North West LHIN | RLISS du Nord-Ouest

Strategic Foresight

Report on North West LHIN Board of Director's Strategic Planning Session

October 24, 2016

Ontario
Local Health Integration Network
Réseau local d'intégration des services de santé

The North West LHIN Board of Directors held their Strategic Planning Session on October 24, 2016 focused on "Strategic Foresight."

The purpose of the session was to gain a better understanding of the implications for Governance under the LHIN Renewal mandate as proposed through the passing of Bill 41, the ***Patients First Act***.

The article "*Strategic Foresight: A New Obligation for Boards of Directors*" was referenced as part of the discussion related to the proposed changes identified under the LHIN Renewal mandate.

The North West LHIN Board reviewed its Mission, Vision and Values, Strategic Directions, and EN100 Policy. The Board reaffirmed that no changes would be made at this time to the Mission, Vision, Values, ENDs and sub-END statements. In particular, the Board noted that the Strategic Directions were well aligned with the *Patients First Act*, and were flexible enough to adapt to the proposed changes and priorities of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. A current environmental scan was presented to the Board, and it was noted that the North West LHIN Board remains very optimistic about the successes the North West LHIN has experienced with implementation of the Health Services Blueprint model.

Some of the system challenges identified include:

- Finding valuable and relevant measures for health outcomes
- The target is continuously changing and there is so much more to do to advance the goals and action plans and,
- Passage of Bill 41 is still unknown

The Board generated a discussion about the role of Governors in transition. The following items were noted:

- There is a need to clearly articulate values,
- Remain future focused,
- Need to understand emerging contexts, and
- Acknowledge the Policy Governance approach be sustained as it keeps the Board focused on strategies and strategic governance issues.

The Board also noted that as changes occur to the LHIN mandate, there may be a need to change the ENDs or sub-end statements. As the session progressed the NWLHIN Board members identified the following values that must remain intact during any change and these include:

- Diversity,
- Transparency and Integrity,
- Accessibility,
- Responsiveness,
- Respect and Trust.

As LHIN Renewal occurs the North West LHIN Board expressed the need for clear expectations and Vision for the health care system.

The Board will remain strategic and future focused, continue to build their capacity to address system changes and be vigilant about the health human resources available across the region.

Several areas of risk were identified by the Board in particular the human impact of this type of system change; potential impact to reputation, financial impact of this change and overall stability in management of the organization.

The North West LHIN Board of Directors collectively agreed to eight key action items that are important to attend to during the transition period as listed below:

1. Need for Board member orientation is critical and assignment of a mentor will be critical to support the learning curve,
2. Need to speak with one voice,
3. Maintain policy Governance approach,
4. Board policies may need to change,
5. Recognize and acknowledge staff contributions,
6. Board Education is a critical capacity building component necessary to support the transition process,
7. Board engagement will continue with 2 G2G sessions held with Health Service Providers per year, and
8. Need to protect and support board processes while mentoring New Directors to their role as Governors in the Health system.

In summary, the North West LHIN Board of Directors feels prepared to address the new mandate and recognizes that some adjustments may need to be made to its Strategic Directions, specifically the ENDs and sub- end statements to align to the broader mandate of the organization.

The North West LHIN Board of Director's anticipates the change to be a positive step towards evolving an Integrated Health care system in line with the Board approved Health Services Blueprint model.

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