

**Meeting of the Board of Directors
held on April 27, 2009, at the Lakeshore General Hospital site**

This bulletin is a brief report on the main topics of interest that were discussed during the meeting of the Board of Directors of the West Island HSSC. A copy of the minutes approved by the Board may be obtained from the Executive Directorate.

At their last meeting, the members of the Board of Directors of the West Island HSSC discussed the A (H1N1) virus and a bill on governance that may change the Board's composition.

Board composition

Richard Legault, Board President, informed the Board that the Québec government may make significant changes to the rules governing the board composition of health and social service organizations. The number of members could be reduced and may include more external members.

Slightly increased deficit

Treasurer Robert Stocker announced a slight increase in the projected deficit, which has now reached \$8.3 million. He added that the amount might eventually exceed this projection. Once the next inventory has taken place, the shortfall might actually be between \$8.7 and \$9 million, based on his estimates. Robert Stocker introduced the new Chief Financial Officer, Paul-Yvon Forest, who will assist the HSSC in evaluating its financial performance.

Underfunding

During her report, Executive Director Suzanne Turmel shared her confidence that the Agence de santé et de services sociaux de Montréal would recognize that the HSSC's services for seniors are underfunded. The HSSC receives \$250 per senior residing in its catchment area, which is much less per capita than other organizations.

Reduction in the average hospital stay

Though the HSSC estimates that the average hospital stay has increased over the past four years, Yohann Dandurand, Performance Evaluation Advisor and Access Manager, stated that it has in fact decreased over this period. According to Mr. Dandurand, the HSSC has been using a "house formula" that does not accurately reflect reality. Nevertheless, the steps already taken to reduce the average hospital stay must remain in effect, as the average stay is now 11.7 days, while the Ministère's stated goal is 9.7 days.

Executive directors' meeting

Also during her report, Suzanne Turmel summarized the highlights of her meeting with the executive directors of the HSSCs and the Centres hospitaliers (CH) de Montréal. Many solutions were proposed to avoid duplicating services.

Two new directors

Suzanne Turmel asked Board members to approve the recommendation of Dr. Line Duchesne for the position of director of Professional and Hospital Services. Dr. Duchesne, former associate director of the Professional and Hospital Services Directorate of the Laval HSSC, brings an impressive wealth of experience to the position, according to Ms. Turmel. “Dr. Duchesne has a global vision of the health care sector and her presence on the team can only benefit our HSSC,” she declared. The members of the Board also accepted the recommendation of Marie-Josée Labrosse to the post of director of Communications and Strategic Planning.

ICN elections

Yves Théberge of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) reminded Board members that National Nursing Week will take place May 11 to 15. He also announced that the ICN’s AGM would take place on May 26. Elections would be held to replace the four board members who had stepped down.

A (H1N1) virus

The HSSC is mobilizing to respond to a pandemic, announced France Remete, Director of the HSSC’s Public Health Directorate. Ms. Remete also discussed the latest developments concerning the A (H1N1) virus with Board members.

Day care

Françoise Perreault, Chair of the Human Resources Committee, asked Board members to approve the establishment of a network of day cares for HSSC staff. In addition, a day camp for 60 children will be set up, with another 15 spaces opening up in the fall. According to Ms. Perreault, this day care service will enhance the HSSC’s status as an employer. Patrick Dubé, Director of Human Resources, took the opportunity to add that the rate of staff retention, determined to be at 86 %, was on the rise.

Joan Lylian Kouri wins award

Richard Legault congratulated Board member Joan Lylian Kouri, who has received the Governor General’s Caring Canadian Award. Joan Lylian Kouri has dedicated herself and her boundless energy to many organizations that support the personal development of youth and women and benefit the health care sector.

Next meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 22 at the Lakeshore General Hospital site.