



February 2010



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting February 24, 2010 in Lloydminster. Board members are pleased to share the following:

First Nation Liaison Worker Service

- √ Board members received a recommendation to strengthen First Nation Liaison Worker (FNLW) service in Prairie North Health Region. Director of Social Work Jim Walls has conducted a consultative review of the program in PNHR. Walls presented the findings to PNRHA Board members, along with a recommendation to enhance and improve the service.
- √ The review concluded that FNLW service in PNHR is viewed as a valuable resource to First Nations patients and families, and to health care providers in PNHR facilities. The service is currently available on a half-time basis at Riverside Health Complex in Turtleford and at Lloydminster Hospital; and on a full-time basis at Battlefords Union Hospital, Meadow Lake Hospital, and Loon Lake Hospital and Special Care Home. PNHR co-funds two of the five FNLW positions. The review recommends that PNHR partner with all four of the First Nation Health agencies currently supporting the service to deliver it full-time in acute care. The recommendation further calls for the partnership to be based on equal cost sharing, formal shared supervision, and collaboration, with final administrative accountability remaining with the First Nation agencies.
- √ Walls noted that if PNHR agrees with the recommendations, discussions will have to occur with the First Nations agencies. Ultimately, the recommendations call on PNHR to fund 50% of the five FNLW positions, for a net increase in staffing for PNHR of 1.5 full-time equivalent positions. CEO David Fan noted the issue will be further discussed in the Region's budget planning for 2010-11.

Northland Pioneers Lodge Replacement - Design Development Report

- √ Work toward replacement of Northland Pioneers Lodge long-term care home in Meadow Lake continues to progress, with presentation to Board members of the Design Development Report for the project. Charles Olfert of AODBT Architecture + Design, the project's prime consultant, told Board members that after a year of consultation, assessment, and planning by the Project Team, Prairie North Health Region, the Project Steering Committee and user groups, the Report recommends that the new facility be constructed on either of two preferred sites on the Flying Dust First Nation bordering the City of Meadow Lake. The Report proposes the facility consist of an initial 60 beds, with the potential for a further 12-bed expansion to meet the community and area's assessed need. The project is to reflect a new model of care that uses multi-task workers operating in a resident-centered, home-like environment. Plans also include space for an adult day program and a regional therapy site. Total projected cost of the facility is \$24.5 million.
- √ The proposal has been accepted by the Board and will now be submitted to the Ministry of Health for further discussion and consideration. Additional work and Ministry approvals are required before the project can proceed to detailed design, tender, and construction. Final site selection and funding for the project must also be concluded.

Finance Committee and Financial Reports

- √ The Finance Committee of PNRHA held its first meeting February 11. Committee Chairperson Leanne Sauer reported that Committee members reviewed the Terms of Reference and the role of the Committee, along with priorities and timelines for tasks.
- √ CEO David Fan reviewed with Board members the funding challenges ahead for Prairie North in view of funding reductions from Saskatchewan and Alberta over the past several months, and funding prospects for the year ahead. Saskatchewan reduced funding by \$302,000 in October 2009 after providing a 13.4% increase in operating revenue for the Region in March 2009. Despite an initial 6% funding increase effective April 1, 2009, Alberta reduced its contributions for long-term care, acute care, home care, community health and mental health services by a combined \$3.13 million/.
- √ Fan noted that while the new Alberta budget promises operating and capital funding increases over the next 5 years and 3 years respectively, PNHR has no details yet as to how the dollars translate for Lloydminster. Additionally, PNHR must wait until the Saskatchewan budget is delivered March 24 for a clearer picture of what Sask funding for Prairie North will look like for 2010-11. He added that a 0% increase in Saskatchewan funding for Prairie North translates to an 8% funding shortfall to maintain the status quo. A 3% increase would be an improvement over zero, but would remain a significant challenge for PNHR.

Releasing Time to Care

- √ Prairie North Health Region has released its plan to extend the Releasing Time to Care™ (RTC) initiative through all nursing wards of its two regional hospitals and Saskatchewan Hospital, as part of the provincial rollout of the program over the next two years. Between May 2010 through May 2012, the RTC program in PNHR will be extended throughout the nursing units of Battlefords Mental Health Centre, Saskatchewan Hospital North Battleford, Battlefords Union Hospital and Lloydminster Hospital.
- √ The program is currently underway at Meadow Lake Hospital, in the Surgical Unit at Lloydminster Hospital, and on the Admissions Unit at SHNB. RTC is a patient-centred approach to improving the quality of care on hospital wards by freeing up caregivers' time for more direct patient care. Each individual RTC project is staff led and driven. Staff members decide what processes to focus on and what changes in those processes need to be made.

Board Meetings

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

√ Wed. Mar. 31/10	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
√ Wed. Apr. 28/10	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. May 26/10	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
√ Wed. June 30/10	The Battlefords	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. Aug. 25/10	Turtleford	To be determined
√ Wed. Sept. 29/10	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
√ Wed. Oct. 27/10	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital

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

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