

Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Lakeland Communities
Health Advisory Council

Message from the Official Administrator

Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

Message from the Chair

Ida Edwards, Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council

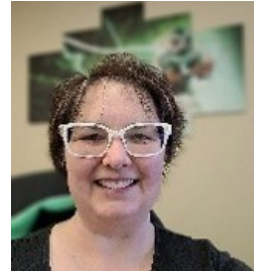
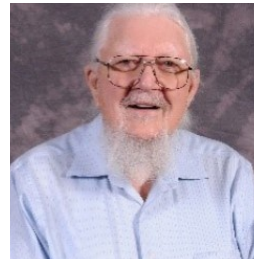


As Chair of the Lakeland Community HAC for the past year, I have been grateful for opportunities to engage and learn more about AHS programs and the challenges faced by our communities.

We had good public meetings with great presentations focused on seniors accessing services and the steps they need to prepare for life changes and challenges. Our virtual January meeting was well attended and offered an opportunity for community members to engage with AHS and Council about their areas. We also co-hosted a joint information session with two other North Zone HACs that provided a great learning opportunity among our Councils, and for the presentations made. It was a pleasure to work together.

It is exciting to finalize our 2023-26 Work Commitments with the support of a Council of strong community members and we look forward to the year ahead.

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



Top L-R: Ida Edwards (Chair), Elzbieta Berglund, Robert Deresh

Row 2 L-R: Brad Eamon, Carrie Goldsmith, Terri Hampson

Bottom L-R: Ed Tomaszak and Joanne Williams

Missing: Heather Stomquist (Vice Chair), Victoria Sparklingeyes, Maureen Sullivan, Lorin Tkachuk

“It has been my pleasure to work with many of our North Zone Councils. Our Council members are dedicated, community builders who are committed to healthcare in the North. I am appreciative of the diversity of opinions and experience that our Council members share leading to rich dialogue and discussion on topics that truly matter to those of us living in the North.

Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

FACTS AND FIGURES



Council Member Representation

- Athabasca
- Lac La Biche
- St. Paul
- Bonnyville
- Elk Point
- Lamont
- Redwater
- Smoky Lake
- West Baptiste

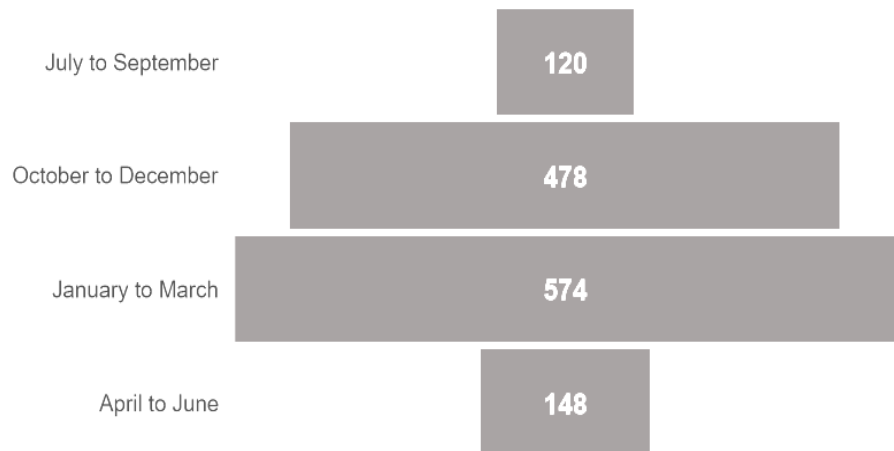


By the numbers

Participation at LCHAC meetings & events:

- 3** public meetings
- 76** public attended
- 1** engagement event
- 25** public attended
- 7** new members

Provincial participation at Advisory Council meetings & events*



*Reflective of the number of public that attended all HAC and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Advisory Council members share advice and feedback from their communities with AHS. Councils hold public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contribute to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

- ✓ LCHAC held three regular public meetings during the year. Presentation topics included Seniors and Continuing Care – Navigating the Golden Years, where participants learned about planning next steps for one’s care; caregiver supports; accessing services; housing options and finances; transportation; and couple care options.
- ✓ We hosted a joint virtual engagement event with Tamarack and Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Councils where we learned about services and resources of Health Link 811 and an overview of lab services with DynaLIFE.
- ✓ Council attended a session with Dr. Cowell, AHS Official Administrator (OA), where he reviewed findings from his 90-Day Report, which outlined progress in the health system from his first 90 days as OA. We also had our Chair attend the bi-annual Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) conference in Drayton Valley.
- ✓ Topics of discussion throughout the year included:
 - EMS recruitment
 - Workforce recruitment (shortages);
 - Site closures (temporary and long-term) – gaining a better understanding of the factors that constitute
 - closures (e.g., nurse or physician absence or vacancies).

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



2022-23 Influenza Immunization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the provincewide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



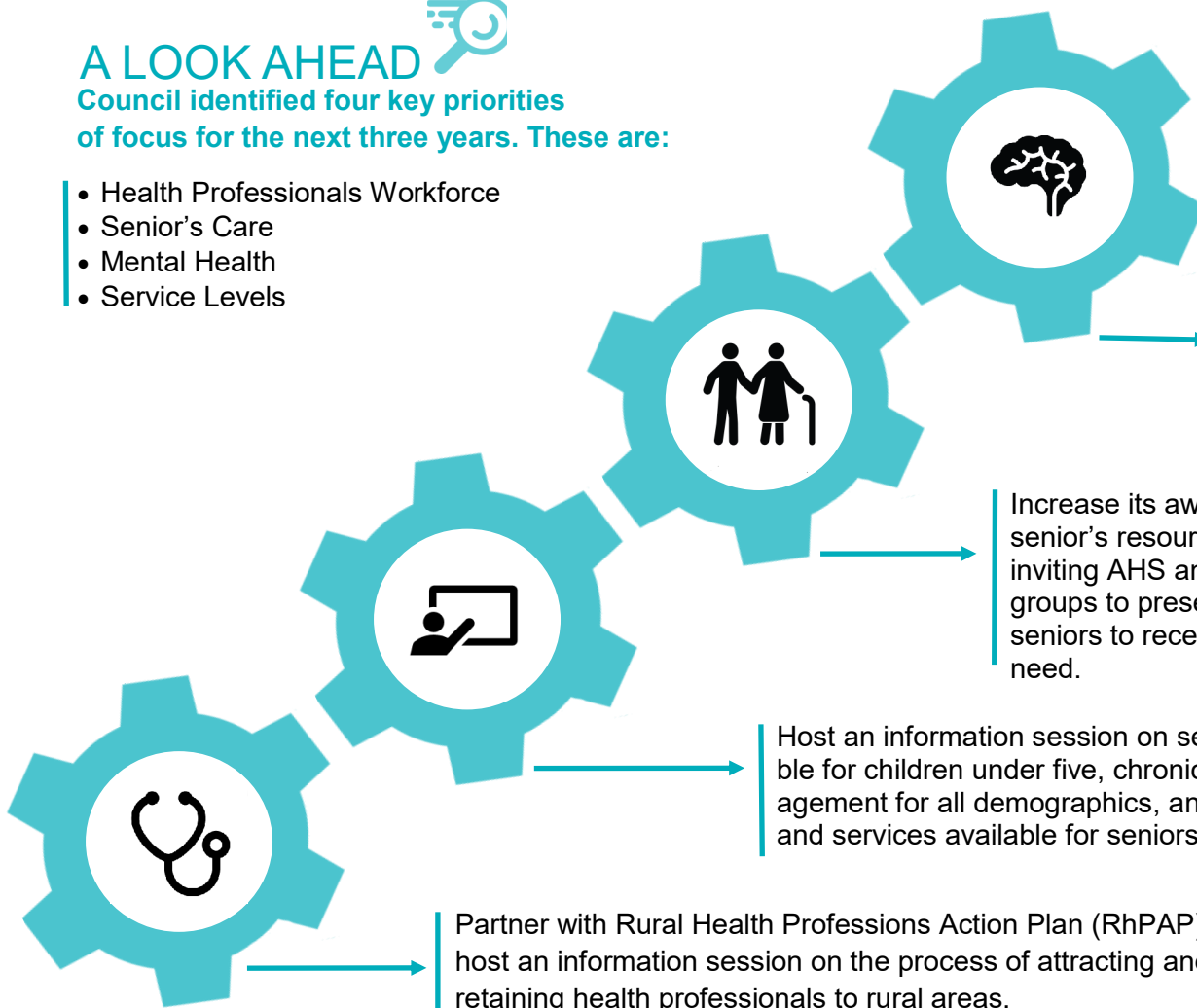
Spiritual Care Policy

Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Care Providers Access Policy.

A LOOK AHEAD

Council identified four key priorities of focus for the next three years. These are:

- Health Professionals Workforce
- Senior's Care
- Mental Health
- Service Levels



Partner with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) to host an information session on the process of attracting and retaining health professionals to rural areas.

Host an information session on services available for children under five, chronic pain management for all demographics, and programs and services available for seniors.

Increase its awareness of available senior's resources and supports by inviting AHS and community groups to present on barriers for seniors to receive the care they need.

LCHAC commits to:
Learn about mental health resources for seniors and people in farming communities.

GET INVOLVED

Make a difference in the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email: lakelandcommunities@ahs.ca
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attending an [upcoming meeting](#)
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

APPLY

