

Central Health Board of Trustees

Board Chair Report

May 2022

I'm pleased to share highlights from our open board meeting, held June 28, 2022.

Like many health authorities, Central Health has been faced with challenges around physician shortages and is working to recruit employees for a variety of settings and roles. The current focus of our Recruitment Team is how to make **connections with people, including potential candidates, students and new hires.**

To bring some much-needed relief to our nursing staff, Central Health continues to secure travel RN's through external agencies to support summer leave. Currently, we have 19 travel nurses who will be working in different Central Health sites.

While Central Health continues to address the reduction of temporary closures and virtual ERs through its recruitment and retention initiatives, please note that temporary closures and virtual emergency rooms will continue to be implemented at sites throughout the Central Newfoundland region over the summer, and until there is a stabilization of resources to permanently support an impacted site. A temporary closure of a service such as the emergency room service is an absolute last resort. We understand and acknowledge the concern and frustrations that may arise; however, we must respect the work, and the wellness and safety of those who provide care within their scope of practice.

A 10-year plan has been developed by Health Accord NL to make certain that our health and social systems are working together in ways that lead to better health outcomes for people and families. The final report, along with blueprints and timelines are now available on the website healthaccordnl.ca. I encourage everyone to take some time to review this very important body of work.

I would like to express a sincere and personal thank you to each and every Central Health employee, physician, fellow Board member and volunteer for their tireless and dedicated work. I hope you are able to find some time for rest and relaxation over the summer months. Have a wonderful summer.

The next open board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2022. This will be our AGM.

Don Sturge
Chair, Central Health Board of Trustees