

Peace

2016/17 Annual Report



Peace
Health Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.

Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

The health system belongs to over four million Albertans and, as such, their voices need to be heard — and considered — when Alberta Health Services is planning and making decisions about healthcare delivery. Our Health Advisory Councils, Provincial Advisory Councils and Wisdom Council bring the diverse voices of Albertans to the decision-making table, so health services can meet the unique needs of communities across the province.

Our councils are made up of people who are passionate about understanding what's working and where improvements can be made in how health services are delivered in their communities. Advisory councils demonstrate our true commitment to community engagement – their work is strategic and valued, shaping the future of healthcare and enhancing care in communities.



Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn

There was much growth over the past year. It was a year of renewed commitment from Alberta Health Services to ensure councils act as the voices of their communities, supported by extensive recruitment to strengthen the reach and diversity of council members. For the first time, Council Chairs collaborated to share their priorities and identify similar priorities across the province. This approach was valuable and created synergies and linkages between councils across Alberta. At the same time, the collaboration between councils also showed how their priorities clearly aligned with Alberta Health Services' strategic approach and how we are all working towards the same, very important goals.

On behalf of the Alberta Health Services Board of Directors, our leadership team and our workforce, I want to thank you for being our partners. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with councils and the strategic value they offer.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn
Vice Chair, Board of Directors
Chair, Community Engagement Committee of the Board
Alberta Health Services

About community engagement

Alberta Health Services is committed to meaningful and authentic community engagement. Engaging with Albertans means patients, families and members of the public contribute to healthcare solutions and the betterment of our system. They can benefit by having their needs reflected in planning and decision making. Engagement aligns with the Alberta Health Services culture of caring and listening, which results in more patient-centred care, local decision making and more open and trusting relationships.

Role of advisory councils

Alberta Health Services values advisory council members as volunteers, leaders and partners in healthcare planning. They help build a stronger relationship between the people in their communities and those who work in the health system.

Members of Health Advisory Councils, Provincial Advisory Councils, and Wisdom Council are Albertans who care about health of their communities, and are connected to the public in many different ways. They provide a grassroots perspective and an understanding of their communities' health needs, and they're interested in listening to the people. They also:



- share their communities' priorities with Alberta Health Services
- give advice and help to inform the decision-making process
- host public advisory council meetings, in addition to promoting and participating in activities that enhance Albertans' health
- engage with and share information with the community, and follow up on commitments
- give feedback on public education materials, policies, or discussion topics
- share information on health services with the community and provide feedback and input to Alberta Health Services

Councils attend the annual Advisory Councils' Fall Forum to hear a variety of presentations and network with fellow council members, Alberta Health Services staff and members of the Board of Directors.

The Health Advisory Councils and the Provincial Advisory Councils are supported by the Alberta Health Services Community Engagement department, and report through the Council of Chairs to the Community Engagement Committee of the Alberta Health Services Board of Directors. The Wisdom Council reports to the AHS President and CEO.

12 Health Advisory Councils

Bring the voices of Alberta communities to healthcare services.
Each council represents a geographical area within the province.

2 Provincial Advisory Councils

Advise on provincewide services and programs for addiction and mental health, and cancer.

1 Wisdom Council

Provides guidance and recommendations to ensure Alberta Health Services develops and implements culturally appropriate and innovative health service delivery for Indigenous Peoples.

Albertans are represented by 12 Health Advisory Councils. Areas are determined by population and travel routes, and are detailed on [this map](#).

The two Provincial Advisory Councils and Wisdom Council operate provincially.

Their membership spans all of Alberta.

[View map of treaty areas and indigenous communities in Alberta](#)

For more information on membership:

[Health Advisory Councils](#)

[Addiction and Mental Health Provincial Advisory Council](#)

[Cancer Provincial Advisory Council](#)

[Wisdom Council](#)



Council of Chairs

The Council of Chairs is made up of all advisory council Chairs, who meet five times a year to further the roles, responsibilities, and priorities of councils at a provincial level. The Council of Chairs determines themes or commonalities across different communities to bring forward to Alberta Health Services' leadership and Board of Directors.

Including the public voice in Alberta Health Services planning

In early 2016, Alberta Health Services' Strategic Planning Department met with Health Advisory Councils across the province to gather input for the [2017 - 2020 Health and Business Plan](#). Each council was asked to provide feedback on the plan to ensure the priorities of their communities were considered in the development of the strategic goals for the organization.

Members from various Health Advisory Councils participated in the following provincial committees:

- Apple Magazine Editorial Council
- Continuing Care Quality Committee
- [Health Link](#) and [MyHealth.Alberta.ca](#)
- Patient First Steering Committee
- Patient and Family Advisory Council
- Long range planning

Message from the Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council

It's been a busy year in the region for the Peace Health Advisory Council. Adding seven new members to our council has been a great addition and I look forward to working with everyone in the year to come.

Peace Health Advisory Council members continue to engage with our communities in a variety of ways including chatting with area residents, attending events, and serving on community-based groups that are focused on improving healthcare in our communities.



Lucille Partington

In our region, the awareness and role of the Health Advisory Council is continually growing. Several residents and community stakeholders are in attendance at most meetings and continue to participate in the process by voicing their concerns or gathering information that they can take back into their own communities. I'm happy to see how many people have engaged and participated with our council this past year.

We held meetings in both Valleyview and Grande Prairie and we will be visiting additional communities the upcoming year. In addition, the Advisory Council Fall Forum took place in Edmonton, allowing for the exchange of ideas across various platforms. It was empowering to see a wide mix of individuals, all from different backgrounds, working together with one thought in mind – keeping Albertans healthy!

A goal of our council is to be viewed and used as a consultative source by Alberta Health Services and in the community. As we move forward in the work we do, we will continue to focus on support for seniors, increasing access to mental health services and of course, the construction of the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital. I think I speak for the entire council when I say that we're pleased with the work being done by Alberta Health Services and communities around the Peace. One of the highlights of our meetings includes hearing updates on physician recruitment efforts. We continue to work together to attract top skilled physicians and staff to the region – that work will continue this year.

We continue to recruit new council members and I'm hopeful that we'll add to our council in the coming months. In closing, I'd like to thank each of the community stakeholders, volunteers, council members and Alberta Health Services staff members who have committed their time over the past year– I appreciate it.

Sincerely,

Lucille Partington, Chair
Peace Health Advisory Council

About us

2016 -2017 Council Members

Current Members

Lucille	Partington (Chair)	Sexsmith
Yvonne	Rempel (Vice Chair)	Grande Cache
Sandra	Baker	Hythe
Judy	Brown	Spirit River
Alison	Cormack	County of Grande Prairie
Laura	Hancharuk	Grande Prairie
Helen	Neufeld	Grande Prairie
Kishor	Ojha	Grande Prairie
Cindy	Park	Grande Prairie
Gloria	Robertson	Peace River

Past Members

Michael	Ouellette	Grande Prairie
Evelyn	Bzowy	Rycroft
Connie	Hansen	Wanham
Leona	Hanson	Beaverlodge
Michelle	Margarit	Grande Prairie
Cheryl	Van Eerden	La Glace
Michael	Ouellette	Grande Prairie
Evelyn	Bzowy	Rycroft
Connie	Hansen	Wanham
Leona	Hanson	Beaverlodge

Topics on the minds of our council and community members:

5 meetings were held

7 new members were appointed

- Mental health supports
- Availability of continuing care
- Physician recruitment and retention
- Organ donation
- Engaging communities



Peace council members gather at Fall Forum in Edmonton

What we are proud of

- We participated in the joint Beaverlodge Healthcare Task Force created by the Town of Beaverlodge and Alberta Health Services to develop a plan for healthcare services in Beaverlodge:
 - Our Chair represented the council on the Task Force, which included various community stakeholders.
 - Almost 1025 people completed a survey and close to 150 attended an open house to provide input on how they view the community's healthcare needs, now and into the future.
 - The Health Minister has since acknowledged the community's efforts and committed to moving forward with planning for a new facility in the community.
- One of our members participated in Alberta Health Services' Alberta Prevents Cancer community initiative that aims to help build conditions that reduce the incidence of cancer, exploring things like the number of parks, variety of food and public transportation in different communities.
- We provided feedback and advice to Alberta Health Services and provided information about different programs and services to community members.
- We invited representatives from different programs and services to present information at council meetings based on the needs and interest from the community, resulting in increased understanding of services available. Topics included:
 - The Mobile Health Unit and Alberta Cancer Prevents Legacy Fund
 - The Alberta Health Services Community Engagement strategy
 - Organ donation and the organ and tissue donation registry
 - Prescribing pharmacists capabilities
 - The Central Peace Attraction and Retention Committee
 - Information about the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital from the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation
- Regular updates were also provided on physician recruitment and general Alberta Health Services happenings in the council area through the North Zone update.
- We wrote a letter of support for the Birth Matters for Peace Parents group and the introduction of midwifery services in the Peace region to Alberta Health Services President and CEO, Dr. Verna Yiu, and Minister of Health, Sarah Hoffman.

Enhancing the health of community members

- We advocated for the inclusion of mental health services upon opening of the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital.
- We advocated for a replacement healthcare facility in Beaverlodge.
- We advised community members on information learned during various meeting presentations.
- We promoted the philosophy of right care/right place.

Key learnings

- Some of the topics that we found most useful during the Advisory Councils Fall Form were the sessions on the Legalization of Cannabis, Genetic Testing, Continuing Care in Alberta, and Medical Assistance in Dying. We learned a great deal about organ donation and the provincial organ and tissue donation registry after a presentation from Alberta Health Services Organ and Tissue Donation Programs and the Alberta Health Organ and Tissue Donation Registry. This included statistics about organ donations in Alberta, making your wishes known, and how to register your intentions to donate at UltimateGiftAlberta.ca. The presentation about the scope of practice and restrictions of prescribing pharmacists will certainly come in handy when speaking with members of our communities and educating the public about accessing the right service in the right place.

A look ahead

Over the next year, our goals include:

- Advocating for increased access to mental health services, including gathering information for the public about services currently available through Alberta Health Services and other agencies in the region.
- Educating the public about accessing the right service in the right place, including exploring Telehealth options available through the council area.
- Advocating for better access to health services by encouraging the development of regional transportation options for patients.

Get involved

Think of the difference you can make to the health and well-being of your family, friends, neighbours and community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with Alberta Health Services. Get involved:

- Attend an upcoming [Health Advisory Council meeting](#).
- [Make a presentation at a council meeting](#) on a health area of interest or concern.
- Think about volunteering your time as a council member. Recruitment drives happen annually. Members are appointed for three-year terms.

Connect with us:

- [Info on Community Engagement](#)
- peace@ahs.ca
- [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)