Meeting summary
Key highlights from GPSC meetings
January – June 2022

General Practice Services Committee

Decisions

Funding to PCN communities for physician engagement to support planning maternity and newborn services into PCNs

GPSC approved one-time funding of $1-million in 2022/23 for physician engagement to support PCN communities to undertake a collaborative planning process to understand, optimize, and integrate Tier 1 maternity and newborn services into their PCN planning. Planning needs to remain within the context of existing PCN community resources and services, and within the context of team-based care. There also needs to be an understanding of the maternity care supports that are already available in each community. This planning can inform the development and implementation of future initiatives from GPSC and the Maternity Services Strategy (developed by the Ministry of Health and Perinatal Services BC). Information on the funding process will be communicated as soon as it is available.

One-time reallocation of infrastructure funds to support urgent need for locum coverage

GPSC approved one-time urgent requests from the Central Interior Rural, East Kootenay, North Peace, and Pacific Northwest divisions of family practice to reallocate their unspent infrastructure funds to support recruiting locum physicians. These divisions have been unable to recruit locums due to the high cost of travel and accommodations.

GPSC will propose forming a time-limited task group to address the issue of locum coverage. GPSC staff will conduct an environmental scan to determine whether other mid-sized rural communities are also interested in using infrastructure funds to support locum coverage.

Pathways

GPSC approved $75,000 over three years to provide access to Pathways for medical students. The GPSC and Doctors of BC will promote usage of the tool through communications channels and will regularly review and provide usage reports.

South Peace Self Organizing Group (SOG)

The GPSC approved an interim solution with South Peace continuing to operate as a Self Organizing Group (SOG). This will enable their work to proceed uninterrupted. The Group is currently funded through GPSC's Growth and Sustainability Fund.

Discussions

Family physicians and primary care

The GPSC acknowledges the current state of primary care and the hardships that family physicians face. Doctors of BC has completed an engagement to hear from doctors about their needs and priorities. Doctors of BC will share summaries of the discussion sessions in near future.

Indigenous Cultural Safety and Humility in Primary Care – June 9th event

The GPSC noted in its reflections that this was a very impactful event. The morning session led by N'alaga focused on "Storytelling – Healing through Land and Culture" and a session with Harley Eagle on "Indigenous People's History, Colonization, a Decolonized Approach to Trauma-Informed Practice, and Understanding Systemic Racism". There were 261 participants who attended the morning session, and 80 participants for the afternoon session that focused on divisions. An attendee survey showed that over 90 per cent agreed the content enhanced their knowledge of Indigenous Cultural Safety and that

they would be able to apply this knowledge to their roles.

Long-Term Care Initiative Task Group

The Long-Term Care Initiative (LTCI) Task Group brought forward two proposals to GPSC:

1. Small and rural communities face unique challenges in providing long-term care and are unable to take advantage of economies of scale that are available to larger communities/divisions. The Task Group is analysing opportunities to provide more equitable and sustainable resources to small, rural communities.

2. The LTCI Task Group is working on updating and clarifying the parameters of the best practice expectations. The Task Group has undertaken a huge amount of work in this area, including extensive consultation with all regional health authorities, First Nations Health Authority, and the Divisions of Family Practice. The program is now in the process of updating its quality improvement and measurement strategy to accord with the new best practice expectations.

GPSC supported both pieces of work and agreed that it is on the right track.

GPSC membership

The committee thanked Dr Anthon Meyer and Dr Lee Mackay for their contributions as they concluded their terms with the GPSC at the April 2022 meeting.

FYI

GPSC Joint Leadership Reports

- As of April 15, 2022, there are 59 primary care networks (PCNs) that have received funding and are in implementation. There are 16 geographical areas in planning.
- The GPSC PCN Knowledge Exchange Strategy includes structured activities that support PCN communities in planning and implementation to share with and learn from each other. Key 2022 activities include facilitating up to 12 PCN division knowledge exchange meetings, 10 PCN leaders' meetings, three cross-pollination topic-specific meetings, and piloting the Slack messaging platform to enable PCN leaders' collaboration and communication for mutual support.
- Following the success of the medical office assistant (MOA) panel management training program, offered in partnership with the University of the Fraser Valley (UFV), GPSC is developing a new MOA privacy and security training course. Recent focus groups with MOAs suggested they're often the point of contact for security and privacy issues in the clinic, and they're interested in more training. The course will be developed and delivered in partnership with UFV.
- High interest topics for PCNs, divisions and patient medical homes across BC include urgent and primary care centres (UPCCs), practice collaboration agreements, and occupational health and safety agreements.
- GPSC provides various supports for team-based care (TBC) including partnering with the Innovation Support Unit and the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council to support the provincial TBC advisory group's work plan. Since September 2021, GPSC staff have:
  - Delivered 12 team-based care education sessions with 134 participants
  - Facilitated 12 team mapping sessions
  - Enabled 26 quality improvement projects supporting the integration of team-based care
  - Team-based care coaches who are supporting 16 different communities and 18 unique patient medical homes
- Cohort 12 of the GPSC Leadership and Management Development Program delivered

through the Beedie School of Business at Simon Fraser University concluded in May 2022. This year's cohort has 34 participants from 24 divisions of family practice.

- The PCN Evaluation Community of Practice provides space for networking, sharing, and learning about local PCN evaluation work as well as hearing ministry updates. Contact: evaluation@doctorsofbc.ca.
- New PSP managers joined Doctors of BC in March 2022 as part of transitioning the program from the health authorities. Recruitment for coaches started in April with the first group of coaches onboarding through September 2022. A second round of recruitment will occur in fall 2022.
- The Burnaby Neighbourhood Networks Case Study explores the development and implementation of three neighbourhood networks in Burnaby that were prompted by family physicians.