for review and approval.

Moved by F Everitt seconded by J Kurjata

The Northern Health Board approves the revised BRD 200 Series as presented

8.2. HEMBC/Northern Health's Emergency Management 2021 in Review

- A report was provided that summarized Health Emergency Management BC, North's activities in emergency preparedness and response for Northern Health during 2021 within the context of the COVID-19 global pandemic and additional seasonal disaster response and emergencies that impacted NH operations and healthcare services.
- A detailed list of the types of emergency response support provided in 2020/21 was outlined in the report along with the training and support provided to Northern Health staff.

8.3. Status of Annual Report

- As a result of COVID-19 work and staff reassignments in 2021 – particularly related to immunization and response to variants an annual report was not produced for 2020-2021.
- Management is seeking the preference of the Board on two possible options which are:
 - A two-year annual report can be produced that reflects the unique period of the Pandemic – it will look different in that it would need to cover years, but also reflective of the unique environment and would have more content related to recognizing our staff and medical practitioners.
 - A one-year report for this year with a notice that a report was not completed last year due to the Pandemic.

Moved by F Everitt Seconded by L Locke

The Northern Health Board approves the proposal of the creation of a two-year report for 2020-2022 and directs Management to move forward with next steps as outlined

8.4. Energy and Environmental Sustainability Portfolio

- An annual overview of the Energy and Environmental Sustainability portfolio was provided that outlined the series of actions designed to produce long term, sustainable reductions in the overall energy consumption, primarily natural gas, electricity, propane, and water.

8.5. Climate Change Accountability Report

- The annual Climate Change Accountability Report executive summary was presented to the Board for information. The Carbon Neutral Government program requires public sector organizations to submit a report legislated under the Climate Change Accountability Act. The purpose is to provide an annual update on progress towards carbon neutrality. The Board appreciated receiving the report.

8.6. Physician Quality Improvement Virtual Action Learning Series Graduation

- The Physician Quality Improvement (PQI) program supports physicians, their co-leadership partners, and interdisciplinary teams to learn quality improvement skills and techniques, as well as lead quality improvement projects with the support of PQI coaches across the region.
- The program is instrumental in the development of a flourishing culture of quality within Northern Health. PQI supports physicians and teams to advance a culture of quality and safety through continuous learning, innovation, and employing

9. Presentation: Northern Health's Pandemic Response Timeline

- Mary Charters, Director, Health Emergency Management BC, Northern Health provided a presentation and overview of Northern Health's Pandemic Response to the Northern Health Board. The presentation included a detailed timeline of milestones, statistics, case totals along with what emergencies Health Emergency Management BC handled during the first five waves of the pandemic.

- Directors expressed appreciation for the presentation and the information shared. Chair Nyce thanked Mary Charters and all Health Emergency Management BC for their ongoing support and collaboration with Northern Health.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:57pm

Moved by L Locke



Colleen Nyce, Chair



Desa Chipman, Recording Secretary