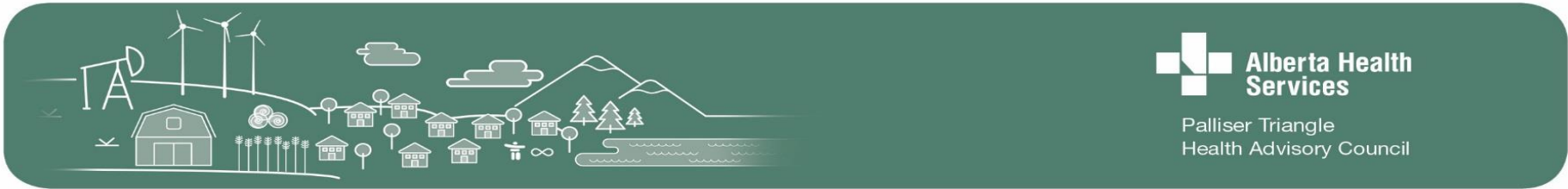


Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2022 /12:00 – 3:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Krista Weiss (Chair), Rachel Vossen (Vice Chair), Ajit Atwal, Jeanette Devore, Martin Gendron, Kathleen Hutcheon, Gop Majak, Paul Nederveen, Amanda Peterson, Reg Radke, Janine Tolhurst
AHS	Christine Osunde, Linda Iwasiw, Dr. Aaron Low, Linda Tessmann-Potvin, Colin Zieber, Thomas Mountain, Gwen Wirth
Regrets	Andrea Ames, Jill Bernhart, Pat Dietrich
Public	10
Welcome & Introductions	Krista welcomed all in attendance as well as all Council members and zone leadership. She also provided a land acknowledgment and Janine Tolhurst provided the housekeeping segment.
Approval of previous meeting summary	The May 17, 2021 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	All action items from the May 17, 2021 meeting are complete.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Linda Iwasiw, Chief Zone Officer, South Zone, shared the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on COVID-19, as well as information on Omicron, its impact, and measures to reduce the spread in the South Zone were shared. Up to date information can be found at: www.ahs.ca/covid. • Information on who should be tested can be found at: COVID testing information. • Self-care information on COVID-19 can be found at: COVID 19 Self Care Guide. • An update on the distribution of free rapid test kits. (one kit per person, per household) • An update on wait times and the referral process in the zone for Addiction and Mental Health services. • An update on cardiac services regional planning. • An update on the palliative care facility renovation at the Brooks Health Care Centre.



Dr. Aaron Low, South Zone Medical Director, shared the following information:

An update on physician recruitment in the South Zone east area:

- Recruitment is underway in the following areas: Addiction & Mental Health, Anesthesia, Diagnostic Imaging, Emergency, Surgery and Rural Medicine.
- There are two recruited physicians under assessment in the department of Rural Medicine.

The following three physicians have been recruited, who will start work in 2022:

Name of Committed Physician	Clinical Activity Site	Department	Clinical Interest or Specialty	Anticipated Independent Practice Start Date	Additional Information
Van Staden, Helena	Brooks	Rural Medicine		May 2022	Replacement
Powell, Tara	MHRH	Senior's Health	Geriatrics	May 2022	New
Alole, Lynder	Oyen	Rural Medicine		May 2022	Replacement

Voices of the Community

- A community members said that behavioural health consultants are a valuable resource for communities and queries if there is an opportunity to employ more of them in the South Zone?
- There used to be two chaplains in the South Zone, Medicine Hat and one for Lethbridge. Since one Chaplain retired Pastor Roland Weisbrot would like to encourage AHS leadership to hire another chaplain so there are at least two.

Action Item(s)

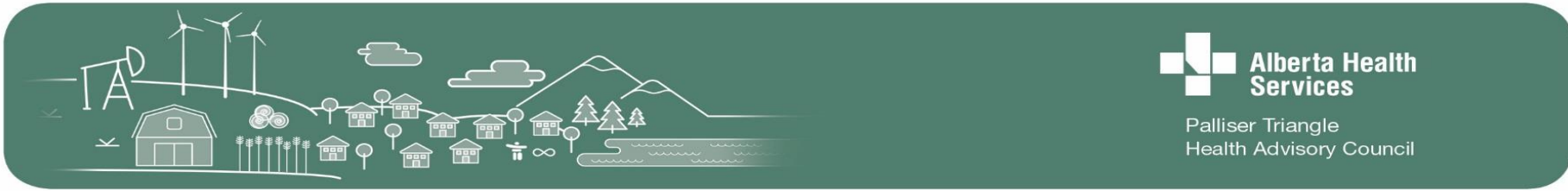
- Thomas Mountain to follow up on the number of Behavioural Health Consultants employed in the South Zone.
- Karen Fritz and Thomas Mountain to follow up on the number of chaplains in the South Zone.

Community Partners

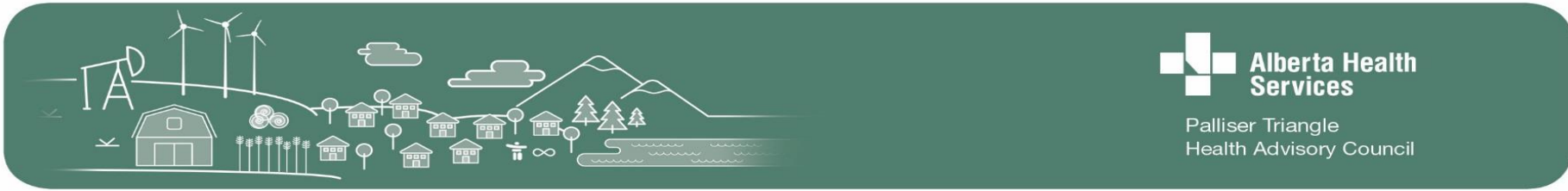
Julie Davis, Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) Consultant, shared the following:

RhPAP has organized several free virtual learning opportunities for rural community members:

- March 17, 2022: [ARECA Farm Mental Health Project](#). Please visit [RhPAP Events](#) for more details and registration information.
- [Rhapsody Awards](#): The Rhapsody Award nominations are now open! These awards provide an opportunity to recognize the individuals, teams and volunteers who make significant healthcare and civic contributions within rural Alberta communities.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Put on Your Perspectacles: The RhPAP ‘Attraction and Retention Conference’ has been scheduled for October 4 – 6, 2022 in Drayton Valley. ● RhPAP social media and publications: RhPAP continues to post stories from around the province on their social media channels. They welcome rural Alberta to share story ideas. To receive the RhPAP newsletter sign up here. ● RESIDE Program: RhPAP will administer RESIDE (Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience) for the Alberta Government, helping students pay for the costs of medical school. In exchange, students will complete residency training in rural Alberta and agree to practice in a rural Alberta community.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessibility of walk-in clinics in Medicine Hat can be up to a 10-hour wait, which is concerning to residents. ● There is concern about ambulance availability/EMS services and availability in the Medicine Hat area, and there have been reports that red alerts are occurring daily. ● Questions were raised about palliative care initiatives and the process by which patients are referred, the referral process once a referral is received, and how timing of referrals can be streamlined. ● Concerns were raised about the request for proposal approach for food services, and job loss for members of the community. ● People who access safe injection sites are reluctant to share their Alberta Health Care number. ● There are quality concerns with laundry services in Medicine Hat, now that this service has been contracted out. ● Alberta Elder Abuse has a new brochure available to the public. ● An issue was identified re: accessing augmentative devices for complex communications through AHS and AADL (Alberta Aids to Daily Living). All parties came together to find a solution. ● The Brooks to Medicine Hat Transportation Shuttle pilot project provides rides for residents to access specialized services not available in Brooks, including dialysis, cancer treatments, specialists, maternity appointments and day surgeries. \$73,149.00 has been raised through a combination of corporate donations and individual contributions to keep the program going until the end of October, 2022. Donations can be made to the City of Brooks Municipal Office.
<p>NEW BUSINESS</p>	
<p>Action Item(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christine will circulate the Alberta Elder Abuse brochure. ● South Zone leadership will provide information on EMS services in the South Zone and red alerts occurring in Medicine Hat.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Zone leadership to follow up on palliative care initiatives, and patient referrals. • South Zone leadership to provide details on the food services RFP. • Colin Zieber to follow up with Palliser Care Network leadership on access to services/hours of operation at walk-in clinics in Medicine Hat. • Colin Zieber to connect with Janine Tolhurst about options for collaboration with the local Primary Care Network.
<p>Presentation(s)</p>	<p>Rural Mental Health Project (RMHP) Jessica Turowski, Project Manager, Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMHA is a nationwide organization that promotes mental health and supports people recovering from mental illness. • The RMHP is community-based, seeking innovative solutions, while building positive mental health and wellbeing with locally driven priorities, plans and training. • The goal of the RMHP is to build capacity and support collaborative mental health action plans that advance rural community mental health and wellbeing. • To get involved, see the expression of interest at: www.RuralMentalHealth.ca. • All communities with animators can be found here: Community Stories (ruralmentalhealth.ca) • To partner with the RMHP, email Jessica Turowski at: Jturowski@cmha.ab.ca <p><u>Questions from Council:</u> Q. Is the animator position a paid position? A. Yes, it is. Q. Is the position online or in person? A. When the project started it was in person, currently it's online due to the pandemic.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Date: Thursday, March 10, 2022 Time: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Location: Zoom Contact community.engagement@ahs.ca for details.</p>

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 onl