**Vancouver Medical Dental and Allied Staff Association Quarterly Meeting Minutes**
**February 23, 2026 6:00-7:00PM Hybrid**

Quarterly topic: Can We Keep Up? Planning for a Busier Future

Call to order

- The Quarterly meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Dr. Adam Meneghetti, President, with 26 members in person and 182 virtually.
- Speakers
  Dr. Vinay Dhingra – Senior Medical Director
  Shelly Fleck – Chief Clinical Planning Officer, Major Redevelopment & Expansion Projects
  Yasaman August – Executive Director; Clinical Operations

Projections-Population Growth & Aging

- Based on latest estimates, the VCHA region's population is forecasted to grow +6% by 2035
- VCHA's growth is from the age 70+, expected to grow +36% by 2035
- FHA population is projected to grow faster than Vancouver, FHA utilizes a significant portion of VA resources and will have a larger impact on Vancouver Acute in the future

Vancouver Acute Initiatives

- Decrease congestion, improve flow and more responsive care in the hospital
- Offering dynamic, flexible and resilient alternative pathways to patient care and optimizing transitions
- Creating desirable new clinical environments to drive recruitment and retention

Emergency Department: Demand Trends

- Volumes approaching pre-pandemic levels with admission rate, complexity, acuity trending higher and Increased geriatric patients
- There are 25% of Emergency visit coming from patients residing outside the Vancouver region
- Initiatives include eight new care spaces with ongoing space improvement planning, support staffing and improve resource utilization

ICU Demand and Capacity Trends

- not enough beds in the ICU with an increase of only four beds over the last 10 years
- ICU admissions are about 1,500 per year (an increase from 1,400 in 2015/16) and the median length of stay has also increased from about four days to just under six days.
- Looking to the future, to achieve 85 per cent occupancy, we will need 48-50 ICU beds.

Security

- Led by the Director of Safety and Prevention and has membership across CoCs.
- This work has to occur to inform the operational work at the sites and cerner plays a huge role in establishing best practice and supporting staff.

- VA operational director leads the Smoke and Vapour Free Policy committee that is dedicated to this portion of Violence Prevention.
- 2 leads participate in security committee and are active in all components of the work in addressing concerns and providing direction as needed based on their role and responsibilities.

Campus rezoning and redevelopment vision

- The process of rezoning does bot finalize building designs but sets parameters like land use, general building locations, parking, mobility requirements, open space and community considerations
- Rezoning to support the long-term redevelopment and modernization of the VGH Campus over the next 30+ years.

Adjournment, Upcoming events

- May 25, 2026 Quarterly Meeting