



## Wood Buffalo Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 16, 2022/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Sonia Burke – Smith, Sandy Grandison, Todd Hillier, Carol Theberge, Beverly Tupper
<b>AHS</b>	Logan Clow, Melony Cole – Zettler, Murray Crawford, Shanon Dunfield, Marty Landrie, Lorraine Meneen, Donna Matier, Carolyn Paradis, Rosalita Jn-Pierre,
<b>Regrets</b>	Angela Betts (Chair) Tinna Ezekiel (Vice-Chair), Cecile Calliou, Natalie Castro – Gentili, Patience Akenbor, Evelyn Okoh, Farooq Shamshad
<b>Public</b>	One
<b>Welcome</b>	Melony welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of minutes</b>	January 19, 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action Items from January 19, 2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monica Schwann to share link for colorectal screening kits at home to be shared. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>• Darlene Reid to connect with Carol Theberge about Advisory Committee on Aging. <b>Complete.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Health Services North Zone Update</b>	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 <a href="https://ahs.ca/covid">ahs.ca/covid</a> for the most up-to-date information.
<b>Physician Recruitment Report</b>	Gail Hachey, Physician Resource Planner, provided the following recruitment update for Fort McMurray: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are two child and adolescent psychiatrist vacancies; with one hopeful candidate.</li> <li>• There is one anesthesiologist vacancy.</li> <li>• There is one internal medicine vacancy; with a hopeful candidate.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Community Partners</b></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. As well, information on the Wood Buffalo HealthCare Attraction and Retention Committee. Visit <a href="http://www.rhpap.ca">www.rhpap.ca</a> for more information.</p>
<p><b>Council Round Table</b></p>	<p>Council members shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disappointment that Murray Crawford is leaving.</li> <li>• Beverly Tupper found the meeting to be very informative. She will be attending a chief landing working group with RHPAP in the hopes of getting more services to Fort Fitzgerald.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentation(s)</b></p>	<p><b>Indigenous Health Commitments: Roadmap to Wellness</b> – Marty Landrie, Executive Director, AHS Indigenous Wellness Core</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Vision – to achieve health equity with and for Indigenous peoples in Alberta.</li> <li>• Purpose – guide the development of structures, processes, and an organizational culture to support the achievement of health equity with Indigenous peoples in Alberta.</li> <li>• Indigenous Health works with Indigenous communities and organizations at various levels, to address systemic change, and is led provincially by the Indigenous Health Program (IHP) and the Population, Public and Indigenous Health Strategic Clinical Network (PPIH SCN).</li> </ul> <p><b>Indigenous Wellness Core (IWC) Mandate</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitates system-wide integration and coordination of Indigenous health across AHS.</li> <li>• Supports equity-focused innovations, quality improvements and is measurement driven.</li> <li>• Generates culturally safe outcomes, sustainable investments and a workforce that better serves Indigenous people.</li> <li>• Supports AHS’ Indigenous workforce.</li> <li>• Develops meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities and organizations, in urban and rural contexts.</li> </ul>



	<p>The strategic direction of the IWC is to address the determinants of Indigenous Peoples’ health, transform health services and systems, and align with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.</p> <p>In partnership with provincial and zone operations, IWC acts to support, align and integrate efforts across AHS related to Indigenous health. As well, IWC facilitates two-eyed seeing and a reconciliation-based paradigm to drive evidence-based practices and innovations that create economic and social value (Quadruple Aim).</p> <p>The AHS Wisdom Council and Elder Circle provide guidance and recommendations to AHS that draw upon traditional and cultural knowledge and practices, with the intent of AHS to develop culturally appropriate and innovative health service delivery for Indigenous Peoples. Council focuses on Indigenous health priorities, services and resources, and is made up of public members from across all Treaty areas in Alberta. The Wisdom Council reports to the AHS executive leadership team (ELT) and to the AHS president and CEO.</p> <p><b>Elder Circle</b> – the role of the Elder Circle is to provide guidance and insight to Wisdom Council members based on their experience and status within Indigenous communities. They are recognized members of their communities and are held in high esteem. They are Keepers (Knowledge Keepers) of stories, ceremony, spiritual teachings and medicines.</p> <p><u>Questions from Council:</u>          Q. Do Wisdom Council members need to be First Nations, Metis or Inuit? Do they have to hold status?          A. It is not asked, rather, it’s self-identified.          Q. How can Council help with recruitment in the Wood Buffalo area?          A. Lorraine Meneen, Coordinator, will send Melony the memo and expression of interest for sharing with communities.</p>
	<p><b>North Zone Indigenous Health</b> – Shannon Dunfield, Manager, Indigenous Health and Diversity, North Zone</p> <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Zone Indigenous Health is part of Population Public &amp; Indigenous Health and it supports all programs, including addictions and mental health (AMH), allied health and more.</li> <li>• They work collaboratively with the Provincial Indigenous Wellness Core and represent the North Zone at the provincial level.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The North Zone encompasses part of Treaty 6, which has nine First Nation communities, and all of Treaty 8, which has 33 First Nation communities, 24 in Treaty 8 and nine in Treaty 6. There are also eight Métis Settlements and the region is home to five of the six regions for Metis Nations of Alberta.</li> <li>• There are 21 Indigenous Health staff within Public Health, in various locations across the North Zone. There are three AMH Indigenous Wellness teams to support Metis Settlements in Area 6, 7 and 8, and four Indigenous Cultural Helpers with AMH in Areas 1, 8, 9 and 10. Allied Health is recruiting a .5 position.</li> <li>• The <b>North Zone Indigenous Health Strategy</b> is intended to ensure better access to healthcare services, improved health outcomes, and healthier working relationships.</li> <li>• It will build relationships and partnerships with AHS leadership, Elders, youth and communities.</li> <li>• It will reduce racism by creating safe spaces for communities to share stories and experiences.</li> <li>• It will support a long-term commitment to improvement of Indigenous health outcomes while taking purposeful actions to reduce the barriers and impacts of the social determinants of health. Collaboration with Elders, leadership and community consultation will occur.</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions from Council:</u></p> <p>Q. What is being done for Indigenous patients at the Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (NLRHC)?</p> <p>A. NLRHC is talking with Athabasca Tribal Council and Metis people in the area on how to best utilize space on the fourth floor, and on adding to the medicine wheel. Funding is secured for a cultural centre in the facility. They are also looking into an Indigenous Navigator for the emergency department and staff will receive Indigenous awareness education.</p> <p>Q. Is there an Indigenous liaison that a patient can call?</p> <p>A. The Indigenous Health Coordinator in public health position is vacant. There is a full-time Indigenous helper at the hospital and an Indigenous Cultural Helper with the street connect team who supports the NLRHC, which is also being recruited for.</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Date: May 18, 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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