



Tamarack Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 10, 2022 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Janet Wilkinson (Vice Chair), Jessica Fortin – Lacombe, Janet Jabush, Sherry Jeffreys, Candace Pambrun, Linda West.
AHS	Melony Cole-Zettler, Sandra Herritt, Stacy Greening, Shauna Wallbank.
Regrets	Donna Kristiansen (Chair), Clem Fagnan, Debra Hagman, Kathy Steyck-Flynn, Liz Krawiec, Shannon Harris.
Public	Three
Welcome & Introductions	Janet Wilkinson welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
Approval of minutes	November 4, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	Melony to share presentation slides and resources with Council. Complete. Melony to connect Jessica Turowski with Christine Osunde the Palliser Triangle coordinator. Complete. Sandra to look into getting an AHS ID clinic in Hinton/ Edson area. Ongoing.
North Zone Update	Sandra Herritt, Senior Operating Officer, shared the following: A written report was provided with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local region. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and performance measures and initiatives. An update on COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, was provided. Information on its impact and measures to reduce spread is changing daily. Visit www.ahs.ca/covid for the most up-to-date information. <u>Questions from Council</u> Q. How does one access the DART program? Is it local?



	<p>A . Emergency departments across the zone are provided resources and processes to help support those who present with suspected domestic violence. The pilot project is being rolled out in Barrhead and Westloc. More information here: Westlock Healthcare Centre - Addiction and Mental Health - Domestic Abuse Response Team Alberta Health Services</p>
Community Partners	<p>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report with information about RhPAP’s upcoming information sessions, Rural Health Week celebrations, Rhapsody Award winners, the Rural VIP program and the Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE) program. She also provided information about <i>Put on your Perspectacles!</i>, RhPAP’s Attraction and Retention Conference scheduled for October 4-6, 2022 in Drayton Valley. Visit www.rhpap.ca for more information.</p>
Physician Recruitment Report	<p>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrhead – Two postings; one family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/ obstetrics and one family medicine physician. • Hinton – Three postings; two for family medicine with anesthesia and one for a family medicine physician. • Westlock - Three postings; one for family medicine with anesthesia and two family medicine physician. • Whitecourt –One for family medicine with anesthesia and one family medicine physician
Voices of the Community	<p>Charlene Sitar, Animator with the Rural Mental Health Project (RMHP) in Hinton, shared they are increasing awareness about the need for a regional rural Police and Crisis Team (PACT). They are working collaboratively with RCMP detachments to gather information on what the need is. In Edson, Hinton and Jasper – 319 mental health calls in 2019; 362 calls in 2020; 364 calls in 2021. RCMP are trying to meet the needs of people in mental health crisis better. The RMHP team is woking on a letter to Susan Given re additional AHS addiction and mental health team support.</p>
Council Round Table and Good News	<p>Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kudos to all healthcare staff who have been dealing with the pandemic the last two years. • Edson has a new operating room opening. • Mayerthorpse is thrilled to have a new doctor. A mobile optometrist is also coming to the community in addition to there being several new health and wellness services opening. • Concern about program, bed and hospital closures in the province over the last 6-8 months. People in some communities are more divided than ever as they want to get back to ‘normal,’ while others are cautious and worried about future waves.



NEW BUSINESS	
Presentations	<p>Alberta Farm Safety Jordan Jensen, Executive Director, Farm Safety Centre presented on Alberta Farm Safety.</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started in 1995 with the vision to educate and empower rural Albertans to better manage their health, well being & safety. • Safety Smarts is an in-school presentations to kids in towns with populations of 8000 and less. The presentation includes information on safety, safety pkay areas, water and ice safety, protecting hearing, personal responsibility, ATV and motorbike s afetand horse and livestock safety. • Safety Smarts has been delivered to 7,112 schools, 40,237 classes; 809,5854 children. <p>Sustainable Farm Families Program The health and safety of Alberta farmers is a major issue facing the agriculture industry. Farmers are aging, working in a constantly evolving and complex industry, relying more on family members for extra labour, experienceing high injury rates, illness and early death. The Sustaneable Farm Families program provides farm owners, their families and workers with tools and techniques to effectively managed their health, well being and safety. Death rates in Alberta for cardiovascular disease, cancer and injury are much higher in rural areas. Challenges facing farmers and ranchers include: working long hours, seasonal pressures, stress, living at work, no paid sick leave, risky work environment, attitude to health, average age of farmers is 55, access to medical services, oppourtunities for exercise, diet and nutrition factors, climate variability, commodity prices and fewer than 10 per cent are under age 35.</p> <p>Workshop topics include the state of rural health, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, nutrition and diet, farm health and safety, stress and relaxation, men and womens health; review and action plan follow up, mental health, occupational health and safety for farmers, susbstance misuse; review and action plan follow up, cancer, respiratory health, farm safety, physical activity. Workshop activities include a personal health assessment, mental health assessment and peer-to-peer sharing.</p> <p>For more information or to sign up for a work shop visit the website www.abfarmsafety.com</p>



	<p><u>Questions from Council:</u></p> <p>Q. Does this work occur across the province or just in the South Zone?</p> <p>A. Presentations and support are provided across the province, using local health professionals.</p>
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melony to send Susan Givens' contact to Charlene Sitar. • Anita to connect with Janet Jabush RESIDE program.
Date of Next Event	<p>Date: Wednesday April 6, 2022</p> <p>Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Location: Zoom</p>

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
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