



Prairie Mountain Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021 /5:30 – 8:30 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Lori Bayne (Acting Chair), Linda Humphreys, Joyce McCoy, Andrew Nguyen, Rsmeya Rafih, Sheena Taggart, Lisa Thomson, Judy Walbridge, Vincent Yellow Old Woman
AHS	Lori Anderson, Nick Thain, Dr. Mike Spady, Keith Bradford, Janine Sakatch, Christine Osunde
Regrets	Wendy Gateman, Scott Mitchell
Public	35
Welcome & Introductions	Lori Bayne welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. Lori provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	February 18, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<p>Action items from the February 18, 2021 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christine to look into a presentation from the Calgary Zone Primary Care Network Committee re the CII/CPAR project (Community Information Integration and Central Patient Attachment Registry). (COMPLETE)
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Lori Anderson, Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Mark Anselmo is the successful candidate for the role of Calgary Zone Medical Director, effective Oct. 18, 2021. On September 21, Strathmore Hospital hosted a partnership ceremony where the SikSika flag was raised alongside the Canadian and Alberta flag. The partnership represents the symbol of AHS to work in partnership with the SikSika Nation. The event was facilitated by Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council Member Chief Vincent Yellow Old Woman. Connect Care will be delayed for rural areas in the Calgary Zone; a new date has not yet been determined as the Zone team takes into account logistics and the pandemic, including potential future waves. Construction of the new Cancer Centre at the Foothills Hospital is on track and a tour will be offered to Council once it's appropriate for larger gatherings. Construction of the Centre for Child and Adolescent Health at the Children's Hospital is on schedule.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHS looks forward to working with the new Minister of Health, Jason Copping. <p>Nicholas Thain, Senior Operating Officer, Community, Rural and Continuing Care - Calgary Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Calgary Zone COVID-19 response. • Update on the cancellation of surgeries and redeployment of AHS staff to address surge demand during the fourth wave. • AHS encourages all those who are eligible to get vaccinated.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Julie Davis, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), shared updates with Council. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 23, Oct. 28 and Nov. 25 Tamarack – Rural Community Building Series • RhPAP 30th Anniversary Celebration scheduled for October 30 has been cancelled.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members regarding COVID-19 in their communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kudos to all healthcare professionals. • There is some confusion re new public health guidelines, outlining COVID-19 restrictions. • The deferral of surgeries in the Zone, because of the fourth wave, is very frustrating to those waiting. • There is a lot of buzz regarding verification of vaccine cards (that forgery and fraud may risk safety). • COVID-19 testing in schools – parents hope testing options are available for children at schools so they can be assured of a safe school environment. • Postponed surgeries – concerns re postponement of non-urgent surgeries and possibly some misinformation that urgent ones are not occurring at all (this, in response to news released that the Alberta Children's Hospital stopped most of their surgical services). • Nursing staff are simply tired, more than in previous waves, and had hoped the fourth would not come to pass. Staff morale is down and they are appreciative of efforts to boost it. • The fourth wave of the pandemic has increased division in communities. There is increased polarization and vindictive vitriol that is unfortunate to see.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grief and loss has been a real issue within the mental health community. It's compounded for those who cannot be with loved ones who are ill or dying in hospitals. Protests in front of hospitals are very unfortunate and don't reflect the majority of Albertans views. Indigenous leaders are committed to communicating with Indigenous folks within the community and those they are close too. <p>Additional updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What mental health supports are available in rural areas within the Zone? A Citizens Action Group led by Don Sharpe (a retired registered paramedic) has held two Town Hall EMS Crisis meetings in Canmore and Banff. Presenters indicate these communities are regularly left without ambulance service because they are responding to calls in other Alberta towns/cities, leaving locals vulnerable and 'under-served.' With the upcoming municipal election, a volunteer group – Banff Inclusive Housing Committee – is actively advocating to have the community become an age-friendly community, and for increased senior housing in town. Now is a good time to create traction with municipal leaders on local healthcare needs.
Action Item(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christine to follow-up with Janet Chafe, Executive Director, Addiction and Mental Health to get additional Addiction and Mental Health resource information specific to rural communities.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Dr. Mike Spady, Co-Chair, Primary Care Network, Calgary Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Spady shared primary care health services available in the Calgary Zone. For more information about the Primary Care Netork.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Thursday, February 17, 2022 Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Location: Online via 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 online.