



## Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 14, 2022 / 6:00 pm – 9:00 p.m. / Edmonton, AB., Seventh Street Plaza

| ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS                                |  |
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| <b>Members</b>   | Floyd House (Chair), Maria Melizza Carino, Donalda Farwell, Kavis Reed, Nazret Russon  |
| <b>AHS</b>   | Deanna Dament, Andrea Jackson, Dr. Kirstie McLelland, Dr. Chris Sikora, Selene Tash  |
| <b>Regrets</b>   | Carol Anderson, Towunmi (Priscilla) Coke, Shakib Rahman (Vice Chair), Vincent Liu  |
| <b>Welcome, Land Acknowledgement &amp; Introductions</b> | Floyd House welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions and provided a land acknowledgment.  |
| <b>Approval of previous minutes</b>                      | February 2, 2022, meeting minutes were approved by consensus.  |
| STANDING ITEMS   |  |
| <b>Action items from the previous meeting</b>            | There are no action items from the February 2, 2022, meeting.  |
| <b>Edmonton Zone Executive Leadership Update</b>         | <p><b>Selene Tash, Executive Director, Community Health Services, provided the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selene provided leadership updates. The Acting CEO and Interim AHS President is Mauro Chies. The announcement of a new AHS President and CEO is expected soon.</li> <li>The Health Minister’s Tour continues as Jason Copping will visit Central Zone, Calgary Zone and Edmonton in the coming weeks.</li> <li>The Connect Care launch 4 was successful. Launch 5 will occur Nov. 6, 2022. Following launch 5, every six months a new launch is planned until all care settings in Alberta use Connect Care. For more information visit <a href="#">Connect Care</a>.</li> <li>The Edmonton Zone Opioid Response Operations Committee’s (OROC) 10-point action plan continues to be implemented.</li> <li>The Workforce Recruitment and Retention Task Force are always active.</li> <li>AHS supports Ukrainian refugees in Edmonton, Calgary and some rural areas to gain access to healthcare.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Chris Sikora, <b>Medical Officer of Health, Edmonton Zone, Population, Public and Indigenous Health</b> provided public health updates on the COVID-19 pandemic response, influenza and monkey pox.</p> |



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|   | <p><b>Dr. Kirstie McLelland, Acting Edmonton Zone Medical Director, provided the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <a href="#">Alberta Surgical Initiative</a> 2.0 (ASI) continues to be implemented province wide.</li> <li>• A community engagement session re the Indigenous Health Plan took place at Alberta Hospital, with several Elders.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Zone Leadership Q &amp; A</b></p> | <p><b>Zone Leadership provided responses to Council members questions, as follows:</b></p> <p><b>EMS</b> - EMS remains a key priority, siting the EMS 10-point plan for reference on current plans. AHS and Alberta Health (AH) are working closely and with higher volumes and acuity of patients, the challenges AHS face are large. As a result of community consultation, AHS added non-ambulance transfers to evening rotations.</p> <p><b>Monkey Pox</b> - Alberta currently has 35 cases, which is fewer than those in Ontario and Quebec. AHS is working with LGBTQ2S+ populations to help destigmatize this illness, and working with organizations that have trusted access points to the target population.</p> <p><b>HealthLink</b> - HealthLink is a 24/7 phone line for all Albertans to receive health advice. The number to dial is 811. The service conducts surveys, books appointments and coordinates virtual care, as well as helps Albertans find a doctor.</p> <p><b>Addiction and Mental Health</b> - This is a priority area for AHS and as it restructures the goal is for timely access for all, including youth. There is a 24/7 access line available to all Albertans and while it doesn't address long-term needs, it is helpful for those requiring an immediate response (1.877.303.2642). Of note, AHS is not the sole-provider of mental health services, and it continues partnering with community organizations to provide support. One resource available to youth is the African Centre in Edmonton.</p> <p><b>Health Records</b> - Primary Care physicians are the only ones who do not have access to Connect Care, but they eventually will. They currently use Netcare.</p> <p><b>COVID-19</b> - The Government of Alberta is responsible for setting public health mandates. It is unknown if mandates will need to be reconsidered during the fall and winter months. AHS prepares for different scenarios based on infection and death rates.</p> |



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| <p><b>Action Items</b></p>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selene Tash will inquire the number of private surgical facilities in Alberta. Of note, there is a surgical facility on the Enoch Cree Nation.</li> <li>• Selene will inquire the number of adults and children accessing mental health services in the Zone, and how it's changed.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Council Round Table</b></p>     | <p>The following was shared by Council members regarding health concerns in their communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One member referred to transplant patient care that was incredible, with note that the emergency department doesn't have enough chairs. Alternately, the member stated that care for those who are isolated due to COVID is questionable and that staff must do more than poke their head in the door. Doctors are hard to find and it's worse on weekends and evenings.</li> <li>• There is concern about the loss of doctor's and other health professions in Alberta, and hope that the agreement between the AMA, doctors and the province helps keep people here.</li> <li>• There is concern in Fort Saskatchewan because the maternity ward is not always available.</li> <li>• Ambulances are shuffled around communities and there is concern there aren't any available locally, when needed.</li> <li>• A plan is being introduced for EMS and Addiction and Mental Health. Information will be shared when available.</li> <li>• Lots of praise for AHS helping Ukrainian refugees to receive health coverage. However, temporary residents quickly get healthcare access compared to those seeking permanent residency, likely because they have a different immigration process that slows access to healthcare. The Mosaic Primary Care Network (PCN) in Calgary supports refugees and Catholic Social Services helps new Canadians in Edmonton.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Voices of the Community</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q:</b> Where can youth get mental health support?</li> <li>• <b>A:</b> <a href="#">Access Open Minds</a> is for 16 – 24 years old.</li> <li>• <b>Q:</b> Is Bivalent the Moderna vaccine?</li> <li>• <b>A:</b> Yes, the Moderna Bivalent is available on Sept. 21.</li> <li>• Virtual care in smaller communities is an advantage. EMS is leveraging Sturgeon County's fire services very well to bridge the time between an accident and the arrival of ambulances on the scene.</li> <li>• The state of students' mental health cannot be underplayed. . School divisions cannot manage all the supports required for students' mental health.</li> <li>• Gratitude for the work AHS is doing to provide culturally sensitive care and better trauma-informed services.</li> </ul>  |



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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">211</a> is Alberta-wide and is for social services. 811 is for health services.</li> <li>• <a href="#">AHS</a> virtual health care has improved because of COVID.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Report from the Chair</b>                              | Floyd provided a membership update: the names of six new members are being put forward. If approved by the AHS Board, they will begin Oct. 1. The GEHAC is increasing from eight members to 14. Recruitment is ongoing.  |
| <b>Advisory Council Update</b>                            | Deanna provided an Advisory Council update. The 21/22 Annual Reports will be online soon. A reminder that Advisory Councils are on Twitter, @ahs_councils, and Facebook, @ahsadvisorycouncils. Please follow.  |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>                                       |  |
| <b>Review GEHAC Commitment and Priorities 2021 - 2023</b> | Floyd reviewed the GEHAC Work Commitments and Priorities and identified the following working groups:<br>Addiction and Mental Health – Kavis, Maria, Nazret, Floyd<br>Seniors and Continuing Care – Donalda, Nazret and Kavis<br>Racial and cultural minority access to health services – Maria and Nazret |
| <b>Engagement topic and working group for November</b>    | Kavis, Floyd, Nazert and Maria volunteered to lead the planning of the community engagement event. The topic is Mental Health.   |
| <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                               | Date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022 – Community Engagement Event<br>Time: 6:00-9:00 p.m.<br>Location: TBD   |

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.