

COMMITTEE UPDATE

- The Committee welcomed Jan Butler from the Ministry of Health as a voting member replacing Darlene Therrien.
- Julia Hein was also welcomed to the Committee from Health Employers Association of BC replacing Sarah Taylor during her maternity leave.

COVID-19 UPDATE

An update was provided regarding COVID-19 supports by the Committee, including:

- Acknowledgement of existing PPE access challenges in facilities and communities.
- Multiple webinars held by SSC for specialist section heads to address topics of concern regarding the pandemic.
- Funding announcement to compensate physicians for active COVID-19 planning initiated by Health Authorities, Medical Staff Associations, and Division of Family Practice.
- Ongoing discussions on infrastructure stabilization support.
- Virtual care supports including provision of Zoom licenses.
- Initiation of discussions with specialists on planning for the possible second wave of the pandemic.

FUNDING SUPPORT FOR PHYSICIAN OFFICES

- A proposal was put forward to the SSC by the Community-Based Specialists Working Group, to partially support the costs for specialists with community offices to re-open while adhering to guidelines from the Provincial Health Officer, College of Physicians & Surgeons and WorkSafe BC. The Committee approved the funding proposal, as it will help defray the costs of developing and implementing a COVID-19 Safety Plan, while acknowledging that it does not cover the full cost.
- A communications plan explaining the intent and eligibility of this funding along with FAQs will be developed to effectively publicize the availability of this funding to eligible specialists.
- Other Joint Collaborative Committees are currently considering provision of a similar support so it can be publicized as a coordinated effort.

FRASER HEALTH COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL LAUNCH

A draft Terms of Reference (ToR), regional priority summary and membership list was put forward to SSC for its partnership with the Fraser Health on the formation of a Collaborative Council to coordinate, align and leverage efforts across the region. The Committee approved the ToR and associated Fund Transfer Agreement for \$300k. Discussions are underway with Interior Health for the next partnership opportunity.

SSC META EVALUATION

- The Committee approved the pursuing of a meta evaluation of SSC. It was acknowledged that several evaluations of the individual SSC initiatives have taken place in the past, but an overarching one is needed to help SSC evaluate and improve its overall effectiveness and the impact and outcomes of its strategic plan.
- SSC staff and volunteer Committee members will bring an outline of the evaluation to the September meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS

- SSC's draft Annual Report was approved with minor edits
- SSC's 2020/21 Annual Work Plan and Budget was also approved for reporting to the Physician Services Committee.
- The provincial PQI Working Group reported having had two meetings with co-chairs Dr. Frank Ervin and Sue Fuller-Blamey since their formation in January. The Committee approved the ToR put forward by the Working Group in regard to the scope of their activities.
- A survey to identify the needs of community-based specialists will be conducted as part of the Supporting Community-based Specialists initiative in the Fall.
- An update was provided regarding the two-phased alignment of Doctors of BC's Engagement and Quality Improvement (EQI) department by Linda Lemke, Vice President, EQI. This alignment is internal and involves changes in the department structure and staff of the Joint Clinical Committees (GPSC, Shared Care, & SSC).



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