

PathWest Board Communiqué

This communiqué highlights key discussions and considerations from the November 2021 Board meeting.

Member attendance:

Ms. Angie Paskevicius (Chair)

Dr. Sue van Leeuwen

Mr. Kevin Taylor

Ms. Michele Dolin

Mr. Robert McPhee – *via VC*

Prof. Tarun Weeramanthri

Prof. Gelareh Farshid – *via VC*

Dr. Kim Hames

Ms. Samantha Elder

In attendance

Mr. Adrian Bautista (A/Chief Executive)

Mr. Robert Toms (HSS CE)

Mr. Liam Murphy

Mr. Michael Walsh (HSS Board Chair)

Ms. Nicola Chisholm

Ms. Jodi Johns-Rakich

Apologies

Prof. Christobel Saunders

November 2021 Board Meeting

The November Board meeting was held at Fiona Stanley Hospital in the Pathology Building on Thursday, 4 November 2021. This was my first Board meeting as the new Chair of the PathWest Board, and it was quite a full agenda to get through.

Key matters for decision:

- **Risk Appetite Statement**

As highlighted in the October Board Communiqué, PathWest is required to comply with the Department of Health Mandatory Policy MP0006/16 Risk Management (the policy) which sets out requirements for Health Service Providers (HSPs) to establish and implement a Risk Appetite Statement (RAS).

The Board reviewed and discussed the updated RAS. The Board approved the RAS subject to a couple of minor amendments, with the final version to be uploaded to the December Board meeting papers for information.

- **2021-22 South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS) Service Level Agreement**

The Board reviewed and approved the 2021-22 SMHS Service Level Agreement.

- **2021-22 Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS) Service Level Agreement**

The Board reviewed and approved the 2021-22 CAHS Service Level Agreement. The Board noted the SLAs are a work in progress, with the format to continue to develop and evolve.

Key matters for discussion:

Strategic Risk Workshop

Liam Murphy, Manager Audit and Risk facilitated a Strategic Risk workshop with the Board to review and refresh the strategic risks to link with PathWest's new strategic goals. The focus of the Strategic Risk workshop was the recently launched Strategic Plan 2021-25, with the aim of capturing the key events, activities or issues that might prevent PathWest from achieving or pursuing the goal and lead strategies set out in the Strategic Plan.

The Strategic Plan includes Strategic Pillars, Goals and Lead Strategies. To keep things simple, the session was focussed on the strategic pillars and goals.

The Board conducted a comprehensive analysis of the strategic risks, ensuring a systematic risk analysis and assessment against each of those pillars. This included considering whether there are any:

- External factors that might hinder PathWest from achieving its goals (for example, failure to understand changing customer needs).
- Internal factors that impact the whole of PathWest and are fundamental to the way we do business (for example, a project or system like LIS).

This was the initial Strategic Risk Workshop, with a draft Strategic Risk Register capturing risks, causes and consequences raised by the Board to be developed, with a further strategic risk session (to refine the data) to be scheduled for early 2022.

HSS Security Network update

Following the OAG audit qualification in relation to network security and access, the PathWest Board invited the HSS Board Chair, Mr Michael Walsh and HSS Chief Executive, Mr Rob Toms to attend our November Board meeting. Mr Walsh and Mr Toms provided the Board with a clarification of cyber security across the Health Network and provided an overview of existing security practices and strategies, as well as highlighting any known weaknesses and current or future plans to address these.

Mr Walsh and Mr Toms explained the landscape around digital security, highlighting that healthcare is one of the most targeted IT areas for hackers as medical records hold 10 to 20 times more value than other sources of personal information given the amount of data able to be retrieved. The interest in hacking into healthcare data has increased due to COVID-19 both domestic and internationally. This was an informative session, with several key initiatives in the Digital Transformation Strategy explained including how HSS plan to support the WA Health Network in managing Cyber Security.

On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Mr Walsh and Mr Toms for making the time to personally attend our Board meeting and for providing valuable insight into the current security practices and the future plans to ensure the WA Health system has adequate cyber security controls in place to keep our data safe.

Committee updates:

People and Culture Committee – 21 October 2021

- The Committee received an informative overview of the PathWest Teaching and Development function. The Leadership Capability Framework sets out the key capabilities and behaviours needed to successfully lead, empower and inspire others and create a productive working environment, and has been developed taking into consideration the recently launched PathWest Strategic Plan and Wellbeing Programs that have been developed within PathWest.
- PAC was pleased to learn of the progress of the Aboriginal employment initiatives, especially the recruitment and imminent commencement of our new Aboriginal Workforce Consultant.
- The 2022 People and Culture Committee meeting calendar was confirmed.
- The Committee reviewed the following standing reports:
 - Workforce Report
 - Integrity and Ethics Report

Board Walk

Our Board members and Chair of the Safety and Quality Committee, Kevin Taylor recently took some time off and travelled up north. During his travels he organised a visit with a couple of laboratories and recounts his visit below:

Arguably one of the very few positives that has come from the pandemic is that it has forced Western Australians to visit more of their own state rather than travelling interstate or overseas. This certainly has been the case for my family with a recent trip north, where I not only got to see the coast from Perth to Exmouth, but also enjoyed a visit to two of our regional laboratories, Geraldton and Carnarvon.

Geraldton brought back many fond memories given I opened and operated the first private laboratory in the city for ten years. Despite competing with the then State Health Laboratories, both laboratories supported each other to ensure pathology services were always available especially in times where instrument reliability was not so great! It was great to be shown around the laboratory by Lisa Tomkins, Medical Scientist in Charge and to chat with the enthusiastic team and I thank them for their hospitality.



Picture: PathWest Board member Kevin Taylor with the team at PathWest Geraldton.



Picture: PathWest Carnarvon, Linh Tran, Medical Scientist in Charge and Patrick Dunn, Laboratory Technician

Next stop was Carnarvon where I was warmly greeted by the Medical Scientist in Charge, Linh Tran and her team. Talking to Linh reminded me of how committed staff are in the regional laboratories, given we rely on only having a few people to perform all the testing throughout the day and then for the scientists to participate in a one in two rosters for on-call out of hours.

I know all Board members significantly value the opportunity to visit the PathWest laboratories and collection centres that provide pathology services across such a large area of Western Australia and thank staff for their patience and hospitality in hosting a Board member visit!

Next Meeting

The next scheduled Board meeting will be held at QEII Medical Centre on Thursday, 2 December 2021, which will be our final Board meeting for the year.

Angie

Ms. Angie Paskevicius
Chair, PathWest Board
 12 November 2021



Angie Paskevicius



Tarun Weeramanthri



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