

Peace

2020-21 Annual Report



Peace
Health Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.



Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

Since my appointment to the AHS Board in the fall of 2020, it has been my pleasure to become familiar with the work of the Advisory Councils. By all accounts, Councils have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic and have found success in connecting with stakeholders as they adapted to virtual meetings well through 2021.



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Advisory Councils continue to be tremendous partners in health. They have been instrumental as a conduit of information from AHS to local communities, a task of particular importance during an extraordinary period of time. Through innovation and determination, each Council has remained committed to its role of advising AHS, and to bringing forward the voices of their communities.

I look forward to working with Advisory Councils in the years ahead and watching as they continue to evolve. Thank you to each member for your ongoing dedication to improving health services for all Albertans.

Sincerely,

Vicki Yellow Old Woman,
Chair, Community Engagement Committee; AHS Board



Message from the Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council



Krista Schuett

The Council's relationship is built on a reservoir of trust with Alberta Health Services (AHS) which has served us well during the pandemic. We continue to bring the voice of our area to AHS Executive Leadership and had an outstanding public turnout for our spring meeting after presentations from the AHS' Public Feedback department and the Alberta Health Advocates Office. It is important for our members to bring awareness of the appropriate venues to help direct patient feedback.

Having the opportunity to partner with the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation's Festival of Trees for mental health awareness was very exciting and I know all Council members share a passion for this initiative and look forward to this annual event.

"Any fool can know. The point is to understand," Albert Einstein. Having a platform to understand the challenges our health care system undergoes and the opportunity to provide feedback that is taken with sincerity by the AHS leadership team is meaningful and makes our volunteer commitment worthwhile.

Sincerely,

Krista Schuett
Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Peace Health Advisory Council (PHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside within the geographic [area](#) surrounding Grande Prairie. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were unable to obtain photos of our membership. The following members sat on Council in 2020-21:

Krista Schuett (Chair)	Grande Prairie, AB
Alison Cormack (Vice Chair)	Grande Prairie, AB
Sandra Baker	Hythe, AB
Marc Boychuk	Peace River, AB
Tammy Calliou	Grande Prairie, AB
Charlene Cavers	Berwyn, AB
Danielle Commandeur	Clairmont, AB
Carla Day	Gordondale, AB
Karen Egge	Woking, AB
Maxine Elter	Peace River, AB
Laura Hancharuk	Grande Prairie, AB
Maurissa Hietland	Grande Prairie, AB
Michelle Margarit	Grande Prairie, AB
Cindy Park	Grande Prairie, AB
Mary Wilson	Valleyview, AB



Highlights



Presentations

- Addiction and mental health in the North Zone
- Quality and Patient Relations
- Psychological First Aid
- Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation's Festival of Trees
- Office of the Alberta Health Advocates



Public Participation

- 57 participants attended Peace HAC meetings
- 53 participants attended Peace HAC events



Key achievements of 2020-21

With the rollout of HAC 2.0 in 2020, Peace HAC successfully hosted virtual public engagement events within the constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included two public meetings, one community engagement event session on Psychological First Aid and hosting a HAC booth at the Festival of Trees. The Festival of Trees is the largest annual fundraiser for the **Grande Prairie Regional Hospital Foundation** (GPRHF).

Council had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Verna Yiu and the AHS Board three times over the course of the year.

These meetings are invaluable as they provide a direct link for Councils to share health-related priorities from across the province and engage in real-time discussion.



Grand Cache labyrinth



Feedback shared with Zone leadership includes:

- Impacts of COVID-19 on the community, particularly vulnerable populations and seniors impacted by the pandemic
- Vaccine rollout and supply
- Access to mental health and addiction supports
- Physician retention for the new Grande Prairie Hospital
- Continuity of care



Council also engaged with AHS on a variety of topics, including:

- COVID-19 and vaccine rollout
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) listening sessions
- 2020 influenza campaign
- Indigenous engagement in the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital development work
- Unconscious Bias
- Primary Care Networks planning through the Primary Care Local Health Neighborhood Coalition



Council continued building relationships with AHS via strategic planning meetings among the Chair, AHS North Zone leadership and the Advisory Council Coordinator. These touchpoints ensured consistent and open communication throughout the year.



Community Conversations in the 2020-21 year focused primarily on the COVID-19 pandemic. Advisory Council members participated in these conversations where local Medical Officers of Health and other AHS experts provided updates on the current status of the pandemic in zones across Alberta, including vaccine rollout.



The AHS Community Engagement team held its annual Advisory Council Forum at a new time of year, in the spring of 2021. The event was successfully held virtually and spread over four days. Themed as 'Hope and Resilience,' sessions included those from AHS experts and award winning external speakers on timely topics such as Indigenous health, virtual health, dementia care, addiction and mental health and inclusivity in healthcare.



A look ahead

PHAC is operating at maximum capacity with 15 members representing urban and rural communities within the Zone.

Council will continue to reach out to local communities to provide engagement events and meetings that provide valuable information on health-related topics.

Council remains focused on educating community stakeholders, hosting community engagement events and building new partnerships. We are committed to the following:

- Creating awareness of community-specific health needs to AHS and requesting feedback on health matters within local communities.
- Maintaining a database of local community events.
- Hosting a booth at the annual Festival of Trees event hosted by the GPRHF.
- Collecting feedback from Council members to be shared with Zone leadership.
- Active participation in engagement opportunities with the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital.

Council will continue to value and grow current and new partnerships in health. Relationships with partners like Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) and local health foundations are invaluable.



Join the conversation!

Twice annually, in partnership with AHS, our Council holds community engagement events to listen to community voices. We encourage you to attend, share your input and play a role in healthcare in your community. Join us in collaboration, reflection and participation in the healthcare conversation. Visit [Together4Health](#) to learn about past and upcoming events.

We also hold public meetings two times a year and welcome the public, municipal leaders, social organizations and local community groups to attend and connect with us.

We truly value the input we receive from our various community stakeholders and are grateful for the forum that the HACs provide to share information and ideas. As the Senior Operating Officer for Grande Prairie and North Zone Addiction and Mental Health, my role includes overseeing AHS clinical operations in Grande Prairie area and supporting our healthcare teams to help them provide the best care possible to our patients and clients. As part of my role I have the privilege of representing the North Zone Senior Leadership Team at the Health Advisory Council meetings.

Stacy Greening

Senior Operating Officer, North Zone

Advisory Council members share advice and feedback from their communities with AHS. Councils hold public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contribute to improving healthcare services in Alberta.



Get involved

You can make a difference to the health and well-being of your family, friends, neighbours and community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS. You can get involved by:

- Attending an [upcoming meeting](#). Agendas and notices are posted on the Advisory Council webpage: ahs.ca/advisorycouncils.
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest.
- Providing input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.



Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

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1.877.275.8830

Check us out on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or by searching AHS Advisory Councils.

