



Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Summary

June 13, 2020, 8:30-12:15pm | Zoom

Meeting Summary is DRAFT and subject to approval at the next meeting

Introducing Your Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Members:

In Attendance: Dr. Margaret Churcher (Chair), Brad Gillespie (Vice Chair), Leanne Anderson, Varinder Bhullar, Tim Buckland, Andrea DeYoung, Chelsea Draeger, Ernie Grach, Patti Morris, Wendy Plandowski, Wanda Redel, Wally Sinclair, Lorri Winship

Alberta Health Services: Dr. Mark Joffe, Dr. Matthew Parliament, Brenda Hubley, Dr. Huiming Yang, Monica Schwann, Janine Sakatch, Laura Lee Clarke

Regrets: Martin Dugas

Community Input

No community members attended this meeting.

Call to Order

- Dr. Margaret Churcher opened the meeting with Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.
- Welcome to newly appointed members:
 - Brad Gillespie, South Zone and Vice Chair
 - Wendy Plandowski, Central Zone
 - Wanda Redel, Calgary Zone
 - Lorri Winship, Central Zone
- June 13, 2020 agenda was approved as circulated.
- December 14, 2019 meeting summary was accepted as circulated

Presentations

CancerControl Alberta Supportive Care Program

Drs. Laura Labelle and Jill Turner, Supportive Care Leads

Highlights included:

- Overview of psychosocial and rehabilitation oncology teams/disciplines and the services provided
- In 2019/20 psychosocial oncology saw 3,901 patients with 16,746 appointments
- Since 2011, 7,000 patients have been referred to the rehabilitation oncology program
- Three main strategic priorities for 2020-21 are:
 - Build capacity for “Care Closer to Home”



- Enhance workforce utilization and metrics to strengthen the foundation of evolving models of care
- Increase awareness of and access to supportive care services

Chair's Report

Through an electronic vote on April 27th, Brad Gillespie was voted in by the council members as the new Vice Chair of the Cancer PAC effective May 1st, 2020. A second vote took place, recommending Brad assume the Chair role effective October 1st. This unanimous recommendation has gone forward to the AHS Board for appointment.

The following update was provided from the June 12th Council of Chairs meeting:

- Janine Sakatch and Maura Beaton provided an update on the next phase of the HAC Review.
- A mental health panel discussed psychosocial disaster phases, AHS psychosocial training and education, the AHS Heart Math project, COVID psychosocial response investment (help line and resources), and information & evidence of effectiveness on the Text4Hope project.
- Dr. Verna Yiu and Dr. Laura McDougall presented some highlights on the work that has been taking place since the first case of COVID in Alberta.

Council Member Roundtable & Good News

- Varinder Bhullar has been busy working with Dil-E-Punjab to provide over 6,000 free meals to people in need.
- This evening, the Canadian Cancer Society will be hosting a virtual Relay at Home fundraiser event. Everyone is welcome to attend.
- Over 3 days, Wellspring Calgary was able to convert their programs and support to online and over the phone sessions. Support services has opened up to all communities across Southern Alberta, from Red Deer to the south border. Wellspring Calgary is in the process of adding some new programs with focus on youth and indigenous people.
- The Wisdom Council will be meeting in the next few months by Zoom for the first time.
- Wally Sinclair has been working with the Calgary Zone in developing the Calgary Zone Indigenous Action Plan. Work will begin shortly in creating a similar action plan for the North Zone.

AHS Update

- Three major priorities at this time include:
 - AHS Review – numerous recommendations to enhance the health care system and obtain potential savings
 - Continue the roll out of Connect Care (electronic medical system)
 - Alberta Surgical Initiative was developed to ensure that Albertans received timely access to surgery. As recommended in the MacKinnon report, government will expand contracts with non-hospital surgical facilities to decant more day surgery procedures to these facilities. This initiative will improve and standardize the surgical system.



AHS CancerControl Alberta (CCA) Update

- In collaboration between the Cancer Strategic Clinical Network and the Provincial Tumour Teams, a clinical prioritization framework was developed that outlines the changes that would be made to cancer care delivery if available staff and resources are greatly impacted by a pandemic. An engagement session was held this week with patient and family advisors to discuss how the framework could be communicated and raise awareness on the type of decisions that would need to be made.
- As a result of COVID, rapid activation in the expansion of virtual care has taken place. On average approximately 45-50% of patient visits have moved to a virtual setting.
- The program is starting to assess the strategy to manage anticipation of increased volumes as the health system starts to recover and screening resumes. Initial observations made through the Cancer Registry indicate that the program is not seeing the same volumes that are seen generally year over year. A deeper dive is taking place to better understand this.
- During COVID, one of the most challenging things that patients and families have had to face is the visitor restrictions. Through a generous grant from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) over 75 technologic devices have been deployed to the various cancer centres to provide patients and families an opportunity to listen in on visits.
- Implementation of Connect Care for CancerControl Alberta has been delayed until the Fall 2021.
- Operational planning has started for both the Calgary Cancer Centre and the Grande Prairie Cancer Centre.

AHS Cancer Screening Update

- Many cancer screening procedures put on hold during the pandemic are now resuming as part of the Phase I relaunch.
- Three initiatives currently taking place are:
 - Integrated cancer screening for rural and remote communities
 - Creating Health Equity in Cancer Screening
 - Map and identify the gap among First Nations people regarding cancer screening rates

AHS Community Engagement Update

- An e-newsletter has been launched in the hopes of keeping Albertans informed on Alberta Health Services information. If you are interested in receiving, email community.engagement@ahs.ca.
- Advisory Councils and Wisdom Council have met more than 40 times over the last three months.
- A significant amount of social media work has been done to ensure that Albertans have the information they need to protect themselves and their families. Twitter followers grew from 19,000 to 34,000 over the period of COVID response. There has been a 1600% increase in social media direct messages with Albertans and the web team.



- The COVID assessment tool was created in house and there have been more than 4 ½ million people complete the online assessment. This tool has also been shared with jurisdictions across Canada so they could launch their own online assessment.
- 45,000 Albertans have subscribed to the [Text4Hope](#) online tool.

AHS Advisory Council Update

- Council members are encouraged to participate in local Health Advisory Council meetings. All Advisory Council meetings will be held virtually until further notice.
- The 1 ½ day annual forum will be moved from the Fall to the Spring.

Council Business

- Varinder Bhullar and Tim Buckland will have completed their terms at the end of September. Recruitment to fill these two public members in the Edmonton Zone will take place shortly.
- Patti Morris will have completed her full term at the end of August. The appointment of Sheena Clifford to replace Patti has been sent to the AHS Board for approval. Patti is one of the original members of the Cancer PAC and her valued contributions will be missed.
- Wendy Beauschene has been announced as the new CEO of the Alberta Cancer Foundation (ACF). Her name will be put forward to the AHS Board as an expert member representing the ACF.
- Janine Sakatch provided an overview of the HAC review. Highlights included:
 - The process and purpose of the HAC review
 - Three goals of the HAC review that have been set and how they will be achieved
 - Creating a succession plan for Chairs and Vice Chairs
 - Raising the profile of councils in the community
 - Development of an alumni group for past HAC members
- The Vice Chair position will become vacant as of October 1st. Interested members should contact Margaret Churcher to discuss.
- Deb Allatt provided an overview and update on the work that is taking place in CancerControl Alberta related to enhancing cancer care with and for Indigenous people in Alberta.
- The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) recently did a call for proposals for lung cancer screening. A proposal has been submitted by Huiming Yang on an implementation plan for an Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program.
- Members agreed that the 2020/21 Cancer PAC workplan should carry over most of the objectives and actions from the 2019/2020 workplan. A refresh of the workplan template will be taking place with a shift towards more of a commitment plan.



Actions/Next Steps:

- Members to provide feedback/input into the following:
 - 2019-20 Cancer PAC Workplan – updates as appropriate on progress made to date in Q4 (Jan 1 – Mar 31)
 - Looking for volunteers to form a working group to start discussing some priorities and actions for the 2021/22 workplan.
 - Members who are interested in the Vice-Chair role should reach out to Margaret Churcher or Laura Lee Clarke for more information.
- Key messages from each meeting will be developed and shared with council members.
- Council to further discuss the HAC 2.0 review to see if there are opportunities in which some of the recommendations can be incorporated into the Cancer PAC.

Anyone interested in applying to the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council can do so through the [AHS website](#).

Learn about the four organizational goals of AHS in the [2017-2020 AHS Health Plan and Business Plan](#).

Join us in changing the conversation from [illness to wellness](#).

Contact us at: pac.cancer@ahs.ca or call: 1-877-275-8830