



Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 13, 2021 / 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Susan Giesbrecht (Chair), Lindsay Davies (Vice-Chair)
AHS	Cindy Harmata, Melony Cole Zettler, Dalique Van der Nest, Johan Van der nest, Leona Small, Shauna Wallbank
Regrets	Edna Boucher, Joyce Dvornek, Lindy Fors, Robin Guild, Louise Myre, Debbie Rose, Richard Simard, Cody Twinn, Norman Wang
Public	Three
Media	Pearl Lorentzen – Lakeside Leader
Welcome & Introductions	Susan welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. Susan provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	February 8, 2021, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	Melony to put forth the names of Susan Giesbrecht, Chair, and Lindsay Davies, Vice Chair, to the Community Engagement Committee of the Board. Complete.
Alberta Health Services 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 area. 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 are changing daily. Visit www.ahs.ca/covid for the most up-to-date information.
Community Partners	Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided information on several virtual learning opportunities available for rural community members to take part in this fall. These include



	<p>information on RhPAP U – a new online resource; Rural Community Capacity Building, a three-part series; an information session on COVID-19 and beyond; a ChooseWell information session. Sessions are free. Visit the events page for more details.</p> <p>Rhapsody Award winners for 2021 were announced during Alberta Rural Health Week. Winners are highlighted on their website.</p> <p>RhPAP will administer a new Return of Service Agreement program for the Alberta Government that will help students pay the cost of medical school. In exchange, students will complete residency training in rural Alberta and agree to practise in a rural Alberta community when schooling is complete. Details are still being sorted and will be shared once confirmed.</p>
<p>Physician Recruitment Report</p>	<p>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, provided the following physician resource update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Prairie – there are currently five family physicians, including two with additional skills in the community. Recruitment is underway for two physicians: one in family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/ OB and one in family medicine with anesthesia. • Slave Lake – there are currently nine family physicians, including four with additional skills in the community. They are not currently recruiting to the community at this time. • Wabasca – there is currently one family physician in the community. Recruitment is underway for three additional family medicine physicians. Two new physicians in family medicine will start soon and there are two additional hopeful candidates that are doing site tours this week. Locum pools are being used to support this community. • Since 2021, 13 new family physicians have been recruited along with eight new specialists across the North Zone.
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>Pearl Lorentzen is part of the Slave Lake and Area Mental Health Network and the Rural Mental Health Project through the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA). There are lots of community mental health initiatives in the area. Learn more at https://ruralmentalhealth.ca/.</p>
<p>Council Round Table and Good News</p>	<p>Susan Giesbrecht Council Chair, shared that she participated in a HAC 2.0 listening session where she heard about successes and areas for improvement in the new HAC 2.0 format that’s occurred over the last year.</p>



	<p>Lindsay Davies shared there are currently no obstetric services available in High Prairie. Residents need to travel to Slave Lake to give birth in a facility they have never been to. She suggests AHS create a video tour of the labour and delivery unit to familiarize new parents to the site. She adds, people are appreciative of online prenatal classes.</p>
<p>Actions</p>	<p>Melony and Cindy Harmata to inquire about the making of a photo/video tour of Slave Lake Hospital Labour and Delivery Department.</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>Presentation(s)</p>	<p>Wellspring Cancer Services Angie Rice, Northern Alberta Team Lead, Wellspring Edmonton</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellspring Edmonton is a non-profit organization serving Edmonton and Northern Alberta. It provides emotional, social, spiritual and informational supports and services to those living with cancer and their loved ones. It also restores resilience and confidence to those impacted by cancer and welcomes everyone, regardless where they live. Its vision is a future where no one has to face cancer alone. • In 2020, through a partnership with the Alberta Cancer Foundation, Wellspring services expanded to rural and remote communities throughout Alberta. • Wellspring Edmonton offers over 40 programs designed to educate and empower individuals impacted by cancer. Programs are: non medical; evidence informed and evidence-based; facilitated by professional leaders; offered free of charge and without referral; available to anyone through online membership registration; accessible in-person, online and over the phone. • Programs include: individual support; group support; exercise and nutrition; expressive arts; meditation and relaxation; informational and coping skills. • To become a member complete registration at wellspringedmonton.ca. Registration is free and requires no referral. Anyone is welcome to join, regardless where they live. <p><u>Questions from Council:</u> Q. Working with different cultures in Northern Alberta, do you try to incorporate traditional ceremonies?</p>



	<p>A. Wellspring has spent many months developing a traditional sharing circle to better understand the needs of communities. The Indigenous cancer strategy is used to help in this endeavor. It's challenging to make connections when not meeting in-person.</p> <p>Q. How can people access these services? Is a referral from a doctor required?</p> <p>A. No referral is required. We are trying to improve awareness and access for patients and families so they have these social and psychosocial supports when they need them. Our pamphlet is in the patient binders in the cancer centers when new patients are oriented to the centre.</p>
<p>Date of Next Event</p>	<p>Date: Monday, November 29, 2021 Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location: Online – Zoom</p>

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
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