



March 2, 2011



The Prairie North RHA Board held its regular monthly meeting March 2, 2011 in North Battleford. Board members are pleased to share the following:

Presentation: Southcentral Foundation Study Tour - Alaska

- √ Saskatchewan's health system, including Prairie North Health Region, has a lot to learn from Southcentral Foundation (SCF) in Anchorage, Alaska, according to PNHR CEO David Fan and PNHR Primary Health Care Team Manager Charlotte Hamilton. Fan and Hamilton were part of the approximately 30-member team from the Ministry of Health, Saskatchewan Medical Association, health authorities, municipal governments, and the Health Quality Council that visited SCF February 7-9, 2011.
- √ Hamilton presented PNRHA Board members with an overview of SCF which is a non-profit organization responsible for health care delivery to Alaska's Native population. Hamilton said SCF operates a high performing Primary Health Care system and is achieving the health outcomes that PNHR and Saskatchewan's PHC system are seeking. SCF's core product is a trusting relationship that is customer driven. Staff members and supporting infrastructure are vital to success and system information is used for quality improvement.
- √ Hamilton stated that the SCF model of Primary Health Care offers a wealth of opportunities for Prairie North to expand access, enhance the patient experience, improve the health of the population, and ensure sustainable, stable delivery of PHC services. What's needed, she suggested, to help move PHC forward is a championing of changes to medical practice, improvement in data collection and analysis, a focus on customer training and support, and better use of resources to coordinate care. Hamilton and Fan agreed that the study tour was an excellent learning experience.

Primary Care External Review - Lloydminster

- √ In collaboration with Lloydminster Region Health Foundation, PNHR has contracted Western Management Consultants of Edmonton to assess the current and anticipated need for primary care, including family physician services, at Lloydminster and to recommend potential strategies to effectively meet the needs.
- √ The project work plan and schedule has been established. Consultation is underway with health care providers, physicians, key stakeholder groups, local First Nations representatives, municipal officials, and members of the public. The findings will be compiled to support development of potential options and recommendations. Following review and input from the Project Steering Committee, the project report will be finalized and presented to the Health Region by March 31, 2011.

Presentation: Smart Family Policy for a Strong Saskatchewan Economy

- √ Twenty-eight per cent (28%) of Saskatchewan children under six years of age are vulnerable, in one or more of five major areas of early child development, to experience social justice, economic, and/or life course problems later in life. In Prairie North Health Region, that vulnerability rate is nearly 34%. The number of children facing multiple developmental challenges is 9.5% - nearly double the Saskatchewan mark of 4.8%.
- √ Glennys Uzelman, VP of Primary Health Services, presented the information to Board members, adding that Smart Family Policy in the areas of time, resources, and community services is necessary to reduce early vulnerability. In addition to the benefit for children, families and communities, Saskatchewan's economy would benefit over the longer term through increases in labour supply and productivity, and reduced costs associated with crime, lack of education, chronic health problems, and premature aging.
- √ Uzelman explained that PNRH is supporting next steps within local communities to improve early childhood development: the Meadow Lake Community Childhood Network is implementing a community development process; Lloydminster is working with Alberta and Saskatchewan governments to map the community's early childhood vulnerability; The Battlefords is encouraging community action through information sharing, communication, and integrated planning; and the Lakeland Community Health Advisory Network has requested a presentation on early childhood development. Uzelman added that the joint development of an early years strategy by government and community will have long-term lasting economic and social impacts.

'Thank You' to Staff

- √ Board members expressed appreciation to all PNRH staff for their involvement in the many initiatives underway in the Region, aimed at improving efficiency, eliminating waste, and achieving targets established by the Ministry and Health Authority. Board members acknowledged the hard work and success of all PNRH employees in reducing overtime utilization, participating in Lean and Releasing Time to Care initiatives, and improving sick and injury time utilization. Board members said a collective 'Thank You' to staff for the work done every day with the focus on improving the patient experience and continually improving the quality of care and service.

Board Meetings

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

√ 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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