

Meeting Summary
Quinte Health Care Board of Directors
March 24/17

Capacity Issues:

Chief Nursing Officer and Vice President Carol Smith-Romeril reports that bed capacity pressures have continued throughout the winter months, with the largest medical unit at QHC operating routinely at 117% capacity. From January 1st to March 15th, the general medicine units at Belleville, Picton and Trenton were 'surged up' (more inpatients than the number of funded beds) approximately 90% of the time. Capacity issues impact the length of time admitted patients wait in the emergency department. Strategies for dealing with a higher volume of patients are included in the 17/18 operating plan.

PECMH Redevelopment Project:

The Prince Edward County Memorial Hospital redevelopment steering committee has started the process of determining a recommendation on where the new PECMH should be built. The options are on the existing hospital site, or on the greenfield space adjacent to the McFarland Home. In order to determine the best possible site, the redevelopment planning partners will examine a wide range of factors, such as site access, environmental impact, drainage, and electrical and mechanical capacity.

Input will be gathered from interested community members and health care partners to ensure the recommendation takes multiple perspectives into account. A series of community engagement activities will be planned once environmental testing has been completed on the existing site.

Chief/Medical Director Positions Update:

The board is being asked to approve the following Chief/Medical Director appointments: Dr. Shalea Piteau, Chief/Medical Director of Paediatrics, Leandra Grieve-Elgin, Chief/Medical Director of Internal Medicine and Critical Care; and Dr. Florian Braig, Chief of Surgery. If approved, nine of the 11 Chief/Medical Director Positions will be filled. Recruitment efforts continue for the Chief/Medical Director roles for Emergency Medicine and Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Physician Recruitment:

Several physicians have expressed interest in joining the QHC medical staff at TMH as Hospitalists. Work is underway to complete the recruitment. QHC staff and medical leaders are also in discussions with several qualified Internal Medicine specialists about their interests in hospitalist work at BGH.

The Chief of Staff, Dr. Dick Zoutman and Board Chair Doug McGregor are reaching out to community partners to encourage a collaborative approach for physician recruitment based on common goals. Dr. Zoutman reports a positive meeting was held with Quinte West Mayor Jim Harrison and representatives from OurTMH. Other key partners in recruitment are the City of Belleville, County of North Hastings, Prince Edward County as well as Health Force Ontario.

Update on Hospital Finances:

QHC expects to finish the 2016/17 fiscal year in a positive position. This can be attributed to the positive funding formula results that we experienced this year.

Approval of the 2017/18 Operating Budget:

The board approved the operating and capital plans for 2017/18. QHC will make some key investments in patient care in the coming year.

The changes in the 2017/18 operating plan include:

- A four bed Rapid Admission Unit on the Medical In-patient Unit at BGH for the months of October – March.
- Four additional in-patient medical beds have been added to address seasonal pressures for the peak volume months of December to February, including sufficient staff resources.
- Continued improvement efforts through Grassroots Transformation (including BGH ED)
- Expansion of the Medical Day Clinic to provide more days per week to remove volumes from the ED.
- The expansion of orthopedic surgery services to include an additional orthopedic surgeon specializing in extremity surgery such as foot and ankle surgery.
- The potential development of a new Hospitalist model for inpatient Medicine coverage at BGH. This would mean that QHC is adding an additional Internal Medicine and/or Family Medicine doctor – called a Hospitalist – who is dedicated to the medical care for a group of inpatients for one week at a time. This additional physician would reduce the number of inpatients each Hospitalist is caring for, to ultimately improve patient care, but at a significant cost to QHC.
- The provision for an additional oncologist, including extra staff such as nursing, pharmacy, DI, clerk etc., to support more patients from our area receiving cancer care at BGH versus having to travel to Kingston.
- The development of a long-term human resources plan to deal with the shortage of specialty nurses such as pediatrics, obstetrics, ICU, emergency and surgery. Plus, additional investments in training in specialty nursing areas to support new staff members.