

Vancouver/Richmond adopts ROARS report

September 1, 1998

The Report: September 1998 vol.19 num.2

The Vancouver/Richmond Health Board knows the value of front-line careproviders. Human resources issues were identified as a key factor in the review of acute and rehabilitation services (ROARS), which was adopted by the health board at their July meeting.

The review began in June 1997 and was designed to identify changes which could be achieved over the next five years to improve the health care system in the region. Recommendations made by the review may eventually mean a transfer of staff between programs, sites, and possibly employers. The board will be working with health care unions to resolve workers concerns prior to any transfers. Concerns about the impact on workers occupational health and safety were also identified.

The board has recognized the need to develop new services before there can be any further reduction in the use of acute-care services. As a result of the review, \$11.3 million will be spent over the next 18 months on new or expanded services, including a lung rehabilitation clinic for adults, expanding home care services, and providing new mothers with advice in languages other than English. Seven initiatives will enhance mental health services in the region.

Recommended priorities for capital projects include: completion of the tower at Vancouver Hospital; the childrens ambulatory care and emergency room expansion project and the child and adolescent psychiatry project at Childrens and Womens Health Centre; the emergency services and psychiatry facilities at St. Pauls; and the new south tower at Richmond Hospital.

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