



Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 12, 2023 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Terri Rosser (Chair), Kevin Buffalo, Fay Cardinal, Susan Giesbrecht, Shane Pospisil and Norman Wang
AHS	Jo Blakley, Janine Sakatch, Dalique van der Nest and Shauna Wallbank
Regrets	Calvin Badger, Edna Boucher, Robin Guild, Jennifer Horsnall, Richard Mifflin, Lorraine Muskwa, Ann Stewart, Sara Blake
Public	1
Welcome & Introductions	Terri welcomed all in attendance, provided a land acknowledgement and went through introductions including Council members. Terri went through housekeeping items and shared information about Health Advisory Councils.
Approval of previous minutes	Monday, February 6, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>North Zone Update – Dalique Van der Nest, Executive Director, Allied Health & Volunteer Resources, North Zone shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Care - High Prairie Community Health and Wellness Clinic had a new physician commencing on May 29, 2023. In addition, the Slave Lake Family Care Clinic was part of the successful launch of Connect Care on May 6. • Staffing Supports for Area 7 – The Slave Lake Mental Health Clinic announced that a mental health therapist will begin in July. Efforts continue to recruit to vacancies across the area. Interim strategies, like enhanced virtual services and utilization of locum and agency staff are being applied to reduce service disruptions. • Temporary Director Hired for Clinical Operations – Janet Farney, the site manager in High Prairie, has been temporarily hired into the director role for the next six months. Janet brings with her an intimate knowledge of the communities in Area 6, and AHS is looking forward to the positive contributions she will bring to the role. Samantha Nemec has assumed the acting High Prairie site manager role. <p>Programs and Services – Wildfire Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Zone Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) has been providing psychosocial support to evacuees at Reception Centres and other locations throughout various areas in the northwest.



- Planning and efforts to support re-entry and long-term needs of impacted communities are underway. Collaboration between various programmatic areas, community and governmental partners continues in efforts to ensure the needs of impacted communities are met.
- Efforts to support Area 6 were initiated on May 8. Three response teams have been providing services seven days a week. Active partnering between AMH, Indigenous Health, Seniors Health, Public Health, and Acute Care Services have been ongoing throughout the wildfire response. Volunteers and community members are also recognized for their continued efforts to provide support to evacuees throughout various stages of the response.

Palliative Care Team

- The Palliative Care Team (PCT) received 96 referrals in April 2023, and 26 referrals so far in May 2023.

Complex Care Support Team:

- The Grande Prairie Seniors Consultant Team has merged with Complex Care Support Team. The merged team will implement a single referral process and support the standardization of best practices, quality program planning and quality improvements across the North Zone.

Physician Recruitment Report – Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner shared the following:

- High Prairie has 7 family physicians (2 with additional skills).
- Slave Lake has 7 family physicians (3 with additional skills) 1 incoming physician for family medicine and 1 for family medicine, anesthesia.
- Wabasca has 3 family physicians (1 family medicine and 1 incoming physician for family medicine).
- Recruitment Overview for 2023 is twenty family medicine and twelve specialists.

Community Partners

Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), shared updates with Council. Highlights include:

- 2023 Rhapsody Award recipients: Physician Award: Dr. Noel DaCunha, practicing in Westlock and Health-care Heroes Award: Grimshaw Community Health Centre Emergency Team.
- 2024 RhPAP Conference - The call for proposals is now open for communities interested in hosting the Conference.
- Preceptor opportunities - The University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine and the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry urgently need new rural preceptors for the fall.





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP Continuing Professional Development for Healthcare Providers: RhPAP offers continuing professional development for practicing rural Alberta physicians and other health professionals to upgrade existing skills or gain new skills to meet the medical needs of their community and surrounding areas.
<p>Report from Chair</p>	<p>Terri reported on the NZ HACs - Wildfire Update (and Chair meeting) that she attended on June 8. Speakers Dr. Brian Muir and Stacy Greening did a wildfire update presentation.</p>
<p>Report from Advisory Council Coordinator Update</p>	<p>Jo Blakley reported that since the 2023 Forum was cancelled due to the wildfires, Community Engagement (CE) has scheduled virtual learning opportunities, for June. These are sessions from the Forum that are timely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 21, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Childhood Immunizations Explained, with Dr. Kristin Klein • June 22, 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Building Healthy Communities, with Dr. Richard Lewanczuk and Dr. Laura McDougall • June 28, 5:30- 6:30 p.m. – Leadership Discussion with Dr. John Cowell and Mauro Chies
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>There were broad comments about province wide staffing shortages and the critical need for mental health and addiction supports in the Council area. Community mental health concerns are related to increased death by suicide, and drug use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slave Lake – Susan Giesbrecht reported that studies have been done on the long-term repercussions of Covid, bullying and drug addiction related to suicide rates in the north, furthering the need for mental health workers. • Shane Pospisil advised that Jousard residential school site ground penetrating radar results will be released June 23-25, 2023. The announcement is expected to draw 400 - 600 community members, with mental health supports on site. A similar event will be replicated in Grouard on July 7-8, 2023. Additionally, the Lakeside Police Force, a regional, Indigenous self-administered force with an integrated crisis response team, now operates 24/7 and will double in size. • Wabasca-Desmarais – Fay Cardinal spoke about multiple recent losses in the community and that the smoke has been bad for people with breathing problems. • Noman Wang reported that in Wabasca, April had a high suicide rate with one death and two attempts, and that spring and fall seem to be higher in suicides. • Drift Pile - Kevin Buffalo reported the loss of a prominent leader due to substance abuse. He adds that Slave Lake has so many people who are homeless.



Action Item(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo to get poster from Shane regarding the Indian Residential School Gathering #2 (Grouard AB) to distribute to members. • Jo to confirm with Shane regarding the availability of the Northern Lakes College meeting room for next meeting on September 25, 2023.
NEW BUSINESS	
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Monday, September 25, 2023. Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Location: Northern Lakes College (TBD)</p>