HAMAC Highlights:  
Notes from the NSHA Medical Advisory Committee

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MONTHLY QUOTE:

Life is not about how you survive the storm, it’s about how you dance in the rain.

~ Regina Brett

IMPORTANT DATES:

ACCREDITATION: October 16 – 20

NSHA PHYSICIAN LEADERSHIP RETREAT: November 2 and 3, 2017

HA-MAC MEMBERSHIP:

Dr. Lynne Harrigan, VP Medicine (Chair); Colin Stevenson, VP Quality, System Performance and Transformation; Janet Knox, President and CEO; Dr. Nicole Boutiller, Executive Medical Director, Northern Zone; Dr. Nina Makkar, Family Practice, Truro; Dr. Daniel Petrie, Diagnostic Radiologist, New Glasgow; Dr. Dale Miller, Acting Executive Director, Eastern Zone; Dr. Patty Menard, Family Practice, Antigonish; Dr. Mark Taylor, Executive Medical Director, Central Zone; Dr. Lynn Johnston, Internal Medicine/Infectious Disease, Central Zone; Dr. Alenia Kysela, Executive Medical Director, Western Zone; Dr. Bruce Palmer, Urologist, Western Zone; Dr. Ivoe Brodarec, Family Practice, Yarmouth; Dr. David Anderson, Dean of Medicine, Dalhousie University, Dr. Gerard Corsten, Acting VP Medicine, IWK

- Hospitalist Services: A working group met last spring to create a standardized model of care and compensation framework. A proposal was submitted to the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) and a decision is dependent upon a funding agreement. This is being negotiated between the Department of Health and Wellness and Doctors Nova Scotia and a resolution should be forthcoming soon. There is much appreciation for the respectful and patient attitude of the Hospitalist physicians throughout this lengthy process.

- Dr. Harrigan has started conducting regular monthly visits to physicians in each Zone. Invitations will be sent out to physicians to meet with Dr. Harrigan either individually or in a group on the days when she is visiting their area. Her plan is to listen to the concerns and ideas of the physicians with whom she is meeting rather than having a set agenda.

- An NSHA Physician Leadership retreat will be held on November 2 and 3 in Sydney, Nova Scotia. Participants will include medical department heads, physician site leads and senior medical program directors. The retreat will focus on building resilience during system change.

- NSHA will be participating in a recruitment fair in London, UK October 20-21 for both Family Practice and Specialists. Dr. Harrigan will be attending along with Joanne MacKinnon, NSHA Provincial Physician Recruiter; Dr. Simon Bonnington, Family Physician in Annapolis Royal; and representatives from the College of Physicians and Surgeons and Immigration. New recruitment and promotion tools have been developed with the help of National Marketing.

- NSHA will be surveyed for Accreditation the week of October 16-20, 2017. Everyone is being encouraged to interact freely with the surveyors and avail themselves to their expertise whenever possible.

- Report from Western Zone: Dr. Silke Opitz, Anesthesiology and Dr. Ben Heisler, Vascular Surgery, are two new department heads in Western Zone. There is much concern about the vacancy number in Diagnostic Imaging in Yarmouth which has reached a critical point. There was discussion about the ability of radiologists from other parts of the zone/province to work in Yarmouth to help out. While it is easier now for physicians to work in different parts of the province, radiologists already have a full workload. A focused recruitment effort is ongoing.

- Report from Eastern Zone: With the urgent need for additional Psychiatrists, there have been discussions regarding senior Residents being permitted to work shifts. The longitudinal clerkship will be started in Cape Breton next fall. This will give an opportunity for medical learners to experience rural practice early in their training which should have a positive impact on recruitment. The need for additional staffing in Laboratory has shifted work to other centres and has created some delays. Some of the rural Emergency Departments are experiencing ongoing coverage issues. A number of different strategies are being considered. More and more physicians are resigning from inpatient care. Looking to streamline the process for bringing in locums. Asking for department heads to take the lead rather than individual physicians.