



BC-PAN Meeting Summary

January 17, 2023 | 9:00 – 12:30 pm

Introduction

Health regulators (“colleges”) regulate British Columbia’s (BC) health professions in the public interest. Colleges work with their respective health professionals to ensure the public receives safe and competent care. Colleges who sponsor the BC-PAN seek insight from advisors about their experiences, perspectives, and challenges to develop meaningful and equitable practice standards and other resources within the scope of regulation. The January 17, 2023 BC-PAN meeting was held on Zoom and the topic of discussion was the provincial government’s plan to eventually amalgamate 15 health regulatory colleges to six colleges as part of the modernization of health regulation.

Executive Summary

- The BC College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP) presented on its experience of combining four dental health colleges into one, lessons learned and next steps within this process.
- The College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals (CSHBC) presented on the ongoing amalgamation process for smaller colleges, possible names for the newly amalgamated college, and asked advisors for feedback on their perception of the process.
- The public is interested in learning more about amalgamations. Specifically, identifying how this will affect their care, the relationships they have with their health-care providers, how combining the colleges will be financed, and what the next steps are regarding complaints.

Participating College Partners

- Lisa Bannerman, COBC
- Heather Biggar, CPBC
- Elizabeth Bruce, BCCNM

- Doug Cheng, CPSBC
- Michelle Da Roza, CCBC
- Melanie Journoud, CDBC
- Dianne Millette, CPTBC
- Susan Paul, CPTBC
- Susan Prins, CPSBC (Chair)
- Cathy Silversides, CSHBC
- Anita Wilks, BCCOHP

Participating Advisors

- Laura Bennett
- Shawna Bennett
- Terry Browne
- Vikram Bubber
- Annie Danilko
- Cindy Fu
- Trisha Halpenny
- Elena Kanigan
- Prachi Khanna
- Sandy Lambert
- Marty Lingg
- Joaquin Mercado
- John Sherber
- Simmie Smith

Other attendees

- Lindsay Brazeau (BC-PAN Public Engagement Coordinator)
- Susanna Haas-Lyons (BC-PAN Meeting Facilitator)

Presentation - BCCOHP

Anita Wilks, Executive Director, Strategic Engagement and Communication, BCCOHP presented to the advisors and provided an overview of the amalgamation of the College of Dental Surgeons of BC with the College of Dental Hygienists, the College of Dental Technicians, and the College of Denturists of BC to create the BCCOHP. The presentation provided an overview of what amalgamation means, why it is being initiated by the BC provincial government, what the public needs to know, and the status of the other amalgamations.

Discussion questions

1. What might the public want to know about college amalgamations?
2. What is important to emphasize as we communicate to the public about the transition?
3. Who should be sharing this information, when, where and how?

Advisor contributions and questions

- How is the amalgamation being funded and to what extent is it publicly funded?
- Will combining the colleges affect job loss and the number of roles for health-care workers available within the community, specifically in rural settings?
- Will this lead to more barriers in the health-care system and accessing information as it seems like another bureaucracy?
- Should the public be included in the process and have more information accessible to them?
- What is the regulators' role in the health system, and will patients be able to go to one place to address their concerns?
- More plain language should be used to ensure the process is accessible and inclusive.
- There may be a divide between the various allied health professions, and they may have different opinions on what is important to them.
- How will bringing these health regulatory colleges together in turn create a better health system? How is this bettering patient care/experience overall?
- Will these disproportionately affect marginalized or harder-to-reach populations?
- How will this change navigating various regulatory functions such as complaints?

Presentation - CHSBC

- Cameron Cowper, Registrar, CSHBC presented on the status of the amalgamation of smaller colleges. He discussed the opportunities and challenges of amalgamation, particularly for smaller colleges.

Advisor contributions:

- Advisors felt that the term "college" is not widely understood by the public and does not imply that the colleges are in place to protect the public.
- Advisors discussed potential terms and names that may be used for the new allied health professional college.

Advisor questions:

- Will this be a mix of clinical contexts for those professions: private practice, hospitals, even schools?
- What if the new name of the amalgamated college is not understood or supported by the public?

Adjournment

- Susanna provided closing remarks.
- College partners will follow up with advisors who have outstanding feedback and questions that were not discussed in the meeting.
- College partners will report the public advisor contributions and questions from this meeting back to their respective colleges for further internal discussions.
- Next meeting date TBD.