



## Minutes - Oldman River Health Advisory Council

Tuesday November 20, 2018 12 to 3 pm  
Lethbridge Centre, Room 1101, Lethbridge, Alberta

**Council members present:** Brad Gillespie (Chair), Lorraine Neal (Vice Chair), Fred Bosma, Dick Burnham, Gerri Eagle Speaker, Clifford Elle, Henry Heinen, Emma Hulit, Dr. Barbara Lacey, Lorraine Neal

**AHS:** Katherine Chubbs, Andrea Jackson, Dr. Jack Regehr Grant Walker, Gwen Wirth

**Public:** Three

**Regrets:** Brian Hammond, Georgette Fox, Sanowar Hossain, Wilma Mulder, Teri Myhre

<i>Agenda Item</i>	<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Action</i>
<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>	Brad Gillespie welcomed attendees to the meeting and acknowledged the meeting being held on Treaty 7 Lands.	
<b>1. Approval of Agenda</b>	Moved by Henry Heinen that the agenda for November 20, 2018 be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b>	
<b>2. Approval of Minutes</b>	Moved by Dr. Barbara Lacey that the minutes for September 18, 2018 be approved. <b>MOTION CARRIED.</b>	
<b>3. Presentations</b>		
<b>3.1. Public Comments</b>	Julie Davis, Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) Consultant, informed there is a strong preceptorship program in Pincher Creek and the local attraction and retention committee is keen to work towards retention of health care providers in the area. As well, Milk River has been quick to move attraction and retention efforts forward in its community. A transition-to-practice event is scheduled for February in Lethbridge.	
<b>4. Old Business</b>	Andrea Jackson provided an update of the following action items from the September 18, 2018 meeting:	

<p><b>4.1. Business arising from March 20, 2018</b> Advisory Council Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grant Walker will enquire the number of beds for geriatric or dementia patients at Chinook Regional Hospital (CRH), the mix of beds and the type. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>• Andrea will seek a response on the benefit to Safe Consumptions Sites. <b>Complete</b></li> <li>• Brad will send the Council of Chairs’ meeting summary to members. <b>To do.</b></li> <li>• Andrea will share opioid information with Addiction and Mental Health Provincial Advisory Council. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>• Brad and Andrea will select a date in October to meet. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>• Wilma will send Andrea the request for feedback for the Surgical Strategic Clinical Network, who will distribute to the HAC. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>• Invite Connect Care to present about the new system to a future meeting. <b>To be determined.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. New Business</b></p>		
<p><b>5.1. South Zone Executive Leadership Update</b> Katherine Chubbs, Chief Zone Officer  Grant Walker, Senior Operating Officer, Community Programs</p>	<p>Katherine Chubbs, Chief Zone Officer, shared the following update: <b>Opioid Crisis</b> – the crisis remains a big concern in this part of South Zone with overdose numbers higher than in Calgary. Services at ARCHES (AIDS Outreach Community Harm Reduction Education and Support Society) have increased from eight hours per day to 24. There are wait times at Chinook Regional Hospital for Suboxone injections. Lives are being saved but the magnitude of patients coming in is significant.</p> <p>AHS and Government of Alberta are working on strategies to address the crisis, along with the many organizations and internal AHS teams who provide support and resources. This includes AHS’ Addiction and Mental Health team and Public Health. AHS is now working on improving access to Naloxone and Suboxone, looking at the possibility of mobile buses and safe sobering. It recently sourced a mobile bus for use in Stand Off, Alberta that provides both Naloxone and Suboxone to those in need. Chinook Regional Hospital has opened an eight-bed medical detox centre where patients stay an average of six to 10 days and transitional services are provided upon discharge.</p> <p>The community of Stand Off remains a top priority as challenges persist. With three deaths from overdose and 40 overdoses in the past week, local police and emergency services in Stand Off put out an alert about the dangerous effects of opioids. As well, a safe sobering transitional space is about to open that will align those who access it with supports.</p> <p><b>Connect Care</b> – work continues to get the system up and running on time, with South Zone going live in</p>	

	<p>2021. Work also continues on access for primary care and physicians.</p> <p><b>Grant application</b> – AHS has received \$1.5M in grant money from the Government of Alberta for an Indigenous Patient Navigation service in the South Zone.</p> <p><b>Midwifery</b> – AHS is working on getting midwifery services started in Lethbridge.</p> <p><b>Organizational redesign</b> – the first phase is near completion and through review AHS has confirmed it is quite lean in the South Zone with respect to leadership. As a result, these roles will shift to ensure positions align with skillset. Grant Walker’s position will be Senior Lead, Rural, for the west side of the Zone. The first six months of 2019 will see AHS bring staff up to speed on the scope of their roles.</p> <p><b>Influenza immunizations</b> – a gentle reminder of the importance of getting vaccinated against influenza.</p> <p><b>Crowsnest Pass</b> – twenty four new Supportive Living Four (SL4) beds will be implemented at the new Crowsnest Pass Seniors Housing facility, replacing the current York Creek Lodge, now under construction. The new site will be open within two years and will provide a total of 81 spaces of which 24 are to be SL4 level beds contracted with AHS and the balance of 61 beds will be dedicated to seniors housing (not contracted with AHS). These SL4 beds will be provided in a wing with two 12-bed units in a two-story configuration. Either or both of the 12-bed SL4 units will be able to provide SL4 dementia care dependent on the volume of residents with dementia conditions.</p> <p>Reports of bed pressures in the west side of the zone have risen. AHS is looking for opportunities for additional beds in the Zone, as well, for opportunities to get people supports so they can stay in their own home. This includes community paramedicine and enhanced home care services.</p> <p>Council members had the following questions or comments:</p> <p>Henry Heinen queries statistics on the home assist program as he’s interested to know the effectiveness of keeping people in their homes to receive care. Grant Walker will provide a report at the January HAC meeting. Katherine adds Enhancing Care in the Community is a top priority for AHS and suggests inviting a lead from the team to present an update on progress and next steps.</p> <p>Dick Burnham shares there are two applications for retail cannabis sales in Pincher Creek and queries if AHS is aware? Katherine advises Addiction and Mental Health services would be aware of this. Another member asked if Brighter Futures is involved with AHS to which Katherine responded no, that’s a federal program.</p>	<p>Grant Walker to provide report on home assist program in January.</p> <p>Council to consider a presentation on Enhancing Care in the Community.</p> <p>Katherine will enquire timeline of patient portal rollout.</p>
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	<p>Cliff Elle asked if the patient portal will be available within a year to which Katherine advised she'll enquire if there is a target timeline. She added the patient portal is an Alberta Health initiative whereas Connect Care is AHS' system for clinical documentation. Grant Walker adds the Emergency Medical Record (EMR), a physician record, is on four to five different platforms but is separate from Connect Care. AHS will focus on Connect Care before combining the two.</p> <p>Katherine shared that South Zone leads the province in focusing on standards pertaining to senior's health. The rest of AHS will take lessons learned from the work of the South Zone to build into their own.</p> <p>Emma Hulit asked the number of people who have accessed the Safe Consumption Site in Lethbridge, and the cost to run it. Katherine advised she would obtain this information and share it with Council.</p>	<p>Katherine will enquire numbers re: Safe Consumption Services.</p>
<p><b>5.2. Report from Council Chair, Brad Gillespie</b></p>	<p>Brad Gillespie provided the following Chair's update:</p> <p>The theme of the annual Advisory Council Fall Forum was 'Illness to Wellness' and turnout was great, with the highest attendance recorded. The forum continues to improve every year and event summaries will be shared with Councils soon.</p> <p>Council Chairs met with AHS Board members at the Fall Forum. The Board was receptive to thoughts brought forward and where they couldn't address an item, Colleen Turner took questions/concerns away. Of particular interest was the process and timing for recruitment of new members.</p> <p>After Council met for a work plan session in October, a generic PowerPoint presentation for use by members was developed and shared with members. Revisions will be discussed at the December working session.</p> <p>The Council of Chairs update newsletter issued monthly since the June strategy meeting was sent to Brad yesterday. He will share this with Council once he's had the opportunity to review it.</p>	
<p><b>5.3. Advisory Council Coordinator Update</b> Andrea Jackson</p>	<p>Andrea Jackson provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Conversations</b> – The event for Oldman River has been scheduled for February 5 in Lethbridge. Council will be invited to participate in a number of ways – attendance, hosting a table, stakeholder list input, event design input. Pre-meetings will be scheduled with member leads to discuss the event design, as well as a rehearsal meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Budget</b> – Balance remains \$4,284.44. No new spending since April 2018.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.4. 2018/19 Work Plan</b></p>	<p>Council met in October and discussed actions it will take; primarily, reaching out to local groups to present about the HAC. Andrea shared a PowerPoint template with Council, for use when speaking to local</p>	

<p><b>Update</b></p>	<p>organizations. Brad has arranged to attend and present to the Mayors and Reeves of Southern Alberta at its meeting in February. Katherine says AHS already meets with this group so Council may want to consider timing its attendance and presentation alongside the zone. Brad also plans to present to two rotary clubs in Lethbridge in 2019 and hopes to see Council build on this with other organizations in the community.</p>	
<p><b>5.5. Council Roundtable and Good News Stories</b></p>	<p><b>Emma Hulit</b> shared a portable ultrasound system has been purchased by a physician in Milk River. Having this equipment in Milk River will reduce travel costs of going to Lethbridge. Emma will be connecting with local organizations to inform about this development and will also share info about the HAC. Katherine advised that construction is underway for two additional beds in Milk River, with completion anticipated in February-March.</p> <p><b>Henry Heinen</b> queried the utilization rate of operating rooms (OR) and surgeon availability in Lethbridge. Katherine responded all available time is offered up to surgeons. OR times are allocated out and if they are not going to be in use, they are offered up to the physician with the next largest wait list. In Lethbridge all hours are used. In rural areas time hasn't been decreased, rather, we use the time we have. Human resources and equipment funding are the biggest barriers, as well as availability of physicians. Cataracts and orthopedics are our current exceptions.</p> <p><b>Dick Burnham</b> is pleased that an attraction and retention committee has been set up in Pincher Creek. He also shared that on January 13 an appreciation day for health workers is being organized at the Legion in Pincher Creek, from 2 to 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Cliff Elle</b> shared that people are willing to pay for health services out of the province/country if necessary. Katherine says South Zone has increased its overall surgical capacity but obtaining anesthesia and surgeon's time is also required so more locations can increase capacity. There's no central intake in the zone, yet. AHS wants to equalize access via strategic program design for the entire zone as opposed to being specific to one location or another.</p> <p><b>Lorraine Neal</b> advises the length of time it takes to get some surgeries is a frequent concern she hears from public, with some stating they're going out of town to get it done. Katherine acknowledges this concern and shares orthopedic and cataract surgery have the longest waits. She says AHS often sends patients to Cardston for procedures as they have the capacity. An urgent meeting was planned for today to discuss how to better progress with orthopedic surgeries.</p> <p><b>Gerri Eagle Speaker</b> shared concern about the numerous overdoses in the Stand Off region as there were 37</p>	

	<p>in October. Trust in the community is down as drug dealers are everywhere. The Blood Tribe Department of Health (BTDH) has been providing transportation to clients in need of Suboxone. More recently, a mobile unit has been going on reserve to provide Suboxone to clients in need, who have children. The BTDH plans to open one of its wings in December for clients to come in to have a safe place to spend some time.</p>	
<p><b>6. Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Date: Tuesday, January 15, 2019  Time: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  Location: Melcor Centre, 200 4 Ave. South, Room 1101, Lethbridge, AB.</p>	
<p><b>7. Meeting Evaluation and Adjournment</b></p>	<p>Moved by Henry Heinen that the meeting be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.</p>	