

Attendees of this meeting include: CoS/MSA/DoFP/DoBC/EP

UPDATE Please feel free to share with your colleagues

May 11, 2023



**Interim
VP
M&Q**

**EMD
SMD
Update**

Mark Masterson, Interim EMD IH South, and chair of today's meeting welcomes everyone. Feedback from survey indicates this Coffee Talk meeting is valuable and provides an opportunity to everyone to share what is going and hear how people are feeling across Interior Health.

Patrick O'Connor, Interim VP M&Q says that his Interim time at IH is coming to an end. A transition announcement that will rely heavily on the current team will come from the CEO later this week. Patrick will be away now on a vacation for a month and then returning to role as Medical Lead for Clinical Systems Transformation project in Vancouver. Devin Harris has agreed to fill the role while Patrick is on vacation. The recruitment for VP M&Q has not been successful to date, Patrick will be available for discussions. Patrick is solidly impressed with IH ability to do the work remotely and has never worked with a better Quality team than IH. Transition to virtual care and team models is ongoing. Physician Associates/Assistants are being discussed as well as increasing NP roles. Electronic Health Record is coming for the whole province and transitions could be within a couple of years, question remains if we will continue with Meditech or the province moving to one system.

Curtis Bell, EMD Primary & Community Seniors Care IH South - Four new Urgent Primary Care Centre's have opened (Elkford, Rutland, North Kamloops and Williams Lake).

- International Medical Placement return of service is coming this summer and Practice Ready Assessment is coming.
- Although lots of work going on in recruitment, Ashcroft and Lytton continue to struggle with physician shortage.

Mark Masterson, Interim EMD IH South/Transport

- PQI Cohort 6 is full and we have a solid group of NAVIG8 participants, which shows how our physicians are willing and wanting to step up make improvements in work and for patients.

Round Table

EKRH – Cranbrook – Erinn Sawatsky, CoS says Hospitalist service is in crisis. Service was stabilized with 2 on at all times but one family practice clinic in the community gave up their IPC which has increased patients at site. Working with Internal Medicine to provide stability. Continuing to work on stabilizing Maternity care in the area as well.

CVH - Creston – Welcome to new CoS Johnny Chang and thanks to Andrew Weaver outgoing CoS. Challenges at site is nursing staff, there is not a dedicated mat nurse and mat nurse training supply is running out so may be going down to interment closures. Shortage of emergency trained nurses which has led to Emergency Department closures. The site needs help, have met with site leaders but no solutions yet.

KLH – Nelson – Kevin McKechnie, CoS – ongoing challenges with unattached patients and primary care crisis. Always rested on laurels of beauty of Nelson but housing prices caught up so not as attractive as used to be for new grads. Orthopedic crisis continues in the region, trying to keep the service going but have had a few diversions. Working with leadership to develop a strategy short and medium term. A locum will be coming which will help keep periods of diversion to a minimum.

BDH – Grand Forks – David Merry – working on primary health clinic concept. Trying to develop some community health centres. David is part of the Interior Divisions Network and have completed a HHR study for the region and the numbers are pretty bleak for the next 5 years, results coming soon. There is a lot of talk about Physician Assistants and NP's.

PRH – Penticton – Neil Crofts, CoS indicates positive things happening with expanding and improving cancer care in South Okanagan. A lot of interest in the NAVIG8 and filling Department Head roles which is nice to see physicians showing interest in leadership. Continue to have challenges with nursing shortages (50% gap in operating room) which have led to reduced capacity to allow better staffing ratios. Continued challenges with unattached patients and primary care crisis which increased Emergency Dept. and in patient volumes. Internal medicine is coordinating with inpatient and outpatient services to have these patients seen and followed up. Awaiting new model from Provincial Government.

KGH MSA – Candace Creighton - MSA has created a physician wellness group projects to help bring community to the group. As well MSA Past President Maurice Blitz is working with Kelowna Chamber of Commerce and trying to innovate ideas around increase housing prices. Work is underway to establish a primary maternity care clinic.

KGH – Kelowna – Cara Wall, CoS – Requests to IH Senior Executive Team and Ministry of Health to set up contracts with maternity group willing to step up. Working on coverage for Code Blue and Code Pink coverage after hours and Associate Physician plan. Respiriologist have closed their offices to consults to focus more on hospital consults and emergent things such as bronchoscopy.

SLH – Salmon Arm – Alison Howatt, CoS – Over-capacity challenges (130%-150% continually) and staffing shortages with both nursing and physicians (2 new physicians coming in the summer) Working with senior leadership and Capital Planning on moving forward with surgical redesign project. Maternity challenges in the whole region.

RIH – Kamloops – Liz Parfitt, CoS – Low risk maternity care is suffering – working on a contract with Family Practice Obstetrics who are willing to come back. Working with RIH Foundation on housing challenges in Kamloops, this affects not only physician recruitment but all staffing recruitment including Pharmacy Residents. Operating Room expansion and anesthesia staffing challenges make it hard to meet OR targets. Continue to have over capacity challenges.

Doctors of BC – Brent Weiss, Regional Advocate and Advisor, Economics, Advocacy and Negotiations. Alberta Health Services and BC Ministry of Health working on Memorandum of Understanding to lift Alberta moratorium of receiving patient transfers. Looking for patient stories regarding this to present to Ministry.

Announcements:

- Save the date – October 23-24, 2023 in Kelowna - Interior Facility Engagement Initiative Conference – information coming soon!
- Attached April 2023 HAMAC Update



Next Coffee Talk meeting **Thursday June 8, 2023 @ 7:30-8:20 am**