

## **Considerations That Could Influence Board to Board Involvement**

Some of the considerations that could influence whether Board to Board involvement in a voluntary integration initiative is appropriate are as follows:

- Is the integration central to the current mission and future strategic direction of one or more of the participating organizations?
- Will the integration result in a significant change in the community's access to services?
- Will the integration result in ongoing dependency by one health service provider on another for an important service to its patients/clients?
- Will the integration result in formal, ongoing accountability relationships between the organizations?
- Does the complexity of the integration require the Boards to be satisfied that they are "on the same page"?
- Will the challenges and degree of difficulty of the integration dictate that direct contact with one another at the Board level is essential to ensure comfort with the outcome?
- Is the integration likely to be controversial to the extent that Boards may need to share responsibility for it and speak with a common voice?

Health service provider Boards have a shared responsibility for satisfying themselves of the feasibility and appropriateness of the proposed integration. Whether or not they opt to engage directly with one another, the Board decision to approve the integration and the oversight of its successful implementation requires thorough due diligence.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See **Error! Reference source not found., Error! Reference source not found.** (Corporate Structure and Delegation of Authority).