



August 2009



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting August 26, 2009 in Lloydminster. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentation - Midwest Food Resource Project Inc.

- √ Prairie North Regional Health Authority has been asked for \$40,000 annually in core funding to support the work of Midwest Food Resource Project Inc., a community-based organization focused on teaching individuals about healthy food and bringing the healthy food experience to individuals and families. Debbie Bonson, Executive Director of Midwest Food Resources (MWFR), told PNRHA Board members that changes in mandate, type, and sources of funding available from previous financial supporters of MWFR have resulted in the budget shortfall for 2009 and beyond. MWFR has reduced its staffing and programming in an effort to manage its budget shortfall, however more cuts are anticipated if additional funding is not obtained.
- √ Bonson outlined the programs offered by MWFR including collective kitchens, kitchen leadership training, baby food-making workshops, children's cooking, the Fresh Food Box program, and Healthy Eating Challenge. The organization is a registered charity that has been serving residents of The Battlefords, Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, Turtleford and surrounding communities since 1997/98. MWFR is operated by a volunteer Board of Directors and has an annual budget of over \$250,000.
- √ PNRHA Board members expressed appreciation for the presentation and will consider the request.

Presentation - Thorpe Recovery Centre, Lloydminster

- √ Stan Parke, Chairperson of the Walter A. "Slim" Thorpe Recovery Centre Society, and Dr. Lisa Luciano, Clinical Director of the Centre, spoke to PNRHA Board members about the Thorpe Recovery Centre and the initiative to build a new 72-bed detoxification and treatment facility for adults and youth. Site development for the \$16.25 million facility is underway in Lloydminster. Construction is anticipated to take about 15 months. The organization's Building Hope capital fundraising campaign is underway to raise \$3 million toward the total cost. The Thorpe Recovery Centre has been operating since 1975 and provides services to people with addictions, and to their families. Residential services include alcohol and chemical dependency programs, a non-medical detoxification program, and a gambling program. Outpatient services include adult and adolescent counselling, a family program, and interventions.
- √ Parke told Prairie North Board members that the need for addictions services continues to grow and that the face of addiction is ordinary people. The Thorpe Centre turns away about 100 people a month due to lack of beds to provide service. Prairie North provides funding to operate a small number of Thorpe Recovery Centre beds and will be asked to provide additional funding as the Centre's operations expand and change. Dr. Luciano spoke of the expanded youth programs and services she envisions for the new facility, stressing that they must be client-centred and effective. PNRHA Board members thanked Parke and Luciano for the excellent presentation.

Presentation – Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE)

- ✓ CUPE Local 5111 President Brian Manegre met briefly with PNRHA Board members to welcome the new Board which was appointed earlier this year. Manegre introduced Gary Day, CUPE National Servicing Representative for the region and expressed concern with the pace of bargaining between CUPE and the other health care provider unions in Saskatchewan, and the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) which represents the employers, including Prairie North Health Region.

Surgical Value Stream Initiatives – Alternate Level of Care

- ✓ PNRHA Board members gave their approval in principle to a plan to address the problem of long-term care (LTC) and alternate level of care (ALC) clients waiting placement in acute care beds. The Board-approved plan is to be submitted to the Ministry of Health by August 31, 2009 for funding consideration as part of the provincial initiative to improve access to acute care beds and help address surgical wait lists.
- ✓ The PNHR plan focuses on increasing capacity in the Region's facilities and programs to serve the needs of long-term care and alternative level of care clients, and improving processes of admission, assessment, discharge and transfer. The proposal includes development of a 10-bed transition unit at Battlefords District Care Centre in Battleford to serve as a regional resource for ALC patients and patients with non-acute rehabilitation or convalescent needs who are returning from tertiary care sites. Other elements to be explored include establishment of transition and respite beds in Meadow Lake; development of quick response beds in Lloydminster, The Battlefords and Meadow Lake; exploration of 'Home with Help' and adult day programs for clients and their family caregivers; and establishment of an advanced nursing position to support LTC facilities. Processes for improvement include discharge planning, assessment, and transfer; along with a recommendation for development of supportive provincial policies to ensure consistency and equity of how client placement is managed throughout the province.
- ✓ In reviewing the plan with Board members, PNHR VP of Integrated Health Services Barbara Jiricka noted that each day in Prairie North 10 to 15 people are waiting in acute care beds for long-term care placement. This means 5% to 8% of PNHR's 185 acute care beds are unavailable daily for acutely ill or injured patients. The collection of initiatives proposed in the plan are intended to decrease the number of LTC patients and their length of stay in acute care beds while providing the LTC patients with the care and support they need in a more appropriate environment.

Board Meetings

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

✓ Wed. Sept. 30/09	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. Oct. 28/09	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
✓ Wed. Nov. 25/09	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
✓ Wed. Dec. 16/09	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. Jan. 28/10	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
✓ Wed. Feb. 24/10	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
✓ Wed. Mar. 31/10	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility

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

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