



David Thompson Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2021 /5:00 pm – 8:00 pm / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Carole Tkach (Chair), Deryl Comeau (Vice-Chair), Al Campbell, Gerry Greschner, Gerry Johnston, Dawn Konelsky, Peggy Makofka, Michelle Narang, Selena Redel, Shelagh Slater
AHS	Kimberly Storey, Valerie Thompson, Janice Stewart, Rob Swanson, Brant Poirier, Barb Frere, Maya Atallah
Regrets	Marie Cornelson, Melanie Hassett, Phyllis Loewen
Public	Fourteen
Welcome & Introductions	Carole welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. Carole provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	October 13, 2020 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from the previous meeting	Maya Atallah will ask the Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) if it is involved in any work pertaining to PharmaCare. Status: pending meeting with PAC Coordinator to discuss Council work on this topic.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges and learnings from the vaccine rollout; online booking system and supply availability. - Allan Sinclair’s retirement announcement. - Work will resume to address recommendations from the AHS Review. - Starting work on the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) to address the surgical backlog caused by the pandemic. - COVID-19 recovery plan to reopen some departments that were closed during the pandemic. - COVID-19 testing in Red Deer is moving to the Westerner Park facility on March 21. - The importance of following safety regulations put in place by the government to limit the spread of COVID-19. <p>Kimberly Storey, Senior Operating Officer, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, shared the following: an update on the business case for Red Deer Regional Hospital. Working groups are providing input to care and service delivery models for</p>



	<p>funding consideration. On Feb 25 the Alberta Government announced a three-year plan indicating the hospital expansion is slated to receive \$19 million in 2022-23, and \$35 million in 2023-24.</p> <p>Robert Swanson, Area Director, Central Zone, provided updates for the areas of Clearwater and Mountain View Counties. Rocky Mountain House and Olds are working on the ASI. Partnership with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and other health partners in Sundre has resulted in a successful simulation lab to educate rural practitioners.</p> <p>Valerie Thompson, Area Director, Central Zone, provided updates for the Counties of Red Deer, Lacombe Rimbey, Innisfail and Ponoka. The impact of COVID on delivery of some services in the Ponoka area; recruitment of nursing staff in Rimbey; upgrade to x-ray machine from March 4 – April 2 in Lacombe; increase to surgical services in Innisfail.</p> <p>Barbara Frere, Area Director, Central Zone, provided updates for the Kneehill, Starland, and Special Area 2 which includes Drumheller, Hanna and Three Hills. There’s an increase in addiction and mental health services in Drumheller. Comfort Care Aides have been hired to help nurses in the area. Red Deer College no longer offers a Licensed Practical Nurse and Health Care Aide program. Kudos to local fundraising groups that have helped upgrade some equipment in various Central Zone hospitals.</p> <p>Brant Poirier Area Director, Central Zone, provided updates for Stettler, Consort, Coronation, Castor and Provost. Reviews to determine reopening of departments temporarily closed due to the pandemic are underway. The renovation project of the Stettler Hospital & Care Centre is almost done. Improvements are being made to Labour & Delivery, Emergency Department and to Kitchen/Nutrition & Food Services.</p>
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Colleen Lindholm, Rural Community Consultant with RhPAP, shared the following updates with Council: information on the rural information series hosted by RhPAP and community organizations. Rural Health Week is May 24-28 and is an opportunity to show local health providers appreciation. There’s a Let’s Go Rural event for rural Alberta high school students interested in a pathway to medical school. Information on preparing for medical school can be found here. As well, RhPAPs Continuing Professional Development Programs provide an opportunity for physicians practicing in rural Alberta to upgrade their skills and do some additional training. More information on costs and related expenses covered is available here.</p>
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>Members of the community shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - COVID has highlighted the need for respite care for seniors to meet their basic needs.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is financial strain on seniors traveling to access specialized health services. - Coronation & District Handi-Bus Society has received a grant to help support senior's transportation to nearby vaccination sites. <p>Q. Why are certain frontline workers eligible for vaccination during the phases of its roll out while others are not? Janice responded that Albertans are vaccinated in phases based on supply and determined by health risk. Alberta Health determines eligibility for each phase. More groups will be eligible as supply increases. For more information on vaccine roll out visit the Alberta Health Page or the AHS COVID-19 Vaccine Page.</p>
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members regarding COVID-19 in their communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Unclear about the criteria for selecting vaccine sites. - Travel is difficult for rural residents who are hours away. It's especially challenging for seniors on medication. - Many people are frustrated with the restrictions and confused about what is/not allowed. Janice advises that Alberta Health decides distribution of supplies to AHS and pharmacies with vaccines. AHS considers safe storage and handling of vaccines set by the manufacturer which limits how far is can be transported. Public Health measures will be revised as the situation changes. For information on the latest public health measures visit Alberta Health. <p>Additional comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Red Deer College has programs that help recruit local graduates to stay in the area. Health Care Aide, English as a Second Language to Health Care Aide Program and Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) are some of the programs. Ponoka Family & Community Support Services has a similar program called the Personal Caregiver Program. - RhPAP is funding an ultrasound course for a physician in Sundre. - A central support cancer workgroup is being formed in Red Deer based on Wellspring Calgary and Edmonton that helps support those living with cancer. - Suggestion that AHS increase communication of its addiction and mental health services so people know where to go when in need. <p>Maya Atallah added that Community Engagement is hosting various Community Conversations on COVID vaccine roll out. More information including dates and locations can be found on Together4health.</p>
<p>Action Item(s)</p>	<p>Brant will inquire if there is a health aide program in Stettler.</p>



NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Co-designing a Better System to Support Family Caregivers <i>Dr. Sharon Anderson, Research Coordinator at University of Alberta</i></p> <p>The presentation explained what is known about Family Caregivers in Alberta, why they are important, the effect of the COVID- 19 pandemic and how to support them in maintaining their health. A Caregiver Centered Competency-Based Education module was also introduced. For more information and to become competent in this framework visit www.caregivercare.ca</p>
Elections	<p>Gerry Greshner put forth an expression of interest for the position of Chair. Maya Atallah asked three times if there were any further nominations from the floor. Moved by Michelle Narang that nominations cease. MOTION CARRIED. Gerry Greschner was declared Chair of the David Thompson Health Advisory Council by acclamation.</p> <p>Peggy Makofka put forth an expression of interest for the position of Vice Chair. Gerry Greschner asked three times if there were any further nominations from the floor. Moved by Selena Redel that nominations cease. MOTION CARRIED. Peggy Makofka was declared Chair of the David Thompson Health Advisory Council by acclamation.</p>
Action Item	<p>Maya will share the names of the newly elected Chair and Vice Chair with the AHS Board.</p>
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 – Engagement Event Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Location: Online via Zoom Contact community.engagement@ahs.ca for details</p>

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