

Peace Health Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Peace
Health Advisory Council

Message from the Official Administrator Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

Message from the Chair Barry Yaehne, Peace Health Advisory Council



On behalf of the Peace Health Advisory Council (PHAC), I am pleased to submit the Message from the Chair for our Annual Report for 2022-23.

I was honoured to participate in a tour of rural health centres around the area which was organized by the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP). RhPAP members, myself and most importantly, medical students, met a number of healthcare professionals within the North Zone and were introduced to what a rural lifestyle in these centres is all about.

An especially important achievement we accomplished as a Council was to virtually host a Community Engagement session focusing on attraction and retention. The turnout was amazing as we had 83 active participants that included AHS, municipal, business, and community leaders from within our area.

Finally, I am proud that PHAC has a full membership of 15 amazing volunteers whose dedication and commitment is remarkable and we have a healthy waiting list of potential members. Council continues to value current partnerships in health while we remain focused on educating community stakeholders, hosting engagement events and building new partnerships. Council is always seeking input from our community leaders as thoughtful engagement produces positive outcomes.

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



Top L-R: Barry Yaehe (Chair), Charlene Cavers (Vice Chair), Gladys Blackmore-Beauchamp, Marc Boychuk, Maurissa Hietland
Row 2 L-R: Murray Capon, Danielle Commandeur, Carla Day, Jancey Dolen, Karen Egge
Row 3 L-R: Samuel Elkins, Jennifer Hamilton, Yvonne Rempel, Krista Schuett, Carol Van Slyke

“It has been my pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. Our Council members are dedicated, community builders who are committed to healthcare in the North. I am appreciative of the diversity of opinions and experience that our Council members share leading to rich dialogue and discussion on topics that truly matter to those of us living in the North.

Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

FACTS AND FIGURES



Council Member Representation

- Berwyn
- Clairmont
- County of Grande Prairie
- Dixonville
- Fairview
- Gordondale
- Grande Prairie
- Manning
- Peace River
- Sexsmith
- Woking

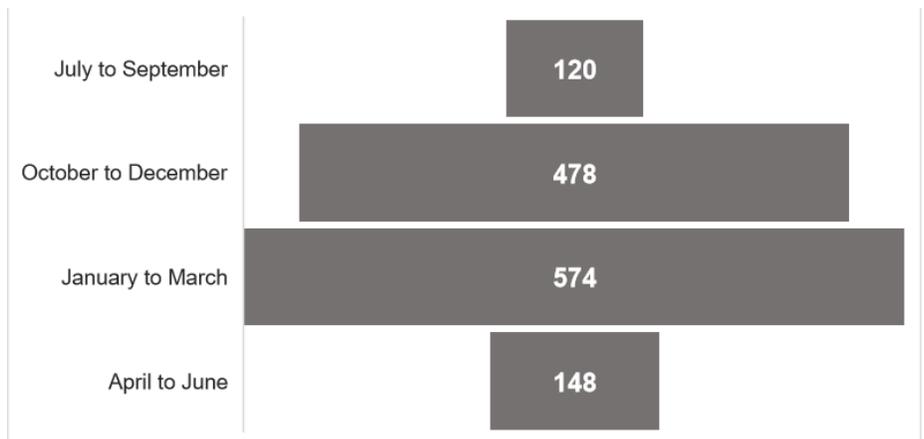


By the numbers

Participation in PHAC meetings & events:

- 3** public meetings
- 106** public attended
- 1** engagement event
- 60** public attended
- 5** new members

Provincial participation at Advisory Council events & meetings*



*Reflective of the number of public that attended all HAC and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

- ✓ Council hosted presentations at our public meetings on a variety of timely healthcare topics including the [Lung Cancer Screening Pilot Project](#) in Grande Prairie, the [Peace Country Health Neighbourhood](#) and the [Drive Happiness](#) Grande Prairie expansion. Council also learned about the AHS North Zone [Indigenous Health Program and the innovative Indigenous Support Line](#).
- ✓ Council continued building relationships through regular strategic planning meetings between the Chair, Vice Chair, AHS North Zone leadership and the Council Coordinator. These crucial touch-points ensured consistent and open dialogue between AHS and Council, improving feedback to communities.
- ✓ PHAC organized a virtual Community Conversation on attraction and retention of healthcare professionals to the Peace area. Community members, elected officials, AHS talent acquisition and local attraction and retention committee members came together. We learned about the logistics of recruiting healthcare professionals and heard a recruitment update from AHS North Zone Leadership. We engaged in a collaborative breakout discussion to brainstorm attraction and retention successes, challenges, and opportunities.
- ✓ The PHAC hosted a panel discussion with representatives from AHS North Zone, the Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) and several post-secondary institutions including Athabasca University, Northern Lakes College, Northwest Polytechnic, and the University of Alberta. We learned about post-secondary healthcare programs in northwest Alberta, including campus locations, program delivery methods and financial aid supports.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



2022-23 Influenza Immunization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the provincewide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



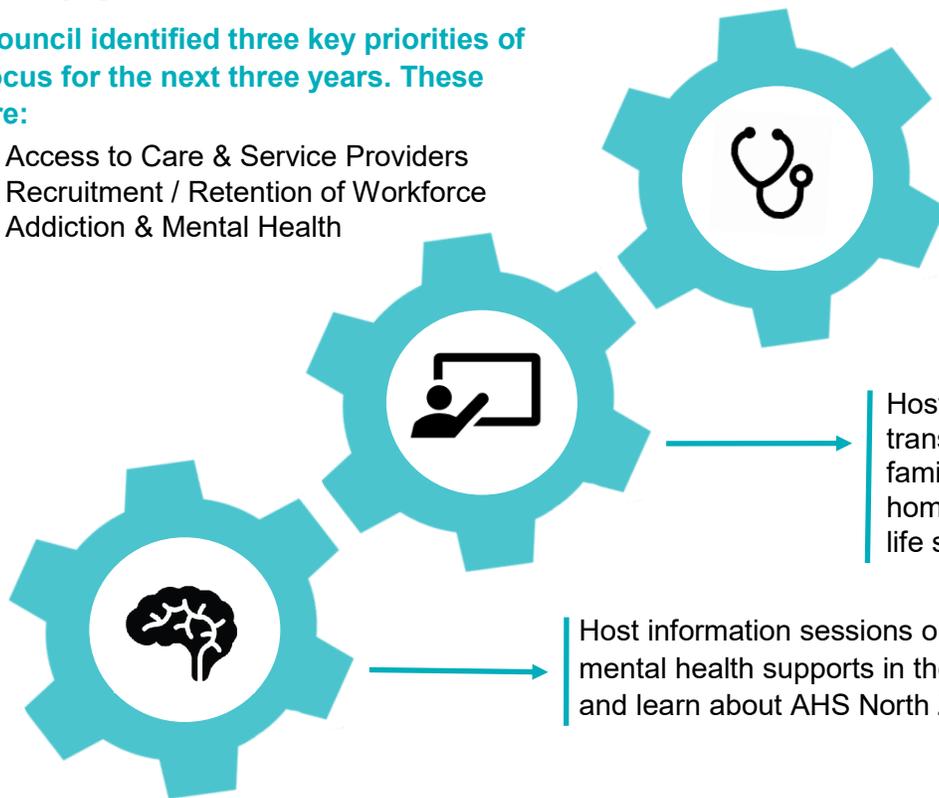
Spiritual Care Policy

Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Providers Access Policy.

A LOOK AHEAD

Council identified three key priorities of focus for the next three years. These are:

- Access to Care & Service Providers
- Recruitment / Retention of Workforce
- Addiction & Mental Health



LCHAC commits to:
Partner with RhPAP and community leaders to brainstorm on attraction and retention of healthcare workers.

Host presentations featuring how to transition out of the hospital, find a family doctor, surgical waitlist, homecare, palliative care and end-of-life supports.

Host information sessions on addiction and mental health supports in the Council area and learn about AHS North Zone Navigators.

GET INVOLVED

Make a difference to the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email peace@ahs.ca
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attend an [upcoming meeting](#)
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

APPLY

