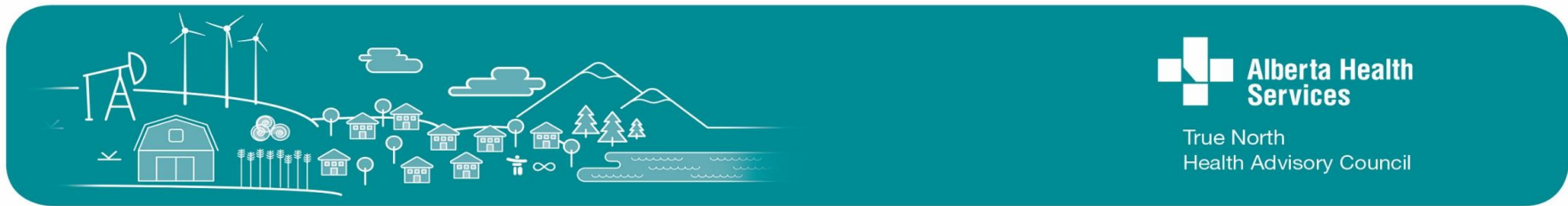




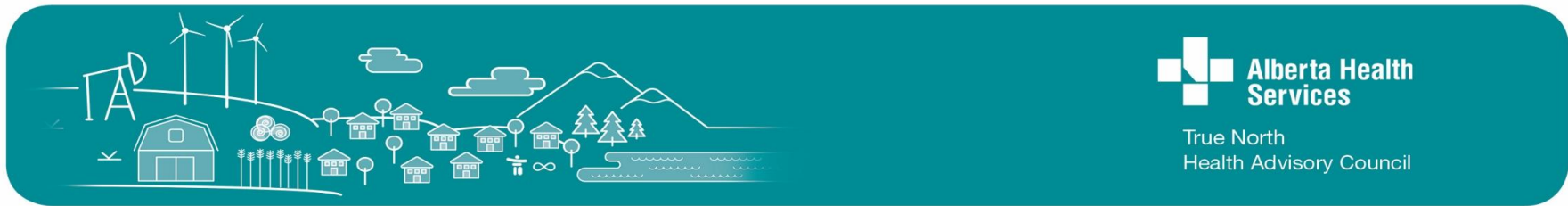
True North Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 25, 2023 | 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. | Zoom

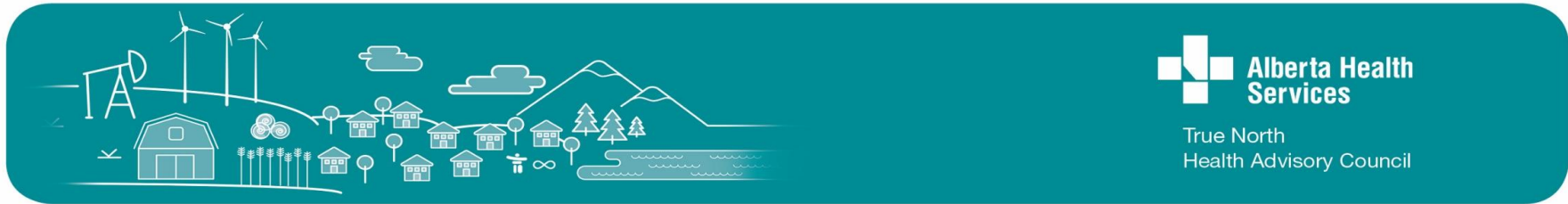
ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Nella Fehr (Chair), Darrell Derksen, Oxana Kabardina, Julie Melville, Liane Mercredi and Jan Welke
AHS	Rob Barone, Cory Brunham, Laura Lee Clarke, Dr. Mark Forder, Sandra Herritt, Aaryn Lynham, Angie Mann, Bobbi Paul-Alook, Diana Rinne, Caroline Velie and Shauna Wallbank
Regrets	Rick Cartier (Vice Chair), Wilma Cardinal, Gina Martens, and Judith Wiebe
Public	4
Welcome & Introductions	Nella welcomed all in attendance, provided a land acknowledgement and provided introductions. Aaryn reviewed housekeeping items and shared information about Health Advisory Councils.
Previous minutes	The previous meeting minutes from September 7, 2022 were disseminated by email to Council and approved.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaryn to email Council with details about preparing to revise Work Commitments for Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2026. Complete. Angie to share information re a medical career fair and the Fort Vermilion hospital tipi raising ceremony (Fall 2022). Complete. A member of the public requested an update about DynaLife lab recruitment at the next meeting. Complete
Council Roundtable and Good News	<p>Fort Vermilion – Council member Oxana Kabardina reported talk in the community about a possible new mobile dialysis unit to serve local patients. AHS responded that the Northern Alberta Renal Dialysis (NARD) team based out of Edmonton is currently conducting a needs assessment for a mobile dialysis unit to provide services in the local area, as some community members travel to the Edmonton area to receive dialysis. This initiative falls outside of AHS clinical operations programming. Questions are being directed to NARD.</p> <p>High Level – Council member Jan Welke says his local pharmacy continues to be busy. Thanks to Bobbi Paul-Alook for working proactively with local pharmacists for a seamless transition with the upcoming change in fee for service vaccinations across Alberta. AHS says that under the direction of Alberta Health, AHS travel health clinics will permanently close in all zones effective April 1, 2023. Routine immunizations for children and adults continue to be offered through all community and public health centres. Albertans can receive paid vaccines through a private travel health clinic, their doctor or local pharmacist. Learn more here.</p>



Voices of the Community	<p>None of the public present came forward with any specific questions or concerns.</p>
Alberta Health Services North Zone Update	<p>Angie Mann, Director of Clinical Operations, Allied Health, Acute Care and Seniors for Area 1, North Zone, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and performance measures and initiatives.</p> <p>Caroline Velie, Manager, Addictions and Mental Health (AMH), Areas 1 & 2, provided an update about workforce recruitment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One new addictions counsellor position has been added. One mental health therapist position has transitioned to an addictions counsellor position to provide additional support for surrounding communities. A new mental health therapist from Calgary has committed to providing services for one year in Fort Vermilion, both in-person and telehealth. • The new La Crete Maternity and Community Health Centre currently being built will provide three new office spaces for AMH staff to provide services for clients. <p>Bobbi Paul-Alook, Manager of Population, Public and Indigenous Health, Area 1, North Zone, provided an update for the local area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By the end of February 2023, sexual and reproductive health services (women’s health cancer screening and STI screening) will be available in all public health offices across Area 1, except for Rainbow Lake. • The new AHS toll-free Indigenous Support Line connects Indigenous callers with Indigenous listeners from noon to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. Albertans can call 1-844-944-4744 with questions or requests for culturally appropriate care. • Early childhood immunization rates for Area 1 are lower than the provincial average. Public health staff are engaging with community to increase immunization rates. The High Level public health clinic has increased appointment availability by 30 per cent starting in January 2023. Funding has been obtained to hire additional staff for school immunizations until March 2024.
Physician Recruitment Report	<p>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner reported that in 2022, a total of 37 family medicine physicians and 8 new specialists were recruited across the North Zone. In 2023, 4 family medicine and 3 specialists have started working in the North Zone. She shared that in High Level there are eight family physicians and one pediatrician currently practicing; one family medicine in obstetrics is incoming with another potential. AHS is working on additional recruitment to Fort Vermillion and La Crete.</p> <p>Physician vacancies or “recruitment targets” can be found on the AHS Doctor Jobs website. Find a family doctor accepting new patients in Alberta by community on the CPSA website using the “Find a Physician” tool.</p>



<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Jill Tilley from the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) provided information on several free virtual learning opportunities available for community members. Visit rhpap.ca to learn more about upcoming “Rural Information Session” webinars.</p> <p>Nominate a rural Alberta health-care hero for an RhPAP Rhapsody Award, either the Rural Physician Award or the Health-care Heroes Award (individual or team) before February 28, 2023 at rhpap.ca/rhapsody-awards.</p>
<p>Report from the Chair</p>	<p>Nella Fehr, Chair shared that since the September 7, 2022 Council meeting, four new members have joined. Welcome to Julie Melville from Rainbow Lake, Gina Martens and Darrell Derksen from La Crete and Oxana Kabardina from Fort Vermilion! Find the 2023 Council meeting dates online.</p> <p>The True North HAC Community Conversation on November 9, 2022, <i>The Power of Community</i>, with Dr. Richard Lewanczuk, was a great success. Albertans from across the province joined the virtual presentation to learn about the social determinants of health and how coordinating health and wellness resources available at the community level benefits everyone.</p> <p>Recruitment Update: True North HAC is actively recruiting to fill three vacancies. Community members who live across Mackenzie County are invited to apply. Learn more and apply at ahs.ca/advisorycouncils. Email truenorth@ahs.ca with any questions.</p>
<p>Presentation: EMS Regional Update for Mackenzie County</p>	<p>Rob Barone, Associate Executive Director and Cory Brunheim, Manager from EMS Operations, North Zone provided an EMS update for the True North HAC area, spanning Mackenzie County.</p> <p>Mackenzie County EMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approximately eight ambulances are available: three Advanced Life Support (advanced assessment skills, airway management and drugs); five Basic Life Support (basic assessment skills, intermediate airway management, limited drugs). • In 2022, EMS responded to 4,543 requests for service. Responses were carried out both by air and ground ambulance. • Top destinations for transport were High Level, Fort Vermilion, Manning, and Peace River. <p>Current EMS challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased 9-1-1 event volume; increased inter-facility transfer (IFT) volumes; staffing challenges; global supply chain issues. • The North Zone is currently experiencing a 25 per cent vacancy rate in full-time paramedic positions (45 per cent for casual positions). Due to this staffing shortage, it is not uncommon to shut down 12-15 ambulances per day (15 – 20 per cent) throughout the Zone.



Addressing EMS service pressures:

- The Alberta EMS Provincial Advisory Committee was struck in January 2022. The Alberta government has since accepted 53 recommendations focused on EMS system capacity and staff support, recruitment, and retention. Eight recommendations have already been implemented, and many others are in progress.
- Additionally, the AHS EMS 10-Point Plan is currently being implemented to improve EMS response capacity. Learn more here.

Next Council Meeting

<p>Council meetings are open to the public.</p>	<p>Date: Tuesday, June 13, 2023 Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Location: Rocky Lane (location TBD) or on Zoom. A registration link will be posted closer to the date to attend in-person or online.</p>
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