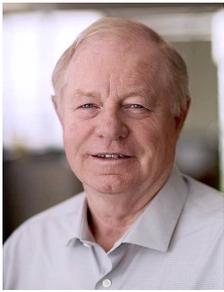


# David Thompson Health Advisory Council

## 2022-23 Annual Report



## Message from the Official Administrator Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

## Message from the Chair Pam Hansen, David Thompson Health Advisory Council



It was wonderful for David Thompson Health Advisory Council (DTHAC) to have its first post-pandemic in-person meeting in October. Our Council has stayed busy over the last year and members stayed connected with people in their communities. In December, we held a fabulous virtual community event with the director of Red Deer Child, Youth and Family Addiction and Mental Health and Health Promotion facilitators, which was well attended by members of the public. In February, we held a virtual meeting with information on Dementia Care Options and Support for Caregivers in the David Thompson area.

Our Council is currently busy working on our Work Commitments. I would like to thank DTHAC members for your dedication to healthcare in your communities and am looking forward to working and learning with, and from, all of you.

Special thank you to our Coordinator, the Community Engagement Department and Zone leadership for everything they do.

# OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

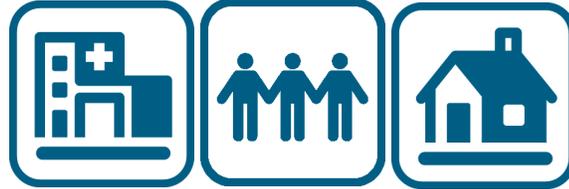


*Top Row L-R: Pam Hansen (Chair), Peggy Makofka (Vice Chair), Allyssa Deheer and Christine Heggart  
Row 2 L-R: Darrin Thompson, Gerry Greschner and Janey Olson  
Row 3 L-R: Judy Lorenz, Ken Hansen and Martha Winchell,  
Bottom Row L-R: Rob Yatkovsky, Rosemary Brown and Wendi Lautenbach*

“Partnering with the Central Zone Health Advisory Council Chairs and Members over the 2022-23 year has been a great honour. Their ability to keep us connected to the communities we support and provide feedback and advice on AHS services offered in the zone is undeniably beneficial. We are grateful for their volunteer time and efforts acting as key stakeholders between AHS and the residents of the Central Zone.

**Janice Stewart and Dr. Michael Mulholland**  
Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone and Acting Central Zone Medical Director

# FACTS AND FIGURES



## Council Member Representation

- |             |                      |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Bentley     | Olds                 |
| Eckville    | Red Deer             |
| Hanna       | Rimbey               |
| Lacombe     | Rocky Mountain House |
| Leslieville | Sundre               |

**# By the numbers**  
 Participation in DTHAC meetings & events:

- 3** public meetings
- 67** public attended
- 1** engagement event
- 33** public attended
- 5** new members

## Provincial participation at Advisory Council meetings & events\*



\*Reflective of the number of public that attended all HAC and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Advisory Council members share advice and feedback from their communities with AHS. Councils hold public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contribute to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

- ✓ 90-day Report session with Official Administrator (OA), Dr. John Cowell he reviewed his findings re the health system from his first 90 days as OA. Also, Gerry Greshner (Former Chair) attended the RhPAP conference.
- ✓ Partnered with AHS' Addiction and Mental Health portfolio to learn about mental health and justice, and about resources and services available locally. Council acquired information about the single walk-in clinics available at several sites (e.g., Drumheller and Hanna).
- ✓ Invited public to a presentation on dementia care and respite for caregivers. AHS' Senior's and Continuing Care program addressed topics such as [stay-at-home supports](#) and social activities to stay connected. Participants learned about [Adult Day Programs](#) and [Golden Circle Senior Resource Centre](#).
- ✓ Hot topics of discussion included:
  - workforce recruitment (shortages);
  - Redevelopment programs at various facilities site closures (temporary and long-term) – gaining a better understanding of the factors that constitute closures (e.g., nurse or physician absence or vacancies).

## OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



### Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



### 2022-23 Influenza Immunization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the provincewide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



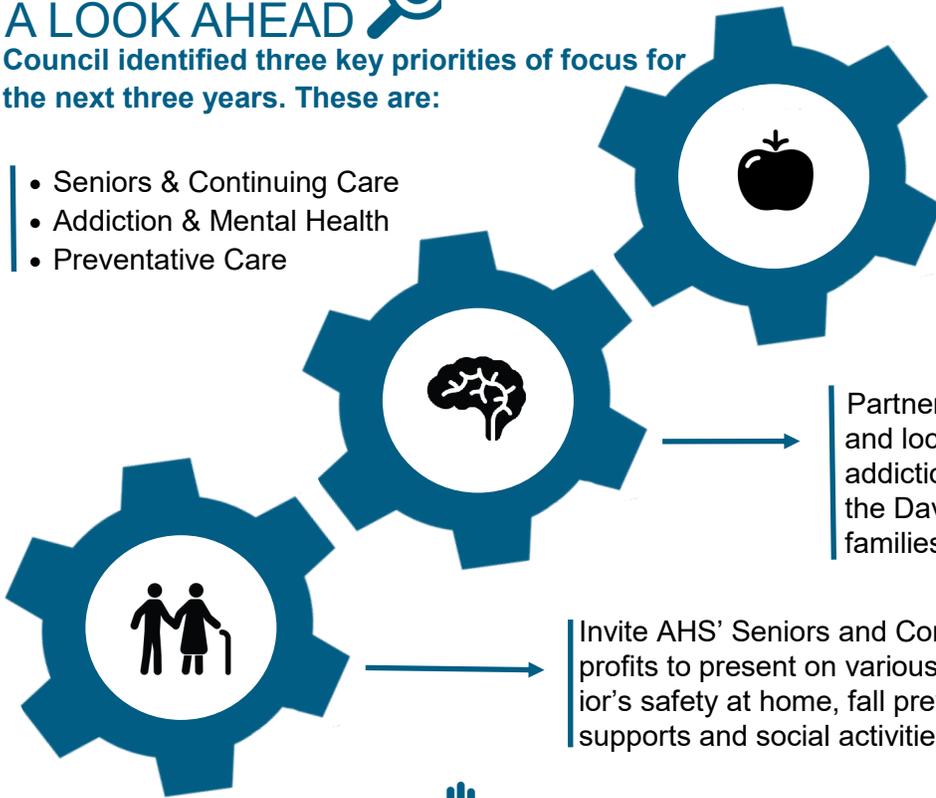
### Spiritual Care Policy

Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Providers Access Policy.

## A LOOK AHEAD

Council identified three key priorities of focus for the next three years. These are:

- Seniors & Continuing Care
- Addiction & Mental Health
- Preventative Care



### DTHAC commits to:

Host an information session on routine healthcare at all ages (e.g. vaccinations, testing and screenings), end-of-life conversations, and acute care bed management.

Partner with the AHS Addiction and Mental Health and local groups to host an information session on addiction and mental health services available in the David Thompson area for patients and their families.

Invite AHS' Seniors and Continuing Care and local groups and non-profits to present on various topics targeted at seniors such as senior's safety at home, fall prevention, prescription refills, stay-at-home supports and social activities.

## GET INVOLVED

Make a difference to the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email: [davidthompson@ahs.ca](mailto:davidthompson@ahs.ca)
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attend an [upcoming meeting](#).
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

**APPLY**

