

**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

Spring Virtual Session 2020	1
Upcoming ANHIX Events	1
AGM 2021	2
Spotlight on new Board Members	2
In the News ....	3
Patron Sponsor Contribution – Orion Health	4
Patron Sponsor Contribution – Strata Health	5
We want to hear from you!	6

**Spring Virtual Session 2021**

On June 9, 2021, ANHIX held its spring virtual session. Its focus was Addressing Mental Health and Addictions in a challenging environment. 48 people registered and 34 attended.

The session was moderated by Michael Craig, VP Orion Health and ANHIX Past President with assistance from Peter Smith, President and CEO, Strata Health and ANHIX Board Director.

The two key speakers were Dr. James Woollard, Chief Clinical Information Officer at Oxleas NHS Foundation and Trust and National Specialty Adviser in Digital Mental Health at National Health Service (NHS) England; and Steven Clelland, Director, Knowledge, Evidence and Innovation at Addiction & Mental Health Services at Alberta Health Services (AHS).

The session was divided into three topics; past experience that is helpful today; the current situation; and future service priorities.

James began and described how the NHS has gone through various centralization/ decentralization cycles with current trends moving towards greater centralization. He

described how mental health services were delivered in England by 57 Mental Health Trusts with each Trust serving approximately one million people. He described the technology as previously very disjointed but now improving significantly with everyone having a laptop and common telehealth tools.

He spoke to several overheads showing trends in bed occupancy in the UK, community mental health caseloads showing a baseline and the COVID impact, the impact of COVID-19 on Children and Young People Mental Health (CAMHS) referrals, the digital coverage (consultations) both in adult community teams and children and young people and the impact of COVID-19 on CAMHS referrals. He specifically noted how digital coverage was increasing rapidly for children and young people.

Steve then took over to address the points from an AHS perspective. He felt AHS was relatively stable but noted that mental health services required further investment. He thought AHS experience was similar to that described by James (even if on a much smaller scale) although there were

additional learnings from recent Alberta emergencies such as the Fort McMurray fire.

From a digital maturity standpoint, he thought AHS was advancing fast and he described the implementation of a single EMR as a “gamechanger”.

He too addressed a number of graphs showing mental health in Alberta at the population level as compared to Canada as a whole, mental health of Albertans (significant increase in levels of anxiety during pandemic); trends in Emergency visits, substance abuse, community mental health visits and virtual delivery of services. He reflected that the trends seemed consistent with those being experienced in England.

To conclude, both speakers discussed areas of specific concern for the future. James felt that children were a particular area of concern given the impact that COVID has had on their education. He also felt middle-aged men were a cohort that should be watched closely given the economic and potential personal impacts e.g. loss of livelihood, family pressures, loss of parents.

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**Upcoming  
ANHIX Events**

After an extended interruption due to COVID-19, ANHIX is pleased to announce the resumption of live events.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Summer Symposium & Golf Tournament will be held on **Wednesday, September 15, 2021** at the Ranch Golf and Country Club at Acheson.

## Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021



Brett Duncan has now taken over from Mike Craig as President of ANHIX for the 2021/22 year.

Congratulations to Brett (this is actually his second time around as President) and many thanks to Mike for all his efforts.

The AGM was held on June 17, 2020. Due to covid-19 restrictions, it was held virtually via Zoom. Twenty-two members registered and nineteen attended.

Operational and financial reports were presented and accepted and a new Board for 2021/22 was established.

New President Brett Duncan replaces Mike Craig who now becomes Past President. No

nominations were received for the Vice-President.

The Board nomination process attracted eight candidates: Heidi Bronson, Robi Chamas, Kathy Ervin, Kevin Jones, Andrea Locke, Brinda Narayan, Geoff Rabbie and Peter Smith.

Nominations were invited from the floor, but none were forthcoming. The nominees were approved by acclamation.

Candy Gregory, Sandra Lambert, Don McIntosh, Sherry Nicholaichuk, Malcolm Steele and Carolyn Trumper have twelve months left on their existing term.

The remaining vacancies for Vice-President, several Director positions and the vacant Auditor position will be filled by the Board at its discretion.

## New Board Members



*Robi Chamas*

Robi has 20+ years in people, process, and technology thought leadership with a major focus on healthcare and the public sector. He has held executive leadership positions with major partners to Healthcare organizations in Canada. He is passionate about technology and is always looking for ways to leverage it for the betterment of clients.

Robi was on the executive team of PCM Canada (now Insight) where he led multiple teams supporting their healthcare and government clients.

Currently, he is the Client Director, Healthcare with Cisco in Western Canada.



*Andrea Locke*

Andrea is an eHealth Consultant with CGI and a Registered Nurse, with over 10 years' experience in health care delivery.

She is an energetic professional and life-long learner, focused on the optimization of patient care through innovation and digital technology. In her latest engagement, she was engaged as a consultant implementing Mass Immunization Clinics for the COVID-19 vaccine. Before that she was as an eHealth Consultant on the AH – eHealth Support Services project.

Andrea is also an experienced clinician, having worked with AHS and the Mosaic PCN – Calgary.

## Virtual Sess. (cont.)

From a technology standpoint, he stressed the need for user centred design. He felt it was important to design the tools needed, not just let them "happen".

Steven agreed with the points made but also stressed the need for simulation modelling to help identify emerging trends. He described the early work that AHS was doing and talked to the benefits and potential shortcomings of the models. However, he stressed that although the models currently may have many shortcomings "but they may be the least bad of the alternatives for many goals".

Following the presentations, a number of questions were posed by the moderators and members of the audience.

An audio/video copy of the full session is available to ANHIX members by clicking on the following link - [Presentation.](#)

*The Board comprises up to nineteen individuals, President, Past President, Vice-President and up to sixteen directors, including the Secretary and Treasurer.*

## In the News ....



### ANHIX Summer Symposium and Golf Tournament 2021

The Summer Symposium and Golf tournament will take place on September 15, 2021, at the Ranch Golf and Country Club at Acheson.

The day will comprise a speaker program in the morning followed by lunch, a shot-gun Texas Scramble golf tournament in the afternoon and a BBQ supper and prize giving in the evening.

The program will comprise three speakers: Quinn Mah, Executive Director, Information Management at Alberta Health will provide an update on Alberta Health's eHealth Strategy; Geoff Rabbie, Senior Project Manager at Telus Health Solutions will speak to the subject of vaccine passports; and Michael Burgoyne, Healthcare Solutions Lead - Canada, Ricoh Canada will discuss Ricoh's use of 3D printing in surgical applications.

Registration is now available at [Summer Symposium Registration](#). The cost for

members for the full day is \$100 with a limited number of "morning only" (speakers and lunch) registrations available for \$50. The price for non-members is \$150.

It's always a great day so put it in your calendar now!

### Patron Sponsor Update

This is the time of the year when ANHIX looks to its patron sponsors to renew their commitment. ANHIX is only able to provide the quality events it does because of the generous support of its patron sponsors, and we are pleased to announce that they have come up trumps again.

Cisco, CGI, Gevity, IBM, KPMG, Microsoft, Orion Health, Ricoh, The SAS Institute and Strata Health have all stepped forward once again to renew as Patron Sponsors. In addition, we welcome new sponsors, Amazon Web Services and Telus Health.

We also want to make a special reference of Meditech. Although they are unable to come on board this year, they have been our longest serving sponsor and a great deal of gratitude is owed to them by ANHIX members. We thank them for all their support over the years and hope one day to see them again.

### ANHIX Membership

To enjoy discounted rates to attend ANHIX events, and to have access to the presentations shown at those events, you need to be an ANHIX member.



This applies to the upcoming Summer Symposium, Winter Conference, virtual sessions and any other events held this year.

So, if you want to get the best possible rate and have access to conference material, go to the ANHIX website and [Join](#) today.

The membership fee is only \$25 and the savings you realize will greatly exceed the difference between the member and non-member rate.

### ANHIX Patron Sponsors



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## We want to hear from you!

ANHIX is always looking to hear what its members think.

Whether its feedback on previous events, suggestions for new events, presentation topics or speakers, ideas for newsletter articles, thoughts you may have for ways we can provide greater value to our members or any other general comments, we want to hear from you.

Please let us know what works and what can be improved.

We can be reached by email, through the website, by fax or by mail. Contact details are shown in the left column of this page.

Get communicating!

