

Committee Update

- The committee welcomed a new staff member, Kirsten Smillie as the new Senior Evaluation Specialist,
- Dr Dietrich Furstenburg was acknowledged for his valuable representation of Northern Health at SSC for the past several years. He will be pursuing his residency in anesthesiology at McGill.

QI Working Group

The new QI Working Group (previously PQIWG) brought forward its terms of reference, that was approved by the committee. This included adding governance of the new spread initiative in its mandate, and that of the six health authority-based steering committees. Drs Daisy Dulay and Lee Ann Martin will be the provincial physician leads for the Spreading Quality Improvement initiative. The QIWG will also be appointing a new member to the Facility Engagement Working Group to create synergy between the two initiatives.

Community Based Specialists Update

1. A terms of reference (ToR) and high level work plan was brought forward for the Supporting Community Based Specialists initiative, both of which were approved by the committee. The work will include further engagement with community specialists to better understand their needs, a communications strategy to offer community specialists access to targeted SSC and Shared Care initiatives (e.g. leadership and QI training and project supports/funding), and exploring potential options to offer them office-based supports such as Doctors Technology Office, access to patient translation services, and adoption of CareConnect, among other supports.

Evaluation of the Enhancing Access Initiative

The evaluation report showed up to 86% improvement in patient wait times and enhanced teamwork and productivity within the participating specialist groups. The committee appreciated the findings and recommendations, which will be incorporated in the initiative planning moving forward.

Cultural Safety and Humility Practices

The committee was informed about the upcoming cultural safety discussions at the Joint Collaborative Committees (JCCs) about adoption of strategies to in support of cultural safety and humility practices in relation to BC’s indigenous communities. This includes incorporation of activities relating to physician service delivery in the JCC work plans, opportunities for cross-committee collaboration, and respecting the capacity of indigenous health organizations. The committee discussed the importance of this priority and agreed to its commitment to support this effort, working in partnership and alignment with other Joint Collaborative Committees and partners.

Facility Engagement (FE) year in review

The recently completed evaluation suggests FE to have been effective in identifying the local and regional challenges faced by the MSAs, and identified opportunities for further collaboration and engagement with the health authorities. Some operational achievements in 2020/21 included:

- Developed Governance Workbook to support MSAs and Divisions
- Completed interim phase of Provincial Evaluation of FEI
- Implemented Knowledge Sharing Strategy
- Provided COVID funding to support the work of MSAs in COVID-19 fall/winter planning
- Developed After Action Review tool for MSAs
- Streamlined Annual Site Review process
- Established FE regional funding to support regional engagement between MSAs and HAs

Sauder Dyad Surgical Workshop

Three representatives from UBC’s Sauder program presented the outcomes of the Pilot Surgical Dyad Workshop which was very successful in building problem-solving capacity in physicians and staff to address elective and emergent surgery scheduling challenges. SSC staff to identify future opportunities based on the success of this pilot project.



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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