



Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2021 | 8:30–11:45am | Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Brad Gillespie (Chair), Wendy Plandowski (Vice-Chair), Mark Armstrong, Wendy Beauchesne, Jill Bernhart, Sheena Clifford, Andrea DeYoung, Diane Huband, Marilyn Hundleby, Wanda Redel, Wally Sinclair, Melissa Smith, Lorri Winship
AHS	Mauro Chies, Mark Joffe, Matthew Parliament, Janine Sakatch, Monica Schwann, Douglas Stewart, Huiming Yang, Laura Lee Clarke
Regrets	Leanne Anderson, Ernie, Grach, Courtney Kerrigan
Public	Zero
Welcome & Introductions	Brad opened the meeting with Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands. Brad welcomed all in attendance.
Approval of previous minutes	March 6, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	Action items from the March 6, 2021 meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Lee will further explore having Drs. Jasneet Parmar and Sharon Anderson attend a future meeting and present on “Supporting Alberta Family Caregivers” from a cancer perspective. IN PROGRESS • Brad, Wendy P., and Laura Lee will discuss the potential of hosting a future Community Connection event. IN PROGRESS • A small working group to meet and complete the draft Commitment/Priorities Statements document. This document will then be circulated to all members for review and input prior to approval at the next meeting. COMPLETE
Alberta Health Services Updates	Mark Joffe, Vice President & Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta, Clinical Support Services & Provincial Clinical Excellence and Mauro Chies, Vice President, Cancer Care Alberta & Clinical Support Services , shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 statistics on number of Albertans diagnosed, deaths, hospitalization and ICU rates, and vaccination rates. • Individuals, who received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as their first dose, will receive an mRNA vaccine as their second dose. Those who received AstraZeneca/Covishield as their first dose will be asked to book their second dose with either AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine.



- Planning is underway to support organizational preparedness and decision making as Alberta moves beyond Wave 3. This will outline strategies, opportunities and actions to mitigate the indirect impacts of COVID for AHS.
- Alberta extended an offer of critical care assistance to Manitoba as that province manages its third wave. Alberta has sufficient ICU capacity at this time to ensure that all Albertans needing this level of care, receive it. To date, two patients have arrived from Manitoba and are being cared for in Calgary hospitals.

Q. Why are children under the age of 12 not eligible for the vaccine?

A. Safety and effectiveness in people younger than 12 years of age has not yet been established. Current studies are underway. No approval has been granted to administer COVID vaccine in children under 12 years of age.

Monica Schwann, Director, Screening Programs and Huiming Yang, Provincial Medical Officer of Health, Healthy Living & Medical Director, Screening Programs, provided a written update that included the following highlights:

- Strategies continue to be developed to recover cancer screening and diagnostic follow-up to pre-COVID levels, with a focus on timely access through optimized triage processes.
- The Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) has provided funding to support increased access to FIT testing. This funding will enable the development of an online ordering mechanism to request the FIT test. Screening Programs will also use its toll-free phone line as another option for Albertans to order kits. This new service is scheduled to launch in the Fall 2021.
- The Integrated Access Cancer (IAC) Screening project is designed at improving access to screening in northern Alberta Communities, where cancer screening rates are lower than the provincial average. In conjunction with the screen test mobile, a nurse practitioner provides cervical and colorectal cancer screening. Since the launch in December 2020, 248 clients in nine communities have participated in the integrated services. In June, Screen Test and IAC team will offer services in six First Nations and Métis Settlements.
- The Cancer Screening Program is continuously looking at different ways of bringing screening services closer to home and into the more remote communities in Northern Alberta.
- Screening programs continue to communicate with the public about the importance of cancer screening.



Matthew Parliament, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta, provided a written update that included the following highlights:

- Surgical recovery in Alberta is focused on returning to pre-COVID surgical state along with supporting expanding surgeries across the province. Cancer Care Alberta (CCA) is currently reviewing staffing plans for the cancer sites based on post-surgical cancer treatment activity.
- CCA is continuing to provide close to 40% of care by virtual delivery modes (telephone, telehealth, web-based platforms). Focus has been on understanding virtual care as a mode to delivering care. Meetings with patient advisors has taken place however a few more advisors are needed who represent the experience of living in rural settings and receiving virtual care.
- The CCA/Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) project, Walking Together: Strengthening First Nations, Métis and Inuit Cancer Care in Alberta, has seen successes both in community relations and in increasing the capacity of CCA to provide culturally appropriate care to those who come to our cancer centres. One example is that conversations have started with oncologists and operational leaders around the use of traditional healing in cancer care.
- The Calgary Cancer Centre project continues to track on budget and schedule. Operational readiness is well underway.
- The Grande Prairie Cancer Centre is scheduled for an operational start date of December 2021. Operational planning is underway for ambulatory, systemic treatment, radiation therapy and supportive care services.

Q. Is the plan with virtual care to move towards video rather than telephone appointments?

A. There will always be instances in which interactions between clinicians and patients/families need to take place in person. With COVID, it was important to move to virtual almost immediately and telephone was the simplest and most stable form of technology to do this. The use of technology with Connect Care will change and allow a video conferencing platform. As work continues on the virtual care framework, best practices will be established.

Douglas Stewart, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network, provided a written update that included the following highlights:

- The Cancer SCN seeks to build and implement a cancer diagnosis program with single-point access for all cancer diagnosis pathways, timely access to appropriate diagnostic work-up and referrals, and links for patients to appropriate supportive care and educational resources. Currently, the governance for the Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative is being established with primary care, patients and families. The Steering Committee is launching this summer.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the start of COVID, Alberta has seen a continuing decrease in the number of new cancers being diagnosed. Together with Cancer Care Alberta, a public health campaign was launched to encourage the public to seek advice from healthcare providers when they have unexplained, new, worsening, or persistent health changes. More information on symptoms of cancer can be found at ahs.ca/bodytalk or https://myhealth.alberta.ca/cancersymptoms <p>Janine Sakatch, Director, Community Engagement, provided a written update that included the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are encouraged to register and attend the Advisory Councils Spring Forum from June 9-12, 2021. To date, only three Cancer PAC members have registered to date. Sessions are planned throughout each of the four days (combination of early morning/afternoon and late afternoon/evening). One of the sessions taking place is a presentation by Dr. Esther Tailfeathers on Allyship = Action: How you can help in the anti-racism journey. • AHS has hosted approximately 270 virtual engagement sessions during the first 12 months of COVID. Community Engagement will be looking at different models on how the organization can maintain the momentum and keep Albertans engaged.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are optimistic that they will soon be able to start meeting with various groups within their communities. • A few members have been hearing that people in their communities had a delayed cancer diagnosis due to postponed visits to their family physicians. It is important to spread the message that if people have signs and symptoms to seek timely medical attention. Seeking advice and care from your family doctor or nurse practitioner is important for all aspects of your health, particularly for potentially life-threatening diseases that can be avoided by early diagnosis such as cancer. • Members have been asked to participate as patient/family advisors on various cancer committees and initiatives such as; Virtual Health, Advanced Cancer Diagnosis, Living Well after Cancer, and AB Colorectal Cancer Screening Program Advisory Committee. • Members are hearing that cancer patients have been grateful to have been eligible for the COVID vaccine in Phase 2B. • The Wisdom Council met virtually on May 14th. A review of the terms of reference will be taking place. The Council will be looking to strengthen relationships and exchange information with the Advisory Councils through attendance at meetings. Wally has been working with the North Zone in the development of the Indigenous Action Plan. • The Ride to Conquer Cancer will continue as a national brand raising money for the Princess Margaret Cancer Foundation in Toronto. This has given the Alberta Cancer Foundation (ACF) the opportunity to create something



	<p>Albertan to keep the impact close to home. Although the brand is going to have a different name, the goals and experience will remain the same. Riders are able to ride any day, anywhere and are not limited to the number of kilometers. Twelve of the seventeen cancer centres in Alberta have been identified by teams to support as part of this year’s Enbridge Tour Alberta for Cancer. Those centres that have not yet been adopted by a team participating in the Tour include Camrose, Drumheller, Hinton, Peace River, and Medicine Hat. The cancer centres are being supported by teams and riders, which speaks to the importance of supporting care closer to home. More information on the Enbridge Tour Alberta for Cancer can be found here: Home - Enbridge Tour Alberta for Cancer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellspring Edmonton and Calgary are in the planning stages of re-opening for in person sessions/events. • Effective June 1st, Natalie Noble is the new Chief Executive Officer for Wellspring Calgary. Sheena Clifford will take on the Chief Operating role.
<p>Commitment/Priorities Planning Session</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A small working group met to further establish and refine the details in the 2021-2024 Commitments and Priorities document. • The council reviewed the plan and were supportive of the categories, priorities, and actions. • Discussion took place on ways in which members could engage and share information with the public. • Members felt it would be beneficial to have an informal forum in between the council meetings where members can share information and have the opportunity to get to know one other.
<p>Action Item(s) from Standing Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A resource related to Cancer Screening Programs in AB to be distributed to members. Resources can also be found on the Screening for Life website, under Patient Resources: Patient Education Resources - Screening For Life Screening For Life • A doodle poll will be sent out for the first Virtual Café to be held in early July. These informal meetings, for members, will be held in-between the Council meetings. • Members to review the Commitments and Priorities Plan to ensure it aligns with the Cancer PAC Bylaws and Terms of Reference. • Key messages and a one page summary on Delayed Cancer Diagnosis Public Awareness Campaign to be distributed to members.



NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	No presentations scheduled for this meeting.
2020-2021 Cancer PAC Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content approved in principle. Draft version will go to Community Engagement for review. • Final version will be brought forward to the June meeting for information.
Cancer PAC Bylaws and Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members had no additional feedback or revisions. It was suggested that a comparison document be developed showing the revisions between the current and updated documents. • A voting poll will be sent out the beginning of July for approval.
Action Item(s) from New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized 2020-2021 Cancer PAC Annual Report to be brought forward to the June meeting for information. • Final version of the updated Cancer PAC Terms of Reference and Bylaws will be emailed to members for approval the first week of July.
Date of Next Meeting	Date: Saturday, October 2, 2021 Time: 8:30am – 12:00pm Location: Zoom

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
 Visit [Together 4 Health](#) (T4H) to engage with AHS online.