

Prairie Mountain

2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

It's been another remarkable year for health services in Alberta. While the COVID-19 pandemic carried on, vaccines became available which has been monumental in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness. Through it all, AHS Advisory Councils remained connected with their communities and have demonstrated an incredible spirit of volunteerism through their engagement activities.



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

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 has engaged in amazing conversations over the past year. Members started work the previous year on an online community engagement project that was extremely successful. [Patching Our Quilt: "Stories of Resilience,"](#) featured wellness ideas for healthy and happy living during the pandemic. The impact continued during the 2021-2022 year:

- There were 8,693 visits through web and social media platforms.
- New partnerships were established with Siksika Nation Health Services, AHS Health Foundations and Bow Valley Immigration Partnership.
- Eight stories were shared with Albertans about the choices made every day that impact health at a personal and community level.



Joyce McCoy

We also saw growth in online/virtual healthcare and resources, which has the potential to benefit both urban and rural communities. I would like to thank all the members of PMHAC for their commitment to AHS and their respective communities. I look forward to the future for AHS and healthcare in Alberta.

Sincerely,
Joyce McCoy, Past 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. Members of Council in 2021-22 were:

Linda Humphreys (Chair as of May 24, 2022)	Calgary
Lori Bayne (Vice Chair)	Banff
Lea Caplan	Calgary
Linda Elobuike*	Calgary
Wendy Gateman**	Mossleigh
Kristen Kehler*	Calgary
Joyce McCoy (Past Chair)	Didsbury
Scott Mitchell	Vulcan
Andrew Nguyen**	Calgary
Anton Ovtchinnikov*	Calgary
Rsmeya Rafih	Calgary
Jay Raymundo*	Airdrie
Sukhmani Saini*	Calgary
Laura Smith*	Nanton
Sheena Taggart	Nanton
Lisa Thomson**	Calgary
Judy Walbridge	High River
Vincent Yellow Old Woman	Siksika

*Appointed to Council in 2021-22.

**Term completed in 2021-22.

Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



Kristen Kehler, Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Laura Smith, Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Joyce McCoy, Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.

Highlights



Presentations

- Primary Care Networks: Care close to home
- Addiction and Mental Health Provincial Advisory Council
- Alberta Cancer Screening Programs



Public Participation

- 36 community members attended community events hosted by the PMHAC
- 80 community members attended meetings hosted by the PMHAC



Engagement

- Anti-racism, Diversity and Inclusion Panel (AHS, Calgary Police Service, Settlement Services)
- Calgary Zone Emergency Medical Services
- Addiction and Mental Health Planning (Calgary Zone)



The AHS Community Engagement team held its annual Advisory Council Forum in May 2022. The event was held in person over two days. Themed as '[Building Bridges](#)', sessions included AHS experts speaking about Opioid Resources, Allyship, Virtual Health, Indigenous Health & the Power of Community Assets.





Key achievements of 2021-22

PMHAC successfully hosted a virtual public engagement event and three public meetings featuring timely health-related topics.

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic resulted in all meetings and engagement events being held virtually via Zoom. We took this opportunity to focus our efforts on raising awareness on current health-related concerns within the community.

Feedback shared with Zone leadership included:

- Impacts of COVID-19 on the community
- Vulnerable populations & seniors impacted by the pandemic
- Access to mental health and addiction supports for all ages
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Physician recruitment and retention in rural areas
- Addiction and Mental Health Planning (Calgary Zone)

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

- AHS Ethics & Compliance review and update of AHS' Code of Conduct
- Addiction and Mental Health strategic planning
- The Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative
- Grateful Patient consultation with AHS Foundation Relations
- AHS Welcome to all Calgary Zone Municipal Leaders
- Virtual Care in AHS: goals of virtual care and ideas to achieve them
- Orthopedic Request for Proposal
- The impact of COVID-19 on Alberta family caregivers
- AHS Review Committee
- College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) Virtual Regional Tours
- Emergency Medical Services Listening Session



On behalf of the Calgary Zone leadership team, we sincerely thank the Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council (PMHAC) for their commitment to health, healthcare and to our health providers, especially over the past challenging year. Although we were unable to come together in person, we were able to meet virtually and stay connected. PMHAC members provided very meaningful community engagement and information opportunities, with a focus on resilience and mental health and wellbeing.

We are very grateful to the PMHAC for their words of encouragement and support, extended to our physicians and staff. Their words buoyed us up through the most difficult months of the pandemic. We appreciated the thoughtful questions and concerns expressed that kept us grounded in what is the most important aspects of our work – the patients, clients, residents and communities within the Calgary Zone.

Lori Anderson

Chief Zone Officer, Calgary Zone

Dr. Mark Anselmo

Zone Medical Director, Calgary Zone



A look ahead

The Prairie Mountain Health Advisory Council will focus on the following six topics during the remainder of the 2021-2022 Commitments period. Members are identifying community needs and engaging with AHS leads in each of these areas.

Enhancing care in the community: Council will seek to understand and communicate to AHS the health service needs within the various urban and rural communities in the region, and the potential benefit of technological advances such as Connect Care.

Indigenous health: Support the work the Calgary Zone Indigenous Health Action Plan, in alignment with the work of the Wisdom Council. Support the efforts taken by AHS regarding Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action.

Enhancing relationship in community health: Council recognized there are many community organizations that are also committed to ensuring that all Albertan have access to quality health services, whether they live within urban, rural or isolated regions. Council plans to establish and maintain relationships with local health foundations, and other community networks/organizations that provide services in the community.

Rural health: Council will seek to support various AHS initiatives working to improve rural health such as: Access to health services, Physician retention and recruitment. Whether living in an urban area, mid-size town or rural region, understanding the needs of individual communities and service availability is key to a healthy community.

Seniors and continuing care: Council recognizes and seeks to support AHS pursuit of high-quality health services for seniors including: wellness, independence, choice and that the unique needs of individuals are respected.

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 and the services offered by AHS.



Council values hearing directly from health partners such as the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN), and local health foundations and hope to continue to strengthen these strategic relationships indefinitely.



Council values the relationship it has with Calgary zone leadership and plans to continue having bi-monthly meetings with the Chairs, Chief Zone Officer, Zone Medical Director and Advisory Council Coordinator

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 or concern.
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

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Tamarack

2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors

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Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

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



Message from the Chair, Tamarack Health Advisory Council



Donna Kristiansen

Another year has passed, and we have continued to discover opportunities to communicate and share information. This year we had the opportunity to explore the versatility of a hybrid model of engagement, which enabled us to come together in person for the Spring Forum, in addition to providing several training and information sharing opportunities virtually. This model has increased the options for communities to come together.

As local community representatives, our Council members have continued to bring health challenges and successes to the attention of AHS – both through AHS North Zone leadership and the Community Engagement team. As well, our Council members have provided updated information on new initiatives from AHS into their respective communities.

I would like to thank all our Council members and AHS staff who have been so giving of their time and energy in reaching out in our communities, and for attending virtual meetings.

Sincerely,

Donna Kristiansen
Chair, Tamarack Health Advisory Council

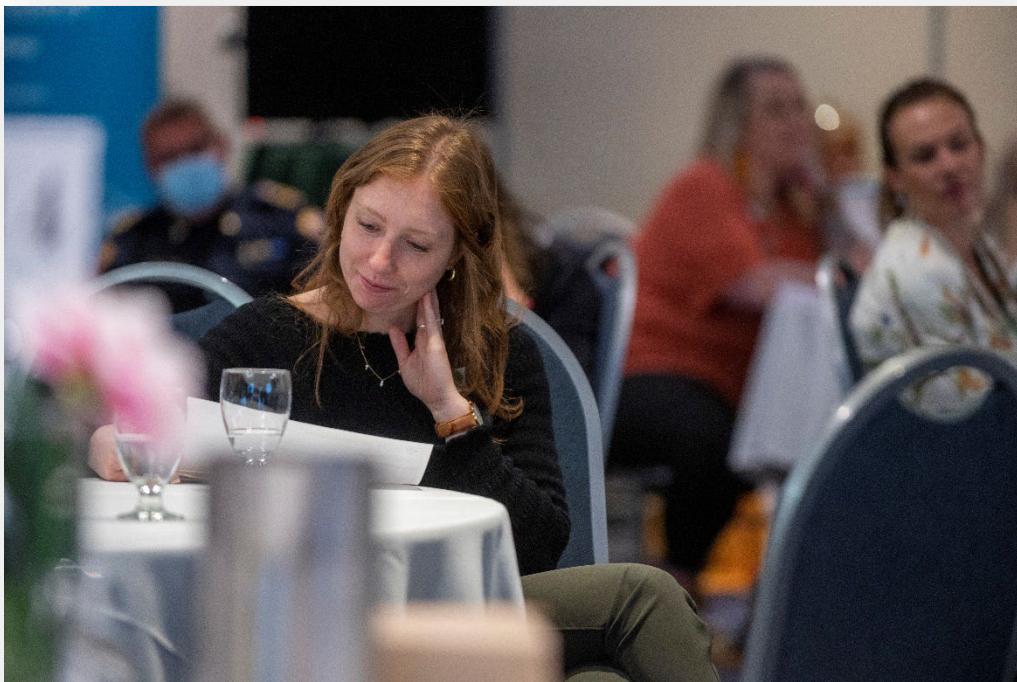


Who we are

The Tamarack Health Advisory Council (THAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) from Westlock in the east through Hinton and Jasper in the West. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to obtain photos of our membership. The following members sat on Council in 2021-22:

Donna Kristiansen (Chair)	Gunn, AB
Janet Wilkinson (Vice Chair)	Edson, AB
Tara Baker	Whitecourt, AB
Lorianne Edwards	Barrhead, AB
Jessica Fortin - Lacombe	Jasper, AB
Debra Hagman	Mayerthorpe, AB
Shannon Harris*	Barrhead, AB
Janet Jabush	Mayerthorpe, AB
Sherry Jeffreys	Sangudo, AB
Elizabeth Krawiec*	Swan Hills, AB
Candace Pambrun	Hinton, AB
Maureen Schnirer	Busby, AB
Wendy Scinski	Westlock, AB
Katherine Steck-Flynn	Westlock, AB
Linda West	Westlock, AB

**departing members through the year*



Jessica Fortin-Lacombe at the Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Key achievements of 2021-22

Tamarack HAC continued to be a strong voice for local communities. We had members of the public in attendance at each of our meetings and we look forward to seeing more as we diversify and broaden awareness of our Council in the year ahead.



We partnered with AHS to host a community conversation about understanding grief and loss. This event had 27 community members participate and helped build understanding and awareness of what grief is, types of loss and tools and resources to build resilience. Participants reported an increased understanding of the impact of emotions on the body and how to develop an action plan to address their own grief. The presenters, certified grief recovery specialists, helped participants decrease fear of the misunderstood process of grief.



Council held three virtual public meetings and one virtual engagement event. In addition to topical presentations, at each meeting we received an update from AHS North Zone leadership, a physician recruitment report from AHS Medical Affairs, an update from our community partners with the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and held dedicated time to hear from the community.



In May, Council members attended the annual Advisory Council Forum in Edmonton. This year saw opportunity for participation in an Indigenous Workshop, learning about asset-based community development and participation in several information sessions. We used this opportunity to network with Councils from across the province, to gather new ideas and find new ways to partner with others.



We were fortunate to recruit new members from Barhead, Busby, Jasper, Mayerthorpe, Westlock and Whitecourt. We're very excited to hear more from these communities and will continue seeking representation from additional rural and Indigenous communities to help represent our large geographic area. See page six for information on how to apply.



Presentations:

- Wellspring Cancer Supports
- HIV Edmonton/Alberta Syphilis Outbreak
- Canadian Mental Health Association's (CMHA) Rural Mental Health Project
- Alberta Farm Safety Centre
- Understanding Grief and Loss



Public Participation:

- 8 Community members attended our regular public meetings
- 27 Community members attended our community engagement events



A look ahead

We have big plans for the coming year. We will continue promoting awareness of our Council and will host three public Council meetings across the area. We will also work hard to encourage members within our communities to attend our community event so we can share insights on healthcare topics of interest. As well, we will continue recruitment efforts to fill vacancies with the goal of broadening diversity to our membership.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Increasing public attendance and participation at HAC meetings through connections made at community events, promotion and invitations to local stakeholders.
- Supporting the AHS Addiction and Mental Health portfolio to promote programs and services.
- Sharing information about seniors and continuing care programs and services.
- Learning about Health Link services across the province and sharing accurate information with our communities.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils.
- Recruiting to fill Council vacancies. We look forward to bringing in broader diversity to better represent our communities.

We will continue building relationships with the numerous local community health partners through our meetings and events. Key stakeholders include Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) in the Zone, attraction and retention committees and local hospital foundations/ auxiliaries. We will also continue connecting with municipal leaders, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups.



Over the past year, Alberta's six North Zone Health Advisory Councils have contributed immeasurably to our pandemic response while also sharing key information with our communities. The Councils have also successfully engaged hundreds of Albertans while shifting to virtual community events. I applaud their ongoing efforts to remain connected.

It has been my personal pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. I have always found Council members to be dedicated, true community builders, and strong voices for healthcare throughout the North. They are passionate and bring a diversity of opinions and experiences, which makes for rich dialogue and discussion. We are grateful for their time, advice and collaboration with AHS North Zone leaders.

We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.

Stacy Greening

Chief Zone 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 or concern.
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Learn more

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True North

2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)





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Vicki Yellow Old Woman

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On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

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



Message from the Chair, True North Health Advisory Council

I am pleased to submit our 2021-22 True North Health Advisory Council annual report.



Nella Fehr

This last year has been a challenging one. With public health restrictions and it being a busy year, our Council had less opportunities to connect. Despite this, we brought our communities together virtually through a Community Conversation about the Alberta Healthy Living Program.

Being a small Council, one of our goals this year is the recruitment of new members, so we can be even more effective in informing AHS about our local perspective and about our community needs.

We wish for all our communities to stay strong and continue to support one another. I look forward to a positive and productive year ahead with TNHAC.

Sincerely,

Nella Fehr
Chair, True North Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The True North Health Advisory Council (TNHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the [geographic area](#) near Rainbow Lake and Paddle Prairie. [Visit us online](#) for a full list of membership.



*Top L-R: Nella Fehr (Chair), Richard Cartier (Vice Chair), Wilma Cardinal
Bottom L-R: Liane Mercredi (past Chair), Jan Welke
Missing: Judith Wiebe, Pam Bose (past member), George Fehr (past member), Jessica Juneau*



Liane Mercredi at the Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Key achievements of 2021-22

True North HAC continued to be a strong voice for local communities. We look forward to increasing participation as we diversify and broaden awareness of our Council in the year ahead.



We hosted a presentation about Hepatitis C, partnering with Extension for Community Health Outcomes (ECHO+). Attendees learned how the virus affects almost 350,000 Canadians, how many don't know they have the virus, how to be screened and how ECHO+ is working towards prevention for Albertans and a cure for the disease.



We hosted a community engagement event showcasing Alberta Healthy Living Program workshops available in the North Zone. Those in attendance engaged in robust discussion about promotion and delivery of this excellent programming to Albertans, to further increase engagement and accessibility.



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



Over the year, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was a topic of interest among Albertans across the province. TNHAC participated in an EMS Listening Session where Council and local community members engaged in dialogue about recent EMS service changes within our communities. We appreciated the opportunity and look forward to continuing to provide feedback in the future.



In May 2022 members attended the annual Advisory Council Forum in Edmonton. This year's forum provided an opportunity to participate in an Indigenous Workshop, and to learn about asset-based community development, virtual health, AHS opioid resources, allyship and many other topics. Council used this opportunity to network with other Advisory Councils from across the province, to gather new ideas and establish new partnerships.



Council continues to seek members from rural and Indigenous communities in the area to help represent its large geographic region. [Apply to join Council here.](#)



A look ahead

For the coming year, Council plans to focus on connecting with communities in the Council area, encouraging community members to share their insights on important healthcare issues. Meetings are also an opportunity to hear from health experts and local stakeholders on topics of interest. Council will also co-host a community engagement event in collaboration with AHS, inviting community stakeholders to participate and learn more about local health initiatives.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Recruitment to fill vacancies. Representation is needed from rural and Indigenous communities to ensure diverse perspective of our Council area.
- Focusing on mental health and addiction resources by connecting with community leaders or organizations to learn their perspectives and share resources.
- Hosting or participating in an education session on Indigenous health to become better informed on how to become an ally.
- Ongoing work with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) to learn about rural community needs, and to promote stronger attraction and retention of healthcare practitioners in the North Zone.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement at Council meetings and events.

Council continues 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. Council appreciates the connection with municipal leaders, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups.



Over the past year, Alberta's six North Zone Health Advisory Councils have contributed immeasurably to our pandemic response while also sharing key information with our communities. The Councils have also successfully engaged hundreds of Albertans while shifting to virtual community events. I applaud their ongoing efforts to remain connected.

It has been my personal pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. I have always found Council members to be dedicated, true community builders, and strong voices for healthcare throughout the North. They are passionate and bring a diversity of opinions and experiences, which makes for rich dialogue and discussion. We are grateful for their time, advice and collaboration with AHS North Zone leaders.

We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.

Stacy Greening

Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

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Get involved

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- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest or concern.
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

Learn more

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Wood Buffalo

2021-22 Annual Report

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Vicki Yellow Old Woman

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On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

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



Message from the Chair, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council



Angela Betts

Another year filled with connection and passion has come and gone. Once again, I feel like it is time for celebration. Sometimes time passes in the blink of an eye and other times we are set in a holding pattern to wait to see the seeds we have planted bloom. As spring brings blooms and new life erupts around us, we too are moving forward as a strong and vibrant community with reflection and respect.

As I seek to pass the torch, I know the continued passion of our community and the partnership with the Health Advisory Council will thrive and reap many rewards.

Enjoy the day, it belongs to you.

Sincerely,

Angela Betts
Past Chair, Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council (WBHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) surrounding Fort McMurray. The following members sat on Council in 2021-22:

Angela Betts (Chair)*	Fort McMurray, AB
Tinna Ezekiel (Vice Chair)	Fort McMurray, AB
Patience Akenbor	Fort McMurray, AB
Lisa Barter*	Fort McMurray, AB
Sonia Burke-Smith	Fort McMurray, AB
Cecile Calliou*	Fort McKay, AB
Natalie Castro - Gentili	Fort McMurray, AB
Sandy Grandison	Fort McMurray, AB
Todd Hillier	Fort McMurray, AB
Evelyn Okoh	Fort McMurray, AB
Farooq Shamshad*	Fort McMurray, AB
Carol Theberge	Fort McMurray, AB
Beverley Tupper	Fort Fitzgerald, AB

*departing members through the year



Beverly Tupper and Patience Akenbor, Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Key achievements of 2021-22

We continued to be a strong voice for local communities. We had members of the public in attendance at each of our meetings and we look forward to seeing more as we diversify and broaden awareness of our Council in the year ahead.



During the year we partnered with AHS to host two mental health virtual training sessions. Both events, titled “Transform Your Stress: The Resilience Advantage - Strategies for Managing Stress in Challenging Times,” had 45 community members participate. These sessions helped build awareness of the factors that contribute to psychological wellness, and they provided tools to manage stress. Participants reported gaining a greater understanding of the impact of emotions on the body and how to develop an action plan to address their own stress.



Council held three virtual public meetings and one virtual engagement event. In addition to topical presentations, at each meeting we received an update from AHS North Zone leadership, a physician recruitment report from AHS Medical Affairs, an update from our community partners with the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and held dedicated time to hear from the community.



In May, Council members attended the Annual Advisory Council Forum in Edmonton. This year saw opportunity for participation in an Indigenous Workshop, learning about asset-based community development and participation in several information sessions. We used this opportunity to network with Councils from across the province, to gather new ideas and find new ways to partner with others.



We were fortunate to recruit new members from Fort Fitzgerald and we're excited to hear more from this community. We continue seeking representation from Anzac, Conklin and Fort McKay to help represent our large geographic region. See page six for information on how to apply.



Presentations:

- AHS Addiction and Mental Health
- Alberta Cancer Screening Programs
- AHS Indigenous Wellness Core
- AHS North Zone Indigenous Health Program
- AHS Emergency Department SCN (Strategic Clinical Network)

Public Participation:

- 7 community members attended regular HAC meetings
- 45 community members attended community engagement events



A look ahead

In the year ahead, Council will host three public meetings and encourage the public to attend and share insights on healthcare services in their community. We will continue connecting with local organizations and bring feedback to our regular meetings to share with AHS in 2022-23.

Council is excited about the many large projects that AHS has underway. We look forward to co-hosting one more community event in collaboration with AHS during our upcoming year. Community stakeholders will be invited to participate in engagement and learn more about health initiatives across our Zone.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Increasing public attendance and participation at HAC meetings through connections made at community events, promotion and invitations to local stakeholders.
- Supporting the AHS Addiction and Mental Health portfolio to promote programs and services.
- Sharing information about seniors and continuing care programs and services.
- Partnering with the AHS Population and Public Health portfolio and the Medical Officer of Health to host a community event on pandemic recovery and immunizations, while sharing accurate information with communities.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils.
- Recruitment to fill vacancies on Council, particularly from rural and Indigenous communities in our area.

We will continue building relationships with the numerous local community health partners through our meetings and events. Key stakeholders include Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) in the Zone, attraction and retention committees, local hospital foundations/ auxiliaries. We will also continue connecting with municipal leaders, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups.



Over the past year, Alberta's six North Zone Health Advisory Councils have contributed immeasurably to our pandemic response while also sharing key information with our communities. The Councils have also successfully engaged hundreds of Albertans while shifting to virtual community events. I applaud their ongoing efforts to remain connected.

It has been my personal pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. I have always found Council members to be dedicated, true community builders, and strong voices for healthcare throughout the North. They are passionate and bring a diversity of opinions and experiences, which makes for rich dialogue and discussion. We are grateful for their time, advice and collaboration with AHS North Zone leaders.

We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.

Stacy Greening

Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

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Yellowhead East

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It's been another remarkable year for health services in Alberta. While the COVID-19 pandemic carried on, vaccines became available which has been monumental in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness. Through it all, AHS Advisory Councils remained connected with their communities and have demonstrated an incredible spirit of volunteerism through their engagement activities.



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

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



Message from the Chair, Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council

Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council (YEHAC) met four times in 2021, including two community engagement sessions; one in January on social wellness dimensions, and one in May with a presentation of Greg's Wings. We held our regular Council meetings in March and October where we learned more about Caregiver-Centred Care and Addictions and Mental Health Strategic Plan.



Cyndy Heslin

Our main goal this past year was to build awareness of the HAC with the public. We concentrated on who YEHAC is, what we do, how to connect with us and how we can help.

We were very active in educating our communities on health while bringing the voices of the community to AHS. We strived to build relationships with our communities, with other Advisory Councils and with AHS and were grateful for multiple learning opportunities from AHS on a wide variety of webinars, learning sessions, support sessions and information sharing.

We look forward to meeting again in person, hopefully in the near future, so new and returning members can connect face-to-face and continue building on the great work of the HAC.

Sincerely,

Cyndy Heslin
Chair, Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council (YEHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) from Provost in the east to Camrose in the west. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



Top L-R: Agnes Hovland, Allen Dietz, Cyndy Heslin, Deborah McMann, John Erkelenz

Bottom L-R: Judy Arces Leah Taylor, Maya Rathnavalu, Stephanie Munro, Taneen Rudyk

Missing: Glenys Reeves, Lesley Hansen

Term ended in 2021-22: Sarah Hissett



Deborah McMann and Allen Dietz at the Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Key achievements of 2021-22

Our capacity to engage remained virtual through the year and yet we were very pleased to have 147 community members attend our meetings and events. Thus, we remained committed to our role in ensuring the voice of our communities remained present.



We partnered with AHS to host two Community Conversations. One was on suicide prevention where we learned about current statistics and services available to local residents. We also learned tactics to prevent suicide which is invaluable knowledge for the broader community.

Our second Community Conversation was on Connect Care in Central Zone, where we learned about the new central access point for more complete, up-to-date patient information and best practices. This session also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about [MyAHS Connect](#).



During our general meetings we had a presentation on cancer screening programs in Alberta and another on the Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) Strategic Plan. We learned what is available and how to access cancer screening, followed by understanding how the addiction and mental health strategy fits into the AHS ten-year vision. Attendees also provided feedback on AMH planning to ensure it is reflective of communities, based on key points we've heard from previous engagement.



As COVID-19 continued to be a priority across the province, Council received ongoing updated via participation in virtual COVID-19 Community Conversations pertaining to Central Zone. Resources were provided that we shared among our communities. We also participated in discussion about temporary service disruptions that occurred at various facilities within the Zone.



In addition to general meetings and engagement events, Council provided feedback to AHS initiatives, including:

- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Dispatch Consolidation
- A seat on a bi-provincial committee with AHS leaders and representatives of the Saskatchewan Health Authority where we review and discuss planning of strategic health priorities for the border city of Lloydminster
- Transition progress at Lloydminster Continuing Care and Dr. Cooke Extended Care Centres
- Status update on the Galahad Health Centre
- Grateful Patients consultation with AHS Foundation Relations

Many of our members belong to their local Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) Attraction and Retention Committee, where they helped organize appreciation events in local communities to acknowledge healthcare professionals for their work during the pandemic.

AHS Community Engagement held its annual Advisory Council Forum in May 2022. The event was held in Edmonton over two days. Themed as 'Bridging Communities,' sessions included AHS experts and award-winning external speakers on timely topics such as Indigenous health, mental wellness, virtual health, opioid resources, and allyship in healthcare.



A look ahead

As we plan for the year ahead, Council will focus on connecting with communities in our Zone as we plan for meetings and engagement events in 2022-23. Our meetings will continue to encourage community members to attend and share their insights on health service delivery, and they will be an opportunity to hear from health experts and local stakeholders on topics of interest.

It is through this diverse membership that our Council is able to continue being a great resource to AHS. We will continue connecting with local communities so the dialogue with AHS remains meaningful, and so information continues to be disseminated broadly into our communities.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Focusing on mental health and addiction resources by connecting with various community leaders and organizations to learn their perspectives, understand gaps in service, promote programs, and share resources. Council has a particular interest in connecting with schools, younger adults and adolescents through a partnership with AHS' Addiction and Mental Health team.
- Continued work with health partners, such as RhPAP, Primary Care Networks (PCN), and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS).
- Sharing of information about seniors and continuing Care programs and services, and learning of the needs of communities in the Council area.
- Collaboration with neighboring Central Zone HAC, David Thompson, and other Advisory Councils on health topics impacting Albertans.

Lastly, YEHAC was pleased to welcome two new members in 2022. Allen Dietz and Judy Arces each bring a unique expertise and community connection to our Council table, and we look forward to their contributions in the years to come.



It has been a pleasure working with the Central Zone HAC Chairs and Advisory Councils over the 2021-22 year. Their ability to keep us connected to the communities we serve and to provide feedback and advice on services within the zone has been invaluable. We truly appreciate all the time and effort the members have committed to engaging with their communities and speaking on their behalf.

Janice Stewart

Chief Zone Officer, Central 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 or concern.
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

 yellowheadeast@ahs.ca

 1.877.275.8830

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

