

Provincial governance of SSC's Spread initiative

The committee reviewed options for provincial governance and oversight of SSC's spread initiative, and agreed to transitioning the existing provincial PQI Working Group to one that would oversee both PQI and Spread. A terms of reference (ToR) document will be developed by the working group and brought back to the committee for endorsement. Each of the health authority-based PQI steering committees' areas of oversight will also be revised to include spread.

SSC Work Plan and Budget

In response to a request from the Physician Services Committee (PSC) for SSC's final work plan and budget for 2021/22, the committee has to decide where to spend the two million dollars remaining from the COVID-19 Office Safety Grant. The options that were presented by the SSC staff include the following, which could be used in combination:

- Physician Health Program
- Additional COVID-19 support to specialists
- Cultural safety and humility programs
- Virtual care
- Spread (Regional & Provincial)
- CareConnect for community specialists

The committee discussed the options, and agreed on delaying the decision for a future meeting to allow time for staff to further develop a proposed plan reflective of the committee's discussion.

Physician Health Program (PHP) Requests

Dr Bill Cavers, PHP's Interim Director brought to light the fact that physician utilization of the PHP services has gone up by 58% due to the pandemic over the last year. In addition, the complexity of cases has increased significantly. As a result, two proposals were brought forward for the committee's consideration:

1. In 2021, to provide funding support for monthly cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) for doctors to improve their mental health
2. To provide funding to train physician peer supporters

The committee supported both the proposals in principle, however requested additional data for physician utilization of PHP, as well as an environmental scan of the physician wellness supports available through the JCCs. A working group consisting of representatives from all the JCCs will be formed that will discuss the matter in depth and will bring recommendations to a future meeting.

Miscellaneous

Institute of Healthcare Improvement's annual forum:

128 BC physicians were funded by SSC and Shared Care's [Physician Leadership Scholarship](#) to participate in the IHI's annual forum last December. SSC's [Physician Quality Improvement Initiative](#) was invited to host a session which was well attended. SSC also conducted daily huddles to summarize takeaways and provide networking opportunities to BC participants. The post-event ratings and feedback were positive. [See more information about the event here.](#)

Dr Sophia Wong's PQI project: Improve wait times through online appointment booking system

Dr Sophia Wong was invited to present the outcomes of her quality improvement project, supported through Vancouver Coastal Health/Providence Health. Seeing lengthy waits for hospital-based laboratory services, Dr Wong created a waitlist app for patients and was able to cut patient wait times by over 50 per cent. Her app has now been adapted by 67 more laboratories and has helped improve patient wait times across the province. [Here's the full story on her project.](#)

A sampling of successful projects will be brought forward to SSC meetings going forward.



The diagram illustrates the organizational structure. At the top, 'DOCTORS OF BC' and 'MINISTRY OF HEALTH' are connected by a 'PMA (PHYSICIAN MASTER AGREEMENT)'. Below this, four 'Joint Collaborative Committees' are shown: GPSC (General Practice Services Committee), SCC (Shared Care Committee), SSC (Specialist Services Committee), and JSC (Joint Standing Committee on Rural Issues). The SSC is highlighted in blue.

The Specialist Services Committee (SSC) is one of four Joint Collaborative Committees representing a partnership of Doctors of BC and the government of BC. SSC aims to improve patient care by engaging physicians to:

- collaborate within the health system
- lead quality improvement initiatives
- deliver high quality services with SSC

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