

SSC Workplan & Budget 2020/21

Given that 2021/22 is the last year of the SSC’s strategic plan under the current PMA, and that SSC has an estimated \$2.4M of one-time funding being carried over from the current fiscal to the next, the Committee decided to utilize this funding in the following ways:

- Increase funding to the growth of current initiatives including the Enhancing Access, Surgical Optimization as well as surgical strategy, Supporting Community-based Specialists, and Improving Specialist Job Satisfaction initiatives.
- Spread successful quality improvement work as part of the existing initiatives such as Quality & Innovation, Physician Quality Improvement, Health System Redesign & Facility Engagement. These allocations would entail both regional and provincial spread initiatives.
- Help support physician needs as they arise throughout the period of the pandemic in collaboration with health authorities.

Ministry of Health Strategic Priorities

The Ministry presented its strategic priorities to the Committee, including:

- Primary Care Networks remain at the centre of the Ministry’s priorities with 17 currently in different stages of implementation and 22 new ones recently announced.
- Increased funding allocation to seniors’ care during the pandemic.
- Ongoing work with the Ministry of Mental Health and Substance Abuse to find innovative approaches to mitigate impacts of the increase in the toxicity of street drugs and subsequent overdoses.

- Health promotion initiatives and health agreements with physicians, nurses, etc.
- New surgical plan as part of the provincial strategy to prepare for the Fall, including: capacity planning to catch up and keep up with pending surgeries, accelerated training for nurses and medical doctors’ research, recruitment of health human resources staff, capital investment to support capacity increases, public reporting of progress, minor renovations and purchase of equipment. A longer term strategy is also being worked on in the background.
- New allocations to the Hospital at Home program not only to help vulnerable populations during the pandemic, but also to be sustained afterwards. The program intends to provide acute hospital-level care in patient homes on a daily basis. The initiative will help improve patient access and reduce pressure on in-patient hospital beds, reduce hospital infection rates, and improve patient and provider care experience. Two prototypes are being implemented by Island Health and Northern Health in the fall and winter of the current year.

The Committee appreciated the updates from the Ministry and encouraged health system leaders to enhance the engagement and involvement of specialists in priorities such as Primary Care Networks and the surgical strategy.

SSC Meta Evaluation

As a follow up to the proposal put forward to the Committee in June for a meta evaluation of the SSC, the Committee approved funding of \$60K for its implementation. A time-limited advisory committee composed of health authority representatives, Doctors of BC physician representatives and SSC staff will help inform the work to be completed by March 2021.



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