



Wood Buffalo Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2021/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Angela Betts (Chair), Sandy Grandison, Carol Theberge
AHS	Melony Cole – Zettler, Murray Crawford, Rosalita Jn-Pierre
Regrets	Tinna Ezekiel (Vice-Chair), Patience Akenbor, Lisa Barter, Cecile Calliou, Natalie Gentilie, Stacey Stevens, Ifeoma Uzorchukwuamaka, Todd Hillier, Evelyn Okoh, Farooq Shamshad
Public	Six
Welcome & Introductions	Angela welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
Approval of previous minutes	January 20, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	Melony to register Cecile for the Psychological First Aid for Indigenous Communities course. Complete.
Alberta Health Services North Zone Update	<p>Murray Crawford, Senior Operating Officer, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. He 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 ahs.ca/covid for the most up-to-date information.</p> <p><u>Questions and comments from Council:</u></p> <p>Q. Can Council tour the new Willow Square Continuing Care Centre before residents move in? A. Murray will inquire about arranging this for Council.</p> <p>Q. How many beds will be open at Willow Square when it first opens? A. 56–70 beds during the first round of opening.</p> <p>Q. How is morale in the hospital?</p>



	<p>A. Frontline staff are proud of the work they are doing and others in the hospital are doing what they can to support them. Still, staff are tired as they're busy with extra patients and donning and doffing. The goal is to mitigate staff burnout; work is underway on rotations so they get more breaks and time off. There is some light at the end of the tunnel now.</p>
<p>Physician Recruitment Report</p>	<p>Gail Hachey, Physician Resource Planner, provided the following recruitment update for Fort McMurray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two child and adolescent psychiatrist vacancies; • There are two anesthesiologist vacancies.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Jennifer Best, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professionals Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report with the following highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Health Week is May 24-28: Honour the contributions of rural Alberta healthcare providers and community volunteers who go above and beyond to support healthcare in their communities. Learn more about how RhPAP can help local communities celebrate the upcoming Alberta Rural Health Week, here. • Upcoming Information Sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ May 26, 2021 - Let's Go Rural - How do I Get There: Registered Nurse (RN, BSc) Free Virtual Event. RhPAP has partnered with the University of Alberta, Faculty of Nursing, to offer a unique opportunity for rural high school students with an interest in an undergraduate degree in Nursing. Register here by May 21 (open only to rural Alberta high school students). ○ May 27, 2021 - Comedy on the Couch - As part of Alberta Rural Health Week celebrations, RhPAP wishes to lift spirits and take folks on a mini 'virtual laugh-cation.' "RhPAP's Comedy on the Couch" features two talented Alberta comedians, Donna Lynne Erickson and Deb Bates, otherwise known as Double D Comedy. Register today at Comedy on the Couch. • RhPAP U is designed as a one-stop resource for rural health in Alberta. The evidence-based research, reports, videos and infographics on RhPAP U offer insight into rural population trends, rural health issues, health workforce developments and strategies to support healthy rural communities. Click here for more information. • Return of Service Program Announcement in March - RhPAP will administer a new Return of Service Agreement program for the Alberta Government that will help students pay for the costs of medical school. In exchange,



	<p>students will complete residency training in rural Alberta and agree to practice in a rural Alberta community when their schooling is complete.</p>
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>There were five members of the public in attendance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kimberly MacDougall is an advocate for the deaf community in the area. Brought fourth a concern that services are not available for deaf in the community. A senior couple who are both deaf, had a fall and were unable to call 911. • For deaf people who lip read, the pandemic has created significant barriers in communication. • Recently people having issues booking vaccine appointments. Several people she supports couldn't call 811 to book appointments and were overwhelmed by online booking system. Had to wait to have other book appointments causing a delay. Covid testing was also very difficult for this community. • Many deaf people she supports know ASL, but it's equivalent to a grade five English and they know very limited words. Many people have expressed vaccine hesitancy because of understanding, would be helpful to have an ASL video.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>Angela Betts, Council Chair, provided the following update: It is encouraging to hear 26,000 local residents are now vaccinated. Angela appreciates the work of Council throughout the pandemic and she understands that many are experiencing COVID-19 fatigue. The time Dr. Verna Yiu and AHS leadership have taken to keep Council and surrounding communities updated is appreciated. She adds, the Council of Chairs recently met with the Minster of Health, Tyler Shandro, and a report of the meeting will be released soon. Finally, a reminder to Council members to register for session at the upcoming Spring Forum, June 9-12.</p> <p>Council members shared the following updates: Carol Theberge shared that the Wood Buffalo Advisory Committee on Aging has been meeting and reidentifying priorities on how the community interacts with seniors and care givers. She also shared the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo is looking at creating a vulnerable persons registry.</p> <p>Sandy Grandison shared a kudos to Murray Crawford for his team's work on patient visitors. Patients are now allowed one support person in hospital and it has made a big impact on patient care. Sandy also shares she attended an EMS Listening Session on EMS dispatch consolidation, and heard that all four communities in Alberta impacted by the change have the same concerns, not just Wood Buffalo.</p>



NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Wellspring Cancer Services Angie Rice, Northern Alberta Team Lead, Wellspring Edmonton</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellspring Edmonton is a non-profit organization serving Edmonton and Northern Alberta. It provides emotional, social, spiritual and informational supports and services to those living with cancer and their loved ones. It also restores resilience and confidence to those impacted by cancer and welcomes anyone regardless of where they live. Its vision is a future where no one has to face cancer alone. • In 2020, through a partnership with the Alberta Cancer Foundation, Wellspring services expanded to rural and remote communities throughout Alberta. • Wellspring Edmonton offers over 40 programs designed to educate and empower individuals impacted by cancer. Programs are: non medical; evidence informed and evidence based; facilitated by professional leaders; offered free of charge and without referral; available to anyone through online membership registration; accessible in-person, online and over the phone. • Different programs include: individual support; group support; exercise and nutrition; expressive arts; meditation and relaxation; informational and coping skills. • Become a member by completing a registration form at wellspringedmonton.ca. Registration is free and requires no referral. Anyone is welcome to join, regardless where they live.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: TBD Time: TBD Location: Zoom</p>

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