



June 2010



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting June 30, 2010 in North Battleford. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentation - Neilburg Ambulance Service

- √ On behalf of residents of the Villages of Neilburg and Marsden and the Rural Municipalities of Manitou Lake and Hillsdale, a delegation of representatives from the communities asked Prairie North Health Region to reconsider its planned September 1, 2010 consolidation of the Neilburg Ambulance Service with that of Cut Knife. The delegation presented PNRHA Board members with petitions bearing 847 signatures opposing the ambulance service change. Forty letters of support from communities, businesses, organizations, and individuals for Neilburg Ambulance Service were also presented to Health Board members.
- √ Delegation spokesperson Joanne Loy, Administrator of the Village of Marsden and RM of Manitou Lake, requested a response from Prairie North by July 15. Loy said she and others would be willing to meet with Region officials to further discuss the situation. Loy praised the Neilburg Ambulance Service as having a strong and steady base of eight volunteers who are dedicated to the service and well supported by their employers. She said the service handles primarily true emergencies, rather than transfers and that longer response times for such calls will result in serious medical consequences. She stressed that local and area residents are concerned over the lack of community consultation regarding the change in ambulance service.
- √ PNRHA Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady thanked the delegation for attending the meeting and expressing its concerns. She promised that she and her Board colleagues would discuss the matter and provide a response.

Presentation - Canadian Union of Public Employees

- √ For the fifth consecutive month, CUPE Local 5111 President Brian Manegre spoke to PNRHA Board members urging them to take a stand and make a public statement about the lack of a collective agreement between the Saskatchewan Association of Health Organizations (SAHO) and CUPE. Manegre said PNHR CUPE members want the Health Region Board to state that it wants its employees treated fairly. He added that CUPE workers interpret the Board's silence as telling his members that they are not valued.
- √ PNRHA Chairperson Bonnie O'Grady expressed regret at that interpretation and reiterated that the PNRHA Board values all of its employees. She said the Board is not in a position to comment on bargaining. O'Grady thanked Manegre and his colleagues for their presentation.

Accreditation

- √ Board members were advised that Prairie North Health Region has been granted Accreditation with Condition (Reports) following its May 30 - June 3, 2010 Accreditation Survey by eight surveyors from Accreditation Canada. In presenting the Accreditation Report, VP of Corporate Services Irene Denis noted that PNHR is commended for its leadership, staff commitment, and organization-wide quest for improvement. The report identifies a positive dedicated staff and positive staff morale as overall strengths of the organization, along with committed, stable leadership; inclusive workplace strategies; and initiatives to improve services and impact resource utilization.
- √ The report also identifies areas for improvement in regionalization and program integration, as well as in planning and monitoring programs. Denis categorized other key areas for improvement as focusing on preventative maintenance, a hand hygiene program, managing medications, falls prevention, infection control, and implementing the Continuous Safety and Quality Improvement program.
- √ PNHR must provide reports to Accreditation Canada by Nov. 3, 2010 and May 3, 2011 with evidence of actions taken in key areas. On behalf of the Board, Ben Christensen thanked all staff and participants in the Accreditation process.

Presentation - PNHR Healthy Eating Policy

- √ PNHR Public Health Nutritionist Jennifer Miller and Manager of Food and Nutrition Services Theresa Bacchetto introduced Board members to the Region's Healthy Food Policy and led a brief discussion around next steps in further implementing the policy. The Policy was developed in consultation with PNHR staff and was adopted in October 2007. Since then, the Region has made strides in making healthy food choices more available throughout its facilities, meetings, and events.
- √ Miller and Bacchetto noted that more needs to be done to move the Healthy Food Policy forward. Individuals, departments and facilities, and the Region as a whole including senior leaders and Board members, have roles to play in increasing awareness of the policy, ensuring that more healthy food choices are available and that staff are aware of those choices, creating an environment that fosters healthy eating, and supporting overall employee wellness.

Board Meetings

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

(No July Meeting)

√ Wed. Aug. 25/10	Turtleford	To be determined
√ Wed. Sept. 29/10	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
√ Wed. Oct. 27/10	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
√ Wed. Nov. 24/10	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. Dec. 15/10	Maidstone	To be determined

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

If you have questions or concerns about the information provided in this edition of Board Notes, please contact:

Prairie North Health Region - Battlefords Office

1092 - 107 Street, North Battleford, SK S9A 1Z1

Phone: (306) 446-6606

Fax: (306) 446-4114

