



Wood Buffalo Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 19, 2022/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Tinna Ezekiel (Vice-Chair), Cecile Calliou, Natalie Castro – Gentili, Sandy Grandison, Carol Theberge
AHS	Melony Cole – Zettler, Darline Reid, Monica Schwann
Regrets	Angela Betts (Chair) Patience Akenbor, Sonia Burke – Smith, Todd Hillier, Evelyn Okoh, Farooq Shamshad
Public	Two
Welcome & Introductions	Tinna welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
Approval of previous minutes	May 19, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action Items from May 19, 2021	Murray to arrange for Council to tour the new Willow Square Continuing Care Centre before residents move in. Complete.
Alberta Health Services North Zone Update	<p>Darline Reid, Area Manager, Seniors Health 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. Has the adult day program been reinstated at the hospital? A. Not at this time.</p> <p>Q. What is the timeline for the hospital daycare to open? A. Discussion and partnership with a daycare provider is in the works but no final timeline has been set.</p> <p>Q. Now that AHS vaccine mandates have come into place, have staff left as a result from the Fort McMurray Hospital? A. AHS has only had four or five non-compliant staff at the hospital and most were medical exemptions, as of January 10.</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; with one hopeful candidate. • There are two anesthesiologist vacancies. • There is one Internal Medicine vacancy, • One new incoming Orthopedic Surgeon to the area.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Jennifer Best, 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 Awards 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. In addition, an update on the Wood Buffalo HealthCare Attraction and Retention Committee. Visit www.rhpap.ca for more information.</p>
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>There were two members of the public in attendance: Beverly Tupper is a pending member of Council from Fort Fitzgerald. She is impressed with what she has learned tonight at the meeting and looks forward to joining again in the future.</p>
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>Council members shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HAC will no longer be represented on the Advisory Council on Aging for the RMWB. They now have an AHS staff as a representative. Connect with Darlene Reid with questions. • There is confusion by some about the changing COVID protocols regarding testing and isolation times. Still, people are appreciative that visitors are still allowed in the hospital. • There is concern about lack of rapid testing available in the area, and inconsistent messaging from 811. However, hearing praises for staff in hospital, people are receiving the best care despite sites being short-staffed. • There is confusion around the new COVID testing rules and quarantine times. A lot more doctors have moved to telephone and virtual appointments and are sending requisitions by fax or email, making appointments and tests more accessible for everyone.

NEW BUSINESS



<p>Presentation(s)</p>	<p>Alberta Cancer Screening Program – Monica Schwann, Director, Screening Programs</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation: Screening Programs available in Alberta:</p> <p>Newborn Screening Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newborn Metabolic Screening Program and Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program <p>Cancer Screening Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program – provides mammogram screening to 120 rural communities, including mobile testing to 20 First Nation and six Metis sites. There is a mobile clinic in Edmonton and in Calgary. • Alberta Cervical Cancer Screening Program – provides pap tests at doctor’s offices, medical clinics or in hospital. • Alberta Colorectal Cancer Screening Program – provides fecal immunochemical tests (FIT) and colonoscopy. <p>Cancer Screening is checking for cancer in a person who <u>does not</u> have any symptoms. This may involve blood tests, urine tests, other tests, or medical imaging. Early detection is important for discovering and stopping a cancerous tumor before it grows and spreads (metastasizes). A person’s chance for full recovery is better if cancer is detected and treated earlier.</p> <p>There are many barriers that may affect one’s decision to participate in cancer screening and early detection. Examples include: fear of cancer, lack of knowledge, modesty, communication, beliefs around illness, access to services and lack of transportation.</p> <p>Tools and Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Information line, Screening for Life website, Patient and Provider information, Integrated Access to Cancer Screening, Specific Strategies for Unscreened or Under-screened Albertans. • Screening for Life website with information for public and healthcare professionals, including resources, quizzes, mammography clinic locations, links to other organizations and information. <p>What about lung cancer screening?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHS is partaking in a pilot project with three diagnostic sites to inform province-wide planning. The pilot will commence in the spring, 2022 with a decision expected re province-wide implementation by 2024.
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	<p>Integrated access to cancer screening is an approach to offer screening services at the same time to better address ones needs and increase access to care. Benefits include increased awareness in the community, client support, increased participation in all three cancer screening programs.</p> <p>Questions from Council:</p> <p>Q. What about prostate cancer screening and PSA testing – does the program operate that as well? A. Men need to talk with their provider and discuss the risks and benefits about PSA testing. The program has not been approved by Alberta Health yet to go ahead with screening of all men.</p> <p>Q. What are the deciding factors when it comes to what test is offered and how often? How often are these revised to ensure its up-to-date? A. Alberta Health makes the policy and it’s usually universities that do Health Technology Assessments and make recommendations to government on which test and how often they should be preformed.</p> <p>Q. Is there a place where these assessments are publicly available? A. Monica will look for those reports and will send to Melony to share with Council.</p>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica Schwann to provide link for colorectal screening kits at home with Council. • Darlene Reid to connect with Carol Theberge about Advisory Committee on Aging.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: March 16, 2022 Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location: Zoom</p>

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