



Board Notes

The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting March 5, 2008 in Lloydminster. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentations - Libbie Young Centre Inc. and Edwards Society Inc.

- ✓ Officials of the Libbie Young Centre, Lloydminster and Edwards Society, North Battleford met with PNRHA Board members and asked for additional funding for the 2008/09 operating year. Both agencies are Health Care Organizations (HCOs) that provide independent and residential living support to individuals with long-term mental illness. Funding for their programming and facilities is provided by Saskatchewan Health and is flowed through Prairie North Health Region to the HCOs. Both organizations made their case to the Health Region for increased dollars, with the view to adding PNRHA's support in securing additional funding from the province.
- ✓ The Libbie Young Centre expects to be in an \$18,000 deficit by the end of the current operating year, and projects a \$45,000 deficit for 2008/09 even with an estimated 3% increase in funding. The deficits are due to wage increases the Centre had to implement to recruit and retain adequate, qualified staff in the highly competitive labour market that is Lloydminster. LYC President Ann Campbell and Executive Director Tammy Klotz told PNRHA Board members that LYC had not been able to attract and keep staff at its previous wage levels, and had no choice but to improve its wage package. Campbell and Klotz stressed that without appropriate funding to maintain the level of services needed and to retain staff, the centre will have no other option than to close its doors.
- ✓ Edwards Society Executive Director Wendy Childerhose and Chairperson Pat Gotto relayed details of a similar situation in The Battlefords. As the needs of Edwards Society clients become increasingly complex, more highly qualified staff is required. Childerhose and Gotto stressed that Edwards Society salaries have not kept pace with the economic prosperity of the community and area, or with entry level positions. This has impaired the ability to recruit and retain appropriate, qualified staff. Wages have been increased and Edwards Society is seeking an additional \$50,000 for the 2008/09 operating year.
- ✓ PNRHA Board members expressed appreciation for the presentations and for the work the two agencies do in collaboration with the Health Region. Board Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady pointed out that without the Edwards Society and Libbie Young Centre, responsibility for meeting the needs of their clients would fall to the health region which would be significantly challenged to fill that gap.
- ✓ Board members agreed to further review the points raised in the presentations and consider the requests in terms of the 2008/09 budget planning now underway, as well as with the Region's management and Saskatchewan Health.



Board Notes (Continued)

Finances

- ✓ PNHR VP of Finance Jerry Keller remains hopeful the Region will end the 2007/08 fiscal year with close to a balanced budget. Keller presented the Region's financial statements to Jan. 31, 2008. They show a deficit of \$638,000 with just two months left to be accounted for in the operating year. Keller told Board members that sick leave and overtime continue to account for the overage, as do increased expenditures on medical and surgical supplies. Keller also pointed out January is the most expensive year for the health region as federal benefit contributions resume for employees in the new tax year.

New Community Advisory Network (CAN) Committee Established

- ✓ Board members unanimously endorsed formal creation of a Community Advisory Network (CAN) for the Edam/Turtleford/St. Walburg area. The new CAN has 10 members who responded to a request by Prairie North for expressions of interest from people willing to serve on the committee. CANs provide input and advice to the RHA on broad issues relating to the health of their community. CANs contribute to the RHA's planning process and assist the Authority to understand the needs, preferences, and priorities of their people and communities. Community Advisory Networks are established by and responsible to their respective RHA in accordance with *The Regional Health Services Act*.
- ✓ While the new CAN has representation from Turtleford, Edam, Mervin, Brightsand and St. Walburg, PNHR will continue to seek representation from the Glaslyn, Livelong, Turtle Lake, and Thunderchild First Nation to round out the committee and provide input from all areas of the district.

Board Meetings

- ✓ Upcoming PNRHA Board meetings are scheduled as follows. All regular meetings are open to the public.

✓ Wed. Mar. 26/08	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
✓ Wed. Apr. 30/08	Maidstone	
✓ Wed. May 28/08	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
✓ Wed. June 25/08	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. Aug. 27/08	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
✓ Wed. Sept. 24/08	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital

***** How to Reach Us *****

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