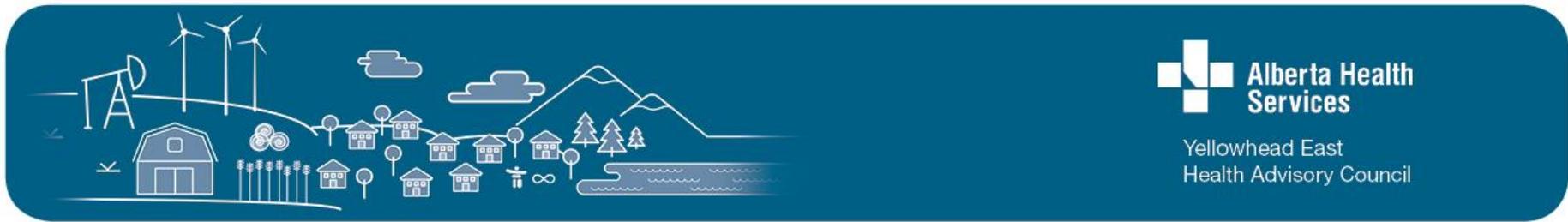


Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council (YEHAC) Meeting Minutes

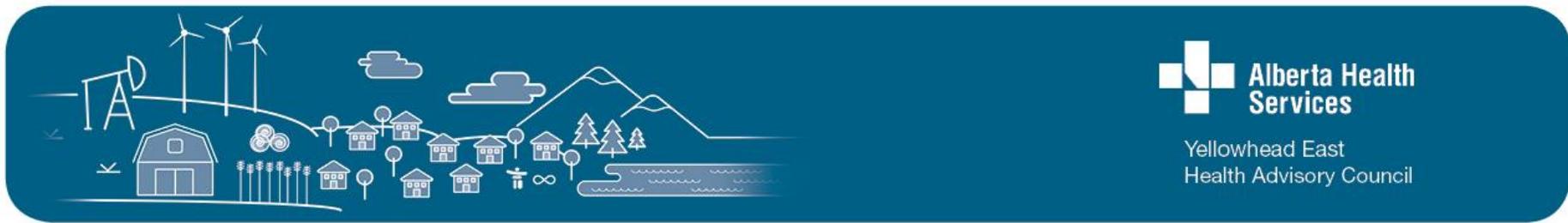
September 28, 2023 / 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / St. Joseph’s Hospital, Vegreville, AB

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Allen Dietz (Chair), Brett Huculak (Vice Chair), Bradely Adams, Judy Acres, John Erkelens, Don Gulayec, Cyndy Heslin, Agnes Hoveland and Shana McIntyre
Regrets	Lori Barber, Cathy Bartley, Tianna Klein, Norm Martineau, Stephanie Munro and Maya Rathnavalu
Alberta Health Services (AHS)	Janice Stewart (Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone), Valerie Thompson, Yvonne Ewanicke, Scott Holosworth, Chris Jardine, Valerian Nyaga, Andrea Jackson, Deanna Dament
Public	4
Welcome & Introductions	Allen welcomed all in attendance, facilitated introductions and provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of Previous minutes	Feb. 9, 2023, minutes require the year to be corrected and a spelling error in Judy’s last name and are then approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from the previous meeting	<p>All actions items from February 9, 2023, are completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deanna will email YEHAC about February meeting presentation topics, and April 13 event topic ideas and location. • Deanna will email YEHAC the meeting dates for AHS community meetings in Beaver County, Vegreville and Vermillion. • Deanna to email Council the proposed YEHAC 2023-24 meeting dates and the Council Chair and Vice Chair roles and Expression of Interest (EOI) forms.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) Minister asked AHS to move reporting of AMH from the zone to the province. • Lab services shifted from DynaLife to Alberta Percision Laboratories (APL). AHS is moving DynaLife staff to APL. • The respiratory virus season started and there is an increase in flu and COVID cases. Alberta has 75-80 COVID outbreaks. • The Provincial Winter Bed Plan is adding beds to the Wetaskiwin Hospital and the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC). If needed, staff at RDRHC can use the Overcapacity Plan that permits patients from the emergency department (ED) to be admitted. • Since COVID, the Rural Bed Huddle meets Monday-Friday and manages beds across all rural sites in the zone. • Central Zone staff continue to work on reducing ED wait-times, improving Emergency Medical Service’s (EMS) response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow.

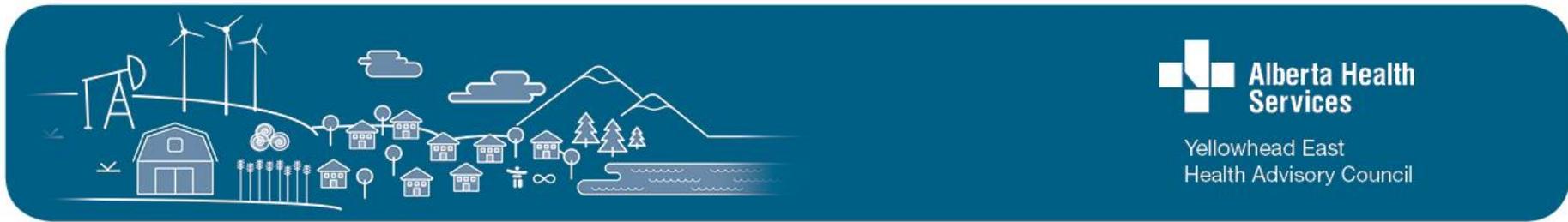




	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Connect Care home care module will be tested in Red Deer and Calgary in November 2023. • A new service in the RDRHC is a psychiatry-emergency team. The team will see patients in the ED with mental illnesses. • The Hardisty ED is open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. It was closed for three year and the goal is to be open 24/7. • Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) are starting to arrive in Alberta. The first two IENs are in Ponoka. • The College of Registered Nures Alberta licenses a new nurse category called domestic IENs. They are Canadians who received their education abroad. AHS is working hard with domestic IENs, so they feel safe and competent. • Flu and COVID vaccines are available on October 16. The vaccines are not combined so will require one per dose. <p>Valerie Thompson, Acute Care Director, Northeast Central Zone, provided the following updates on local communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ED closures are rare in Vermillion, but in the summer some service disruptions occurred. Patients are presenting in the Vermillion ED overdosing on a drug that many staff feel is new to the area. • Soon, three new IENS will arrive in Provost. However, registered nurses (RN) shortages continue especially for obstetrically trained RNs. This is a concern in Wainwright which is known as the baby capital of Alberta. • RN program in Wainwright is expanding to other towns. The program will be staggered throughout the province – two years in Wainwright then two in Olds.
<p>Alberta Health Services Zone Update Q & A</p>	<p>Q: Why are patients deferring their surgeries? A: Many farmers decline dates at planting or harvest while others decline for personal reasons such as weddings, etc.</p> <p>Q: Dr. Kumar, orthopedic surgeon in Camrose, generally completes surgery about 475 days after the referral date. Is that typical? A: Dr. Kumar is a solo practitioner and he likely has the highest volume of hip and knee surgeries in Alberta. Most surgeries take seven months to two years after the referral date.</p>
<p>Action Item</p>	<p>Deanna to email hip and knee surgery information to Council when it is available from Janice.</p>
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>Council members shared the following updates from their communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Tofield, service disruptions occurred in the ED for numerous months, but now urgent care is open 24/7. • A compliment of five doctors is starting to service the Willingdon and Two Hills senior’s home. • In September 2024, the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is returning to Augustana University to train rural students. • A Regional Police and Crisis Team (RPACT) is not in Camrose, but social workers and the police are tending to mental health calls.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recently, researchers from the University of Alberta (UofA) and Augustana University published a study on the mental health benefits of the Men’s Shed program. For more information click here. The Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) CEO, the SHA VP, Saskatchewan Health Deputy Minister and leaders from AHS held a meeting with 130 plus attendees, to discuss problems with medical records. Alberta residents referred to the hospital may not have full access to medical records, so tests may need to be redone. Each month the Tofield Attraction and Retention Committee sends handwritten letters to all new health centre employees. The Beaver County Career Fair is on October 20 at the Tofield Community Centre, for local high school students. The Flagstaff Career Fair was successful and received coverage in the local media, The Community Press.
Voices of the Community	No community members expressed any concerns or asked questions.
Report Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP)	RhPAP continues to host “Knowledge Now” learning session and invites YEHAC to attend. All information is available here .
Report from the Chair	Allen attended the Lamont Community Health Services meeting on September 28 and the September 15 Council of Chairs meeting. Allen is the HAC representative for the AHS ten-year strategic plan, but the plan is temporarily on hold. He appreciates Janice Stewart’s team and their work to open the Hardisty emergency department.
Report from Advisory Council Coordinator	Deanna reminded Council to attend the October Learning Series and fill-in the People Survey. On September 29 Alberta Health Services is celebrating National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. More information is available here .
NEW BUSINESS	
Elections for Chair and Vice Chair	<p>YEHAC held elections Friday, March 31, 2023, online for Chair and Vice Chair as follows: Allen Dietz put forth an expression of interest for the position of Chair. Deanna Dament asked three times if there were any further nominations from the floor. Allen Dietz was declared Chair of YEHAC by acclamation. All in favour. MOTION CARRIED.</p> <p>YEHAC held elections Friday March 31, 2023, online for Chair and Vice Chair as follows: Brett Huculak put forth an expression of interest for the position of Vice Chair. Deanna Dament asked three times if there were any further nominations from the floor. Brett Huculak was declared Vice Chair of YEHAC by acclamation. All in favour. MOTION CARRIED.</p>
Presentation(s)	Presenter: Yvonne Ewanicke



<p>811 Services</p>	<p>Yvonne informed the Council about all services available from 811, including health advice and information.</p> <p>In response to questions posed, Yvonne added the following: 811 is available 24/7 and can be accessed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and all police forces. When callers dial 811 there is an automated message where callers pick an option. There can be a wait. The caller can hold or can do a virtual hold where they enter their phone number, and the system calls them back. They maintain their place in line. Callers speak to a real person – a nurse. Staff work through the 811-call algorithm and help the caller. 811 is transitioning to Connect Care in wave nine in November 2024 and is struggling to fill all its positions. Alberta Health (Government of Alberta) provides the media campaign.</p> <p>In response to questions posed to Yvonne, Scott Holosworth, Director, Central Zone EMS Operations, added the following: Since the 811-911 partnership formed, data shows fewer Albertans visit the ED. 1037 calls were transferred to 811, 429 were handled by 811 and 608 were transferred back to 911. EMS preps immediately and doesn't wait to see if the call stays with 811 or goes back to 911.</p>
<p>Action Item</p>	<p>Deanna to follow up with Yvonne on if the Tree of Life slide can be shared with the public and if 811 advertises to all FCSS's.</p>
<p>Presentation(s)</p> <p>Emergency Medical Services</p>	<p>Presenters: Scott Holosworth, Director, Central Zone EMS Operations, and Chris Jardine, Manager, EMS Operations, Central Zone</p> <p>Scott and Chris discussed EMS in the Yellowhead East area and provided many different statistics on EMS.</p> <p>In response to questions posed, Scott and Chris added the following: Data shows the number of code reds or times when ambulances are not available, has decreased. Staffing levels are improving, and morale is higher. EMS wages recently increased. Perhaps because of better wages, more students are applying to paramedic schools in urban centres. No schools are in rural areas because accreditation is hard to achieve. If an ambulance wasn't busy it was used to transport patients to appointments. Now, interfacility transport and non-ambulance transport units exist.</p>
<p>Date of Next Meeting</p>	<p>Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 – Community Engagement Event Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Location: Zoom</p>