

Board Info

Information bulletin of the meeting of the Board of Directors

Highlights of the scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors Thursday, March 19, 2020 (by teleconference)

Message from the President of the Board of Directors

Alan Maislin thanked all of the members for participating in this meeting during difficult times. He said there would be no questions from the public, since the COVID-19 pandemic forced the Board to schedule its meeting by teleconference at the last minute. Mr. Maislin also asked the committee chairs to cancel their meetings or hold them by teleconference. He noted that no committee should meet in person until further notice. Despite the pandemic, the Board will have to submit its annual report within the time limits prescribed by the MSSS.

Mr. Maislin noted that staff response to the pressure of the pandemic was spectacular, particularly in the previous 24 hours.

Mr. Maislin congratulated and thanked staff for their outstanding work in providing care and support to the CIUSSS's patients, residents and clients.

Report from the President and CEO

Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg stated that the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) is one of four facilities designated by the MSSS to receive COVID-19 patients. All acute care beds have been mobilized, bringing the number to more than 50, half of which are in negative-pressure rooms. Approximately 85 beds that are not in negative-pressure rooms have been added to this number, in addition to the 18 beds in Intensive Care. As soon as 10 of the 18 Intensive Care beds are occupied, the government will enter a second phase of action, in which additional hospitals will be mobilized to receive patients. Dr. Rosenberg noted that the volume of patients in the Emergency Department was at 50% of capacity that morning. The same phenomenon can be observed in the Emergency Department of all hospitals in Montreal.

The JGH is in the best position in Quebec to offer acute care, although its capacity is not infinite.

Dr. Rosenberg reported that a screening centre had been opened at the JGH for staff and for Emergency patients who had received referrals. Within two weeks, two trailers will be set up in the parking lot outside the Dialysis Centre, to serve as screening clinics for the public.

Two weeks ago, the CIUSSS implemented measures to prevent long-term care centres from allowing people from outside—such as family members and caregivers—to enter those facilities. Despite much criticism from the public and other facilities, the government applied the same policy to all long-term care centres in Quebec shortly afterwards. In addition, when the government asked travellers returning home since March 12 to place themselves in voluntary isolation for two weeks, our CIUSSS applied this policy to employees, retroactive to the previous two weeks.

A shortage of personal protective equipment (masks, gloves and waterproof gowns) was noted. Although the government is addressing this problem, the CIUSSS has taken the initiative to find alternate sources. Thanks to the hard work of Elliott Silverman, Director of Logistics, a supplier of masks was found.

Dr. Rosenberg offered a reminder that telehealth is integral to the Digital Health plan. With the support of the government, the implementation of this plan was accelerated by Dr. Justin Cross and his team. Dr. Rosenberg expressed his gratitude to the MSSS, which was very receptive to requests and provided the necessary support to move ahead with this initiative.

Dr. Rosenberg added that the CIUSSS is responsible for the *Programme régional d'accueil et d'intégration des demandeurs d'asile* (PRAIDA), mandated by the MSSS to meet the needs of asylum seekers in Quebec. The CIUSSS is in regular communication with the MSSS about asylum seekers who continue to cross the border on a daily basis. This situation is worrisome, because the CIUSSS has neither the capacity nor the resources to receive or care for them safely. If necessary and with the agreement of the provincial government, the CIUSSS will contact the federal government about this matter.

The Accreditation Canada visit scheduled for June has been suspended indefinitely.

Dr. Rosenberg thanked all members of staff for their spectacular work. He said the CIUSSS would not be where it is today without the commitment and competence of each and every one of them.

In closing, Dr. Rosenberg answered the directors' questions:

- Although clinic appointments and non-essential tests have been cancelled, all urgent requests will be processed.
- Depending on the situation, the CIUSSS will assign physicians to where the demand is the greatest. Residents in long-term care centres will have to receive care to minimize emergency visits. Therefore, medical coverage in long-term care centres will have to be strengthened. A meeting with the chiefs of departments and with surgeons will be held shortly to discuss this matter.
- The protocols that have put in place for long-term care centres, including the closing of the premises to families and caregivers, have also been applied to intermediate residences.
- All services continue to be provided in long-term care centres, but residents must remain in their rooms, while staff move around to provide care. The perception that we are understaffed is unfounded. Part-time staff now work full time. Members of staff have contacted all of the families of residents by telephone and they continue to do so, depending on the condition of the resident or the type of support required by the family. Thanks to the generosity of the Maimonides Foundation and Donald Berman Jewish Eldercare Centre, iPads have been purchased and donated to all CHSLDs, including those in Cavendish. They will make it possible to begin a virtual tour program with the families.
- More than 6,000 clients are benefiting from home care services. All have been contacted to identify those who wish to continue receiving services or to cancel them during the pandemic.
- The JGH Foundation is providing patients with free access to television and wifi for one month.

Change in the team of medical examiners

Dr. Henry Olders recently announced his resignation as Medical Examiner. At the same time, and to avoid any conflict of interest, the Board of Directors approved the appointment of Dr. David Mulder as *ad hoc* Medical Examiner, who will review complaints against the CIUSSS medical examiners.

Three-year conservation plan for real estate

Georges Bendavid, Director of Technical Services, explained that the three-year conservation plan for real estate is presented to the Board of Directors for approval each year. The annual update of this plan allows priority projects to be redefined for the coming year.

Change in the composition of the Board of Directors

Isabelle Bisaillon recently announced her resignation as a member of the Board of Directors and as a representative of the Multidisciplinary Council. To succeed her, the Multidisciplinary Council has proposed Erica Fagen, who is Planning, Programming and Research Officer for Professional Practice in the Rehabilitation and Multidisciplinary Services Directorate.

Ms. Fagen is also Secretary to the Executive Committee of the Multidisciplinary Council. This appointment ensures that gender parity is maintained.

Access to services in English

Barbra Gold, Director of the SAPA Program, tabled a document entitled *Programme d'accès aux services de santé et aux services sociaux en langue anglaise du CIUSSS du Centre-Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal*. It was submitted to the regional committee for access to health care and social services in English in the Montreal area. In accordance with the *Act Respecting Healthcare Services and Social Services*, the committee is mandated to provide advice to each of the region's public establishments about its programs for providing access to services in English, evaluating these programs and providing recommendations. The opinion that is handed down by the regional committee is also tabled for information purposes.

Several of the regional committee's recommendations are generic and apply to all institutions. A more specific recommendation calls for collaboration agreements related to services with other CIUSSSs in the region. Asked whether institutions will maintain their bilingual status if the percentage of English-speaking people in a specific part of our area falls below 50%, Ms. Gold replied that she would have to find out. A follow-up to this question will be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Policy on Integrated Work Attendance Management

Beverly Kravitz, Director of Human Resources, Communications, Legal Affairs and Global Security, tabled for approval the Policy on Integrated Work Attendance Management. This policy, mandated by the MSSS, was approved by the Senior Management. It was also presented to the unions.

Balanced budget plan

Morty Yalovsky reminded members of the Board that the MSSS has imposed optimization reductions on the CIUSSS of about \$6.6 million for the 2019-2020 fiscal year. The CIUSSS had previously sent a letter listing the savings achieved in recent years. With the support of the Board of Directors, it was stated that the imposed value-for-money reductions would not be possible, because the quality and safety of care would be affected. Consequently, a balanced budget by the end of 2019-2020 could not be guaranteed. This year, the MSSS has asked that a balanced budget plan be prepared.

Dr. Rosenberg and Carrie Bogante, Director of Financial Resources, stated that the Board of Directors is maintaining its position of a few months earlier—namely, that a balanced budget is not possible, since patient care would be affected.

Appointment to the Research Ethics Committee

The appointment of Najmeh Khalili-Mahani, Ph.D., as a scientific member of the CIUSSS Research Ethics Committee was ratified by Board members.

Protocol on confining people whose mental state presents a danger to themselves

Given the absence of Me Nathalie Lecoq, Beverly Kravitz tabled the quarterly report on the application of the protocol governing the custody of people in the establishment. Ms. Kravitz said the CIUSSS's Legal Affairs team has been making representations for some

As a result of the successful completion of this exercise, the Court decided to implement this practice on a broad scale throughout the province. Ms. Kravitz congratulated the Legal Affairs team for this initiative.

time to the Court of Quebec to allow patients to testify by videoconference and avoid having to travel to the courthouse. For the first time last week, the Court allowed testimony by videoconference.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF CIUSSS WEST-CENTRAL MONTREAL

A calendar of meetings of the Board of Directors is available at www.ciusss-centreouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/home/.

Click on CIUSSS West-Central Montreal | Board of Directors

Board-Info is produced by the Department of Communications and Media Relations for the Office of the President and CEO. All of the information in this bulletin has received official approval.

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on:

Thursday, May 14, 2020, at 7:30 a.m.
Donald Berman Jewish Eldercare Centre

For more information about the Board of Directors, please visit

www.ciusss-centreouestmtl.gouv.qc.ca/en/west-central-montreal-health/conseil-d-administration