



January 2011



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting January 26, 2011 in Lloydminster. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentation: Primary Care Services - Saskatchewan and Alberta

- √ Officials of the Primary Health Care (PHC) systems in Saskatchewan and Alberta presented Prairie North Board members, senior administrative staff, invited guests, members of the media, and the general public with an overview of the respective systems. The goal was to educate PNHR Board members and staff, as well as representatives of the Lloydminster Region Health Foundation, the Lloydminster and District Health Advisory Council, and the City of Lloydminster about the two differing primary health care systems.
- √ According to Donna Magnusson, Executive Director of Saskatchewan's Primary Health Services Branch, Prairie North is a leader in PHC system development and services under the Saskatchewan PHC model, with PHC sites and teams functioning in all parts of the Region except Lloydminster. Andrea Thain Liptak, Director of Primary Care and Chronic Disease Management with Alberta Health Services, explained that a group of physicians on the Alberta side of Lloydminster has recently established the Lloydminster Primary Care Network, under the Alberta Primary Care Initiative.
- √ PNHR CEO David Fan said the challenge now is determining how to take the best of both models to improve access to and delivery of Primary Care services for all residents of Lloydminster. With support from the Lloydminster Region Health Foundation, Prairie North is securing the services of a consultant to review the PHC models and develop a plan for a specific model that will work for Lloydminster. Fan stressed that a significant component of the review involves community consultation. The timeline for completion of the review, consultation, and presentation of the plan is April 1, 2011.
- √ Key differences in the two systems are in how physicians are compensated for their services; how patients access the services of health professionals who are part of the multi-disciplinary teams; and the inclusion/exclusion of nurse practitioners, registered nurses, and other health care providers in the Primary Care model.

Appointment - New Site Chiefs of Staff - Lloydminster and Meadow Lake

- √ Board members endorsed the appointment of new Site Chiefs of Staff for Lloydminster and Meadow Lake. Dr. Kevin Govender will become Site Chief of Staff for Lloydminster effective Feb. 1, 2011, replacing Dr. Mark Chapelski who is stepping down after serving in the position for the past six years. Dr. Govender is a family physician with the Lloydminster Family Clinic and has been in the community for the past 4½ years. Board members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Dr. Chapelski for his many years of service and dedication as Lloydminster Site Chief of Staff and look forward to working closely with Dr. Govender for the betterment of health care in Lloydminster.
- √ Dr. Merv Johnson is the new Site Chief of Staff for Meadow Lake, assuming the position recently vacated by Dr. Brian Geller who has taken on a new role with the Saskatchewan Medical Association. Dr. Johnson has served the community of Meadow Lake for the past 40 years and is a highly regarded family physician, instructor and mentor.

Outpatient Addiction Services - Lloydminster

- √ Board members were advised that Prairie North Health Region has received notice from the Walter A. "Slim" Thorpe Recovery Centre in Lloydminster that after the end of March 2011, the Centre will no longer be providing outpatient addiction services. VP of Primary Health Services Glennys Uzelman explained that the Thorpe Recovery Centre will focus solely on provision of inpatient services. Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been similarly notified.
- √ PNHR has put together a proposal to begin providing outpatient addiction services for the upcoming 2011-12 operating year, based on Saskatchewan funding only at this point. Discussions are underway with AHS to try to secure its share of funding for a complete Lloydminster SK/AB service. The current PNHR plan includes hiring of two addictions counsellors and one clerical support person, down from the five staff who had provided outpatient addictions services on behalf of both Saskatchewan and Alberta through the Thorpe Centre. The new PNHR program will be integrated with the Region's Mental Health program in Lloydminster. Location has yet to be determined. Uzelman anticipates that a gap in service will occur between the end of March and the time at which PNHR will be able to introduce its program.
- √ On behalf of PNHR, CEO David Fan said the Region respects the Thorpe Recovery Centre's decision to concentrate on inpatient services. He thanked the Centre for providing the outpatient addiction services for so many years.

Premium Pay Reduction

- √ VP of Corporate Services Irene Denis reported that PNHR is reaching most of its efficiency targets set out in the Region's 2010-11 Accountability agreement with the Ministry of Health. Through the first three quarters of the operating year, Prairie North's Premium Reduction Strategies have resulted in a 22% reduction in overtime hours per full-time equivalent (FTE) position and an 11% reduction in sick leave hours, including medical care leave, per FTE.
- √ The number of days lost to employee injury, measured through the Workers' Compensation Board (WCB), is down 62% for the third quarter of 2010-11, compared with the same quarter a year earlier. Denis noted however that the actual number of WCB claims filed for PNHR employees has remained virtually unchanged for the third quarter of the current operating year, compared to the same quarter of 2009-10. With the final quarter of the year left to go, the Region and all its employees must remain vigilant to ensure the targets continue to be met at year end.

Board Meetings

- √ All regular meetings are open to the public.

Please note: the 'February' meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at Battlefords Union Hospital in North Battleford.

√ Wed. Mar. 30/11	Lloydminster	Lloydminster Hospital
√ Wed. Apr. 27/11	Meadow Lake	Northwest Health Facility
√ Wed. May 25/11	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital
√ Wed. June 29/11	North Battleford	Battlefords Union Hospital

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

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