



Lesser Slave Lake Meeting Summary February 8, 2021 / 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

Introducing your Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council members:

In attendance: Susan Giesbrecht (Interim Chair), Edna Boucher, Lindsay Davies, Lindy Fors, Robin Guild, Louise Myre, Richard Simard, Norman Wang.

Alberta Health Services: Melony Cole – Zettler, Dalique van der Nest, Shauna Wallbank

Regrets: Joyce Dvornek, Debbie Rose, Cody Twinn

AHS Presentations

Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre

Barb Courtorelle, Executive Director, Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre

Barb provided an overview of the services provided at the Friendship Centre and how they serve vulnerable populations in the region. Services include:

- Food bank offered once a month, afterschool snacks service, second hand store.
- Free clothing and household goods for women from Northern Haven Women's Shelter.
- The Mat Program is available 24 hours a day when it's cold, offering showers and three meals a day.
- Providing coats for kids and winter clothes for adults.
- Help with income tax, finding supports available, resumes and setting up appointments.
- Telephone use for homeless to can connect with family.
- WJS Canada is currently setting up virtual medical appointments which they hope will be a new program available at all Friendship Centre's.
- New Indigenous mental health worker starts February 20 along with two additional staff fluent in Cree to support clients.

Questions from Council

Q. What happens when clients set up an appointment in Edmonton, does the Friendship Centre have a transportation available?

A. Not right now; this is being worked on. Currently, transportation is available to get clients to the bus to get them to the city for appointments.

North Zone Update

The following information was shared with Council:

Dalique van der Nest, Executive Director, Allied Health, North Zone, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local region. She also provided highlights from the North Zone operational plan and performance measures and initiatives. An update on COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, was provided. Information on its impact and measures to reduce spread is changing daily. Visit www.ahs.ca/covid for the most up-to-date information.

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Questions from Council

Q. For vaccine roll out, the MD of Opportunity was going to treat all residents (band and non-band members) the same - begin with 65 and older, then vulnerable residents. Provincial rules state only band members are eligible first. This will cause problems within the community, what can be done?

A. This vaccine roll out is challenging. The need to coordinate two shots and cold storage in every community is difficult. The province has been planning for a certain amount of vaccines, then the supply changes. AHS is looking at everyone who is high risk. AHS is trying to do the best they can with what is available. The list of priorities is very difficult, there has been lots of frustrations within the health centers as well. There is no real way around it right now, AHS is following very strict guidelines. The North Zone Leadership is waiting for more details to share with our communities.

Q. The lab in Slave Lake requiring appointments is hard for people from out of town to get lab work done, when will the public be able to walk in again?

A. AHS understands it's difficult for patients who have to travel. The aim of the Family Care Clinic is to be a one-stop service. Unfortunately, with COVID it can't accommodate as many patients as it could previously and with limited space for social distancing in the waiting rooms it's had to move to an appointment-based service for the time being.

Physician Recruitment Report

Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, provided the following physician resource update:

- High Prairie – there are currently six family physicians, including three with additional skills in the community. Recruitment is underway for three in family medicine and one in family medicine with anesthesia.
- Slave Lake – there are currently nine family physicians, including five with additional skills in the community. A new physician in family medicine has recently started and they are not currently recruiting to the community at this time.
- Wabasca – there are currently five family physicians. Recruitment is underway for four additional family medicine physicians.

Community Partners

Holly Handfield and Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultants with Rural Health Professionals Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report. Highlights include:

- **Rhapsody Awards** 2021 nominations are now open with a submission deadline of February 28, 2021. For more information visit the nomination website: www.RhapsodyAwards.ca.
- **REMINDER** - Rural Voice Information Panel (VIP) is expanding membership to include Health Advisory Council (HAC) members. HAC members wishing to participate can [sign up here](#).
- **Upcoming Information Sessions:**

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- **February 18, 2021 - Wellspring Cancer Support.** Wellspring is a Canada-wide network of community-based centres that provide cancer support. This session will highlight supports offered in rural Alberta. <https://wellspring.ca/>
 - Registration: [Eventbright link](#)
- **March 17, 2021 – Alberta Health Services – Health Advisory Councils.** Health Advisory Councils (HAC's) provide a grassroots perspective and an understanding of their communities' health needs.
 - Registration: [Eventbright link](#)
- **RhPAP social media and publications:** Follow RhPAP's social media channels and [sign up here](#) to receive the various newsletters to hear stories from around the province.
- **Local and regional:** High Prairie area health care provider attraction and retention. RhPAP has a keen interest in supporting people in High Prairie and area to form an Attraction and Retention Committee that will attract and retain all health care providers including nurses, allied health and physicians. If there are any contacts that might be interested in discussing this further, please contact Holly: holly.handfield@rhpap.ca

Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Elections were held for the position of Chair of the Council.

- Melony Cole-Zettler opened the floor for nominations.
- Susan Giesbrecht submitted her nomination for the position of Chair.
- Melony Cole-Zettler asked three times if there are any further nominations from the floor.
- By acclamation at the meeting on February 8, Susan Giesbrecht was declared the successful candidate for the position of Chair of the Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council for a term of two years, ending February 2023.

Elections were held for the position of Vice Chair of the Council.

- Melony Cole-Zettler opened the floor for nominations.
- Lindsay Davies submitted her nomination for the position of Vice Chair.
- Melony Cole-Zettler asked three times if there are any further nominations from the floor.
- By acclamation at the meeting on February 8, Lindsay Davies was declared the successful candidate for the position of Vice Chair of the Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council for a term of two years, ending February 2023.

Actions/next steps:

- Melony to put forth the names of Susan Giesbrecht, Chair, and Lindsay Davies, Vice Chair, to the Community Engagement Committee of the Board.

Council Member Roundtable & Good News

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- Lindy Fors shared gratitude that Council is taking negative comments from the Slave Lake Town Council and making a positive educational experience out of it. With grief comes lots of gratitude.
- Louise Myre attended the vaccination information session for the North Zone. She thought it was great and lots of great resources were provided.
- Susan Giesbrecht is participating in the working group again for the Council's upcoming engagement session.
- Robin Guild shared that the new MD of Opportunity long term care facility is open. It can house up to 28 residents. Mental health is the biggest concern in the community right now, especially with students in Wabasca schools.
- Richard Simard added is looking forward to the vaccine roll out and getting back to "normal."
- Norman Wang shared that working in mental health has been very busy. AHS has provided funding to expand services for the community of Wabasca, but there is still a need so he continues to seek additional funding to reach further, especially for children and adolescents.
- Lindsay Davies has been hearing great things from people in the community about children's mental health services in High Prairie; the mental health clinics have been managing patients so well.
- Edna Boucher shared that her community has been on lockdown. People in the community have started paying attention to their health and she hopes that it continues and everyone stays healthy.

Council is working to recruit more members. Anyone interested in applying can do so through the [AHS website](#).

Learn about the four organizational goals of AHS in the [2017-2020 AHS Health Plan and Business Plan](#).

Join us in changing the conversation from [illness to wellness](#).

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
[Find your Health Advisory Council here](#). Visit the [webpage](#) for more info.

Contact us at: LesserSlaveLake@ahs.ca
Call: 1-877-275-883

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