

Prairie Mountain

2020-21 Annual Report





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, Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council

Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (HAC) has been involved with many Community Conversations that have yielded valuable information to share with our health partners/providers at AHS. A modern healthcare system focused on wellness and health innovation will be every Albertans vision as we move to the final stages of this current pandemic. Many communities have voiced a need for more choices concerning virtual health in Alberta. Communities see this as a progressive modern healthcare delivery model. We must have the courage to change our health culture for a positive future.



Scott Mitchell

I want to thank all my fellow PMHAC members as they have represented their communities with pride and passion. All of our current members have spent valuable time in their individual communities to learn about issues and opportunities in healthcare, and bring them to the attention of AHS.

Live Long and Prosper!

Sincerely,

Scott Mitchell
Chair, Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council



Who we are

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

Scott Mitchell (Chair)	Vulcan, AB
Lori Bayne (Vice Chair)	Banff, AB
Wendy Gateman	Mosleigh, AB
Linda Humphreys	Calgary, AB
Anita Jenkins	Calgary, AB
Joyce McCoy	Didsbury, AB
Andrew Nguyen	Calgary, AB
Rsmeya Rafih	Calgary, AB
Sheena Taggart	Nanton, AB
Lisa Thomson	Calgary, AB
Judy Walbridge	High River, AB
Vincent Yellow Old Woman	Siksika, AB



Highlights



Presentations

- Patient Charter - Calgary Zone Patient and Family Centered Care (PFCC)
- Community Education Services
- Creating Health Equity in Cancer Screening (CHECS)
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC)



Public Participation

- 103 community members attended community events hosted by the PMHAC
- 74 community members attended meetings hosted by the PMHAC



Engagement

- Suicide in the Calgary Zone: Prevention
- Stories of Resilience: Patching Our Quilt Through Together4Health.ca



Key achievements of 2020-21

With the rollout of HAC 2.0 in 2020, PMHAC successfully hosted virtual public engagements that included two public meetings and two community events featuring timely health-related topics.



HAC 2.0 was implemented in the reality and constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, all of the engagement events and meetings were hosted virtually via Zoom. The PMHAC took this opportunity to focus its efforts on raising awareness on current health-related concerns within the community.

Feedback shared with Zone leadership includes:

- Impacts of COVID-19 on the community
- Vaccine rollout and supply
- Mental health and addiction supports available
- Vulnerable populations and seniors impacted by the pandemic

Council continued building its relationship with AHS by holding bi-monthly meetings with Chairs, the Chief Zone Officer, Zone Medical Director and the Advisory Council

Coordinator. These strategic planning touchpoints ensured consistent and open communication.

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

- COVID-19 and vaccine rollout
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) listening sessions
- 2020 influenza campaign
- Unconscious Bias
- Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS)
- AHS Advertisement and sponsorship guidelines

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.

Thanks for all you do in your communities and as a Health Advisory Council to promote good health and wellbeing! We want to thank you for your support and commitment to ensuring the voice of your communities is heard and understood. We very much look forward to being able to meet with you face-to-face to discuss the health challenges and opportunities that we are all committed to improving.

Lori Anderson

Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone

Dr. Sid Viner

Zone Medical Director, Calgary Zone



A look ahead

PMHAC planning for the coming year will continue to focus on informing and engaging stakeholders within the Zone on current health-related topics. Council will also endeavor to be a leader in innovating creative and collaborative community engagement events that encourage the community to reflect and participate in the healthcare conversation.



Using the virtual format as an engagement tool, Council will continue to reach out to rural and urban communities to provide community engagement events and meetings that provide valuable information.



Under new Chair leadership, Council will learn from past successes and build new paths. We will remain focused on educating community stakeholders, hosting community engagement events and building new partnerships. We are committed to five key areas:

Enhancing care in the community: The future of healthcare relies on technological advances. That means enhancing access to those who have it and ensuring access to those who do not. Council will learn about current advances, support virtual visits as a tool to quality patient care and support the implementation and rollout of Connect Care.

Indigenous health: Council will partner with AHS to support appropriate health service delivery for Indigenous Albertans. Council recognizes the importance of traditional and cultural knowledge in healthcare and is committed to learning more about this topic and to collaboration with Indigenous communities.

Rural health: Access to quality health services is important. Whether living in an urban, bedroom community, mid-size town or isolated region, understanding the needs of individual communities and service availability is key to a healthy community.

Seniors and continuing care: Senior wellness, independence and choice are supported and respected. Council recognizes a need to focus on how care is delivered and monitored in facilities and is committed to supporting individuals to age in place.

Addiction and mental health: Council will continue to learn about the impacts that affect addiction and mental health outcomes. In collaboration with Council partners, PMHAC will learn more about the mental health needs of our communities.



Council will continue to value and build upon current and new partnerships in health. Relationships with partners like the 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, the HAC holds community engagement events to listen to community voices. We encourage you to join us, speak up and play a role in healthcare in your community.

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

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.

