

## Meeting summary

Key highlights of FPSC meetings: May & June 2023



### Provincial Attachment System: Expansion of the Health Connect Registry, Creation of Two New Registries for Primary Care Clinics and Providers

On July 5, the Province, Doctors of BC, and Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of BC announced the creation of a new Provincial Attachment System (PAS). The news release is posted here:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2023HLTH0100-001092>

The PAS will consist of two streams working together as part of an integrated program: a patient-facing stream that includes the Health Connect Registry, which is being expanded to include all communities in the province; and, a provider stream that includes two new registries—a clinic and provider registry and a rostering registry.

No doctors will be forced to increase their panel size or take on new patients, and the final decision on whether a new patient is a good match will be left with the patient and physician.

### LFP Stabilization Funding

In May, FPSC announced nearly \$29-million in one-time funding to stabilize maternity and inpatient care in hospitals as well as care in long-term care facilities. The funding is an interim measure to provide stability until the LFP Payment Model is updated to cover these aspects of facility-based care. FPSC emailed information in early June to eligible divisions and physicians explaining how to apply for funding.

FPSC applied these principles when making the funding decision:

- The ability to get the funding out to physicians as soon as possible.

- The need to be equitable across communities.
- The need to minimize administrative burden.

FPSC also considered the number of family physicians providing care and their volume of work within the total funding envelope.

The funding allocation, which is over and above funding already provided by FPSC, is allocated as follows:

- Inpatient care – \$10.2 million to the divisions of family practice to administer for physician payments.
- Maternity care – \$5 million to physicians participating in the FPSC Maternity Care Network Initiative who commit to maintaining their hospital maternity services until December 31, 2023.
- Long-term care – \$13.5 million to physicians participating in the FPSC Long-Term Care Initiative with a minimum of five long-term care beds who commit to maintaining their long-term care services until December 31, 2023.

Since the funding was announced, nearly half of BC's eligible family physicians have sent in their applications for the long-term care grant and maternity network grant ahead of the July 31, 2023 deadline. The divisions are working with their members and partners to develop their applications for inpatient care funding, which will align with FPSC's funding parameters and provincial payment standards for inpatient care.

Details are available on the [FPSC website](#).

### PCN Governance Refresh

Efforts continue on the PCN governance refresh. In March, the PCN Transition Working Group (TWG) provided suggestions with options for evolving the PCN governance model to FPSC

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Co-Chairs Dr Sari Cooper and Ted Patterson. The Co-Chairs are working through the operational impacts of each option. An update will be provided in July, which will outline more detail and next steps.

#### After Hours Coverage Program Pilot

The After Hours Coverage Program aims to launch in mid-September in the four pilot regions of Langley, South Okanagan Similkameen, South Island and Victoria, and Thompson Region. The pilot will run for six months and will be staffed by community longitudinal family physicians.

The pilot will operate Monday to Friday from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m., and 24-hours on weekends and statutory holidays. Kick-off webinars were held June 21 and June 22 with members of the pilot divisions. The webinars provided an overview of the program benefits, how it reduces burdens of longitudinal family physicians and nurse practitioners, staffing the service, using the service with patients, how to sign up, timelines, and other considerations.

The After Hours Coverage Program is a pilot of FPSC, in partnership with HealthLinkBC and five divisions of family practice. Participating physicians and nurse practitioners can use the service with their attached patients to provide care in the evenings/overnight and on weekends/ holidays when their office would otherwise be closed.

#### Presentation: Digital Health Strategy

Dawn Lake, Shannon Malovec, and Zachy Olorunjojon presented the BC Digital Health Strategy. They highlighted significant digital health advancements achieved over the last three years, across the three pillars of: empowering people in their care and wellness,

improving care providers' experience, and advancing provincial and health authority systems. These achievements have led to improved patient and provider experiences.

The strategy includes four strategic objectives with a set of shared outcomes that will enable improved health care experiences.

The Digital Health Strategy team advised that this project is a national agenda, and discussions are underway with the federal-provincial territory co-chairs and digital health leads for each province.

FPSC's feedback to the Digital Health Strategy team included:

- Engaging with the Nurses and Nurse Practitioners of British Columbia.
- Promoting the integration of legislation that safeguards information privacy within the digital health systems, while also encouraging participation in information sharing and utilizing digital tools.
- Designing a centralized data portal/ profile for patients, family physicians and specialist to access medical records.

#### Approved: FPSC 2023/24 Work Plan

The Physician Services Committee (PSC) approved FPSC's fiscal year 2023/24 work plan and budget. PSC provided guidance to enhance FPSC's operations, planning, and evaluation efforts, emphasizing evidence-based decision-making, accountability, and the positive impacts of physician leadership initiatives.

#### PCN (Primary Care Networks) Update

As of June 1, 2023, 64 PCNs have received funding and are in the implementation phase, and there are 22 geographic areas in planning. A geographic area is 'in planning' from the time

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they submit an expression of interest (EOI) until their service plan (SP) is approved.

#### FPSC Fall 2023 Events: Oct. 24 & 25

Planning is underway for divisions and primary care partners in-person events this fall, which will take place in Vancouver and include:

- An FPSC Primary Care Partners Event on October 24 that will welcome family doctors, divisions of family practice, health authorities, First Nations partners, PCN Steering Committee Co-Chairs, Ministry of Health, Doctors of BC staff, and other primary care partners to collaborate, connect and share across the primary care sector.
- The annual Divisions Learning Session on October 25, creating space for sharing and learning across the divisions of family practice.

#### June 1<sup>st</sup> FPSC Full Committee Workshop on Attachment & Team-Based Care

Over 50 participants attended the workshop including FPSC members and representatives from the regional health authorities, First Nations Health Authority, the divisions of family practice, and support staff from Doctors of BC, FPSC, and the Ministry of Health.

During the first part of the workshop, attachment coordinators were invited to speak about the importance of local relationships to understand provider capacity and processes to attach patients from the Health Connect Registry. Participants discussed their local and regional attachment efforts; what's working well, and where there are opportunities for improvement.

In the second half of the workshop, a panel of FPSC team-based care coaches, Fraser Health professional practice staff, and a family

physician discussed the impact of team-based care on access, quality of care, and attachment. Participants discussed their experiences of team-based care and improvements that could advance access and attachment for patients.