



## Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 17, 2024 / 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Ida Edwards (Chair), Heather Stromquist (Vice Chair), Brad Eamon, Maureen Sullivan, Ed Tomaszuk
<b>AHS</b>	Logan Clow, Lana Hataley, Melony Hatley, Dr. Tina Hoang, Jennifer Hutchinson, Shauna Wallbank
<b>Regrets</b>	Diane Mineault-Ellis, Cheryl Edwards, Carrie Goldsmith, Terri Hampson, Victoria Sparklingeyes, and Joanne Williams
<b>Public</b>	12
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Ida Edwards welcomed all in attendance, went through introductions and provided a land acknowledgement.
<b>Approval of minutes</b>	The November 29, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Previous Action Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anita to connect with Shun Li, Dean of Health and Wellness at Portage College. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>Shauna Wallbank and Lana Hataley to follow up with Brad Eamon regarding visiting specialists in St. Paul. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>Rob Barone to connect with Hank Holowaychuk regarding replacement supplies. <b>Complete.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Health Services North Zone Update</b>	<p><b>Lana Hataley, Senior Operating Officer, Areas 5-7 &amp; Programmatic Lead Acute Care, Allied Health &amp; Volunteer Services, shared the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A written report was provided with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plans and performance measures and initiatives. An update on the Connect Care launch 7 as well as several Public Health and Seniors Health initiatives were shared.</li> </ul>
<b>Advisory Council Update</b>	<p><b>Janine Sakatch, Executive Director, Community Engagement and Communications shared the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The last day of operations for all Alberta Health Services Health (AHS) Advisory Councils (HACs) will be June 28, 2024. She expressed her gratitude for all Council members. Members bring meaningful information to AHS through all their efforts and community insights. There is a great role and value for volunteer input. Community Engagement will continue supporting members until the end of June and will host a virtual wrap up event for members and on June 4.</li> </ul>



<b>Physician Recruitment Report</b>	<p><b>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, Medical Affairs, reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Athabasca is recruiting three family medicine physicians.</li> <li>• Bonnyville is recruiting two family medicine physicians.</li> <li>• Cold Lake is recruiting four family medicine physicians and one family medicine physician with enhanced surgical skills (C-Section).</li> <li>• Elk Point is recruiting one family medicine physician.</li> <li>• St. Paul is recruiting three psychiatrists, one family medicine physician with anesthesia and one family medicine physician.</li> <li>• Lac La Biche is recruiting one family medicine physician with enhanced surgical skills (C-Section) and two family medicine physicians with anesthesia.</li> </ul>
<b>Voices of the Community</b>	<p>There were 12 members of the public present. One person had a question about restructuring and how services will work together going forward. Referred to Government of Alberta website for more information - <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/refocusing-health-care-in-alberta">Refocusing health care in Alberta   Alberta.ca</a>.</p>
<b>Report from the Chair</b>	<p><b>Ida Edwards, Council Chair, provided the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Council of Chairs met briefly on Feb. 21 to discuss upcoming consultations requested by Alberta Health.</li> <li>• On March 6, Council met with MLA Martin Long, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health and staff from Alberta Health in Athabasca to discuss successes and opportunities related to the work and role of the HAC.</li> <li>• Council of Chairs met again on April 16 to discuss what will occur between now and the end of June, when HACs wrap operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Council Roundtable and Good News Stories</b>	<p><b>Council members shared the following updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ida Edwards shared that the Attraction and Retention Committee in Athabasca had a great event at the local high school where it shared information about healthcare careers.</li> <li>• Heather Stromquist shared that Lac La Biche is hosting a medical appreciation event on Monday. All healthcare workers are invited.</li> <li>• Ed Tomaszuk shared concerns about plans for refocusing healthcare and the ‘decentralizing’ of AHS.</li> </ul>
<b>Presentation - Virtual Chronic Pain Clinic</b>	<p><b>Dr. Tina Hoang, Associate Medical Lead, Alberta Virtual Chronic Pain Program (AVCPP), provided information on the new program. Highlights were:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVCPP is a virtual group education treatment program for people in Alberta experiencing persistent pain longer than three months.</li> <li>• The program is for patients looking to better understand their pain, connect with others living with pain, and who are seeking strategies to manage pain beyond medication.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is an interactive program led by health providers with peer support incorporated throughout, as well as post-completion follow-up for up to one year.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is offered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and coaching on self-management strategies in a group setting. Sessions provide practical self-management tools, delivered in an interactive and engaging way.</li> <li>• Opportunities to ask questions and discuss self-management strategies with clinicians trained in chronic pain management.</li> <li>• Opportunities to form connections with participants.</li> <li>• Connection to other AHS and community services and resources, as required.</li> <li>• Group-based peer support available throughout the program, and follow-up after completion.</li> <li>• 1-hour sessions each week for six weeks (virtual group education and self-management program).</li> <li>• 1-hour peer support group sessions each week – provides opportunity to connect with others living with pain.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is not offered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis, medical intervention, one-on-one care, prescription advice/renewals.</li> </ul> <p>AVCPP is free and available to people residing in Alberta, 18+ years old, suffering non-cancer pain, lasting three months or longer. No formal diagnosis is required. No formal referral from a healthcare provider is required. For patients interested in joining an upcoming Virtual Chronic Pain Program self-management group session, call 1-877-719-7707 to register.</p>
<p><b>Presentation – Recruitment Update</b></p>	<p><b>Jennifer Hutchison, Advisor, Talent Acquisition, provided a recruitment update for the area. Highlights include:</b></p> <p><b>Current Recruitment Initiatives in progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">AHS Health Workforce Strategy (HWS)</a> - Developed to act on recruitment challenges and coordinate planning to meet workforce needs. Split into two phases:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase one: Immediate response to short-term challenges.</li> <li>○ Phase two: Coordinate planning under four strategic pillars to meet medium and long-term workforce needs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



- [Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan](#) - The HWS is organized around three pillars: recruitment, retention, optimization.
  - Recruitment by growing the talent supply by inspiring young people to consider Allied Health professions.
  - Retaining a vibrant and engaged workforce from hire to retire, in a range of rewarding roles within the organization.
  - Optimizing the workforce and models of care: improved clinician experience, better patient outcomes, reduced costs and improved patient experience.
- [Rural Talent Pipeline](#) - Targeted recruitment of candidates considering employment in our rural zones.
- [Nursing Students & New Grads](#) - Recruitment of nursing new grads and students to support areas of need. Ad campaigns, pipeline building and rural interest calls.
- [Internationally Educated Nurses \(IEN\) Program](#) - Targeted recruitment of IEN including support for licensure and immigration.
- [Community Spotlight](#) - Showcasing rural communities, unique cities, towns, villages and varied landscapes across the five AHS zones. It highlights why AHS is a great place to work and why these communities are a great place to live.
- [AHS Health Care Aide \(HCA\) Training Program](#) - HCA Training Program, uncertified HCAs can 'earn as they learn' and have tuition and books covered by AHS.

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.