



Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2022 | 8:30–12:45pm | Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Brad Gillespie (Chair), Wendy Plandowski (Vice-Chair), Leanne Anderson, Sheena Clifford, Andrea DeYoung, Marilyn Hundleby, Wanda Redel, Lorri Winship
AHS	Brenda Hubley, Mark Joffe, Barbara O’Neill, Dean Ruether, Janine Sakatch, Monica Schwann, Douglas Stewart, Laura Lee Clarke
Regrets	Mark Armstrong, Wendy Beauchesne, Jill Bernhart, Mauro Chies, Diane Huband, Mark Joffe, Courtney Kerrigan Wally Sinclair, Huiming Yang
Public	0
Welcome & Introductions	Brad opened the meeting with Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands. Brad welcomed all in attendance.
Approval of previous minutes	October 2, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<p>Action items from the October 2, 2021 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribute to members the AHS open letter that was submitted to media addressing vaccine concerns and misinformation – COMPLETE • Arrange a date for the next Virtual Café session – COMPLETE • Members to provide recommendations/advice related to the domains that the cancer sites should focus on as it relates to the patient satisfaction survey (AOPSS presentation) – COMPLETE. • Feedback to be submitted based on members experience with Virtual Care in the cancer system, what worked well and what could have been better? Any advice for the project leads (Cancer Virtual Care presentation)?



**Alberta Health Services
Updates**

Monica Schwann, Director Screening Programs, Provincial Population and Public Health shared the following key highlights from the written update:

- With support from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, Screening Programs will introduce a lung cancer screening program starting in 2022. As part of a phased approach, three diagnostic centres will provide screening to high risk individuals. Two sites have been identified – Royal Alexandra Hospital (Edmonton) and Peter Lougheed Centre (Calgary) – and consultation regarding the third site is underway.
- Looking for 1-2 Cancer PAC members to participate in the Communications and Engagement Working Group to support the lung cancer screening implementation. Participants should have lived experience – either themselves or a loved one with lung cancer screening. Representatives will work with AHS and primary care representatives to discuss how to engage with both primary care providers and patients about lung cancer screening. This will include developing marketing materials and communications strategies.
- If members are interested in receiving additional information about cancer screening programs or if there are reports or information that your communities would value, Screening Programs would be willing to assist.

Dr. Doug Stewart, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network shared the following updates:

- Design work for the Cancer Unknown Primary diagnosis pathway has started with an evidence review and the development of interview guides for both primary care and tertiary care.
- Cancer SCN has initiated an evidence review and documentation of current state for Head and Neck Cancer Diagnosis Pathway.
- Future of Cancer Impact (FoCI) in Alberta Working Group has completed projections of future incidence, mortality, and survival, and is synthesizing what is currently known about cancer in Alberta. A draft report will be shared with AHS stakeholders this fall and more broadly this winter.
- Cancer SCN is revising the innovation pipeline funding competition to ensure operations, clinicians and other staff across the cancer continuum have an opportunity to share ideas and bring forward challenges requiring innovation.

Brenda Hubley, Chief Program Officer and Dr. Dean Ruether, Interim Senior Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta provided the following updates:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Grande Prairie Cancer Centre opened its doors within the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital on December 6th. Patients in Northern Alberta will now have access to radiation therapy services. In addition, the new state-of-the-art centre offers ambulatory and systemic therapy, Indigenous Cancer Patient Navigation, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Language Pathology. <p>Janine Sakatch, Director, Community Engagement shared the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership for the True North Health Advisory Council has dropped below the minimum of eight members and will require special permission from the Board to continue. Work continues with the Council, local leadership, and community groups to identify new members. If Cancer PAC members have any ideas or suggestions to increase membership, Community Engagement would be happy to discuss. • Planning has started for an in-person Spring Forum in Edmonton on May 27-28th. Save the date will be sent out in the next couple weeks.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members have been working to connect Wellspring Calgary with their local communities to explore program opportunities. • Members continue to hear concerns about delayed cancer diagnosis’ and treatment. It is important to spread the message that if people have signs and symptoms to seek timely medical attention. Resources are available at Listen to Your Body: Watch for Signs & Symptoms of Cancer. • Wendy P. reported that approximately 40% of the population in her community do not have a family physician and that this is a barrier to cancer diagnosis and treatment. • In the south part of the province, Brad G. reported that there is a shortage of family physicians which has left numerous people without physicians. • Members are finding it challenging to connect with their communities due to COVID. • Andrea D. has worked with the Cancer SCN developing a digital story on Living Well After Cancer.



Cancer PAC Commitments/Priorities 2021-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Commitments/Priorities document was discussed and reviewed in detail. • Updates under the Council Effectiveness section were as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eight members have completed the annual satisfaction survey to date. This is the highest rate of completion since the survey was initiated. ○ Recruit to fill some of the vacant positions will begin in the spring/early summer. Will be looking to develop a robust recruitment plan targeting the north and south zones. • The Commitments/Priorities document will need to be reviewed to ensure that it continues to be relevant and reflects the work of the Council. • Members were reminded that quarterly orientation sessions are scheduled by Community Engagement. Topics covered include roles and responsibilities of members. Members are invited to attend if they are looking for a refresher.
Action Item(s) from Standing Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If members are interested in receiving additional information about cancer screening programs or if there are reports or information that you feel your communities would value, Screening Programs would be willing to assist. • Commitments/Priorities document to be reviewed at the next meeting to ensure it is relevant and reflects the work of the Council. • Members to send Laura Lee C. any AHS sessions or specific cancer initiatives, committees, or projects in which they have participated in. These will be included in the 2021-22 Cancer PAC Annual Report. • The Cancer PAC Bylaws have been recently revised. Members should review changes prior to February 13th.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative</p> <p><i>Lorelee Marin, Co-chair Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Steering Committee</i></p> <p><i>Don Wood, Co-chair, Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Engage to Design Working Group</i></p> <p>Cancer Provincial Advisory Council is an important part of the Alberta Cancer Diagnosis (ACD) initiative governance structure. Co-chairs led a discussion with members to review the ACD initiative work to date including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A current state document or visualization of the cancer diagnosis experience in Alberta. Cancer PAC members shared their perspectives on the 'loops' figure.



- The team is seeking inspiration from other non-health related industries to inform the design of a cancer diagnosis program. An environmental scan of innovations from non-health industries has been completed and was shared with PAC members.
- The team shared its approach to engagement and the tool it is using to document the range of perspectives or ‘lenses’ that will inform the cancer diagnosis program design.
- Tara Bond, Manager Cancer Strategic Clinical Network and Kris Kelly-Frere, Designer J5, also attended.

Wellspring Edmonton and Calgary

*Dr. Marilyn Hundleby, Program Director and Angie Rice, Northern Alberta Team Lead, Wellspring Edmonton
Sheena Clifford, Chief Operating Officer, Wellspring Calgary*

The presentation shared the history, mission, vision, funding, collaborations, and programs/ services offered. Programs and services are offered for free and without a referral. Healthcare providers are the number one referral. Key highlights included:

Wellspring Calgary (<https://wellspringcalgary.ca/>)

- In addition to the southern Alberta satellite sites, Wellspring Calgary also has two physical centres – Carma House and Randy O’Dell House. With COVID-19, programs are currently being offered virtually.
- There are four program pillars:
 - Educational – provides information, strategies and tools to live well with cancer
 - Movement and Medication – programs featuring physical and mental activities to increase strength, build resilience, manage stress, and calm the mind
 - Self-care – sharing experiences and strategies and benefit learning and caring for yourself
 - Expressive Arts – visual arts, writing, music and more
- Kid Friendly Programs are also available which allows children the opportunity to build a community with others who have family members with cancer.
- The Indigenous Cancer Sharing Circle was established in November 2020 and is a monthly gathering for Indigenous adults living with cancer and caregivers. The goal of the program is to create a safe space in which to welcome all



Nations across the province to connect, share experiences, and build a caring and supportive community. This is a co-created program in collaboration with Cancer Care Alberta.

- As part of a three year operational project, Wellspring Calgary will be looking to expand their reach to support those living with cancer across southern Alberta, employing a co-creation model using a hybrid model including technology and in-person programming.

Wellspring Edmonton (<https://wellspring.ca/edmonton/>)

- In 2020, 23% of new member registrations were from individuals residing outside of Edmonton. In 2021, this number increased to 41%.
- Since the implementation of the Northern Alberta expansion initiative, individuals from 75 communities outside of Edmonton have joined Wellspring Edmonton.
- Programs offered include:
 - Coping Skills – the focus is on teaching evidence-based/ evidence-focused techniques to ameliorate and reduce feelings of stress, calm emotions, and help members garner and feel more in control
 - Individual Support – members and caregivers have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a Peer Support Volunteer
 - Group Support – offers members a network of peers to share their circumstances and concerns with a group facilitator
 - Well Talks – access to experts on a wide range of topics related to the experience of cancer
 - Movement and Meditation – Yoga, Qigong, Urban Poling, allow participants to learn skills and techniques proven to reduce feelings of stress, calm emotions, and help feel more in control
 - Nutrition – provides sessions on cancer and nutrition using the latest research to teach the fundamentals of good nutritional practices
 - Restorative and Exercise – focuses on rehabilitation, with the goal of helping patients restore their health and recover from various impacts of cancer. Wellspring Edmonton is fortunate to be one of the community centers for the Alberta Cancer Exercise (ACE) program. This program offers a 12 week transition program followed by a 12-week maintenance program.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Expressive Arts – offers creative ways of exploring the cancer experience through various art forms combined with contemplative and mindful practices that allow for personal insights and creative problem solving ○ Music – drum circles, ukulele strumming, harp circle, and singing are some of the programs offered ● Maskawacis and Wellspring Edmonton are working together to help those with cancer, their families and caregivers. ● Exploration has been initiated to provide programs to Northern Alberta remote communities.
<p>Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair</p>	<p>Elections were held for the position of Chair of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laura Lee C. opened the floor for nominations. ● Wendy P. submitted her nomination for the position of Chair. ● Laura Lee C. asked three times if there are any further nominations from the floor. ● By acclamation at the meeting on January 8, Wendy Plandowski was declared the successful candidate for the position of Chair of the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council for a term of two years, ending February 28, 2024. <p>Elections were held for the position of Vice Chair of the Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Laura Lee C. opened the floor for nominations. ● Andrea D. submitted her nomination for the position of Vice Chair. ● Laura Lee C. asked three times if there are any further nominations from the floor. ● By acclamation at the meeting on January 8, Andrea DeYoung was declared the successful candidate for the position of Vice Chair of the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council for a term of one year, ending February 28, 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members thanked Brad G. for his commitment and dedication to the Cancer PAC as both a public member and the outgoing Chair.
<p>Evaluation Results from October 2nd Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evaluation results from the October 2nd Cancer PAC meeting were reviewed. Members felt that the questions asked in the survey are relevant. ● It is important that members complete the survey as it assists in preparing future meeting agendas.
<p>Virtual Café Updates and Invitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members found that having an in camera virtual café sessions in between regularly scheduled Council meetings has been successful and very valuable.



Action Item(s) from New Business	<p>Actions from the <u>Alberta Cancer Diagnosis (ACD) Initiative presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) to follow up with Sheena C. and Marilyn H. from Wellspring as they are interested in being brokers for community engagement. • PAC Chair and Vice-Chair to confirm if ACD will be a standing item on Cancer PAC agenda. • Cancer SCN to reach out to Janine S. to discuss connecting other Advisory Councils. • Members to identify how they might engage locally and support ACD engagement efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laura Lee C. to put forth Wendy Plandowski as the new Cancer PAC Chair to the Community Engagement Committee of the Board. • Laura Lee C. will arrange a day in February for the next Virtual Café session.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Saturday, March 12, 2022 Time: 8:30am - 12:30pm Location: Zoom</p>

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
 Visit [Together 4 Health](#) (T4H) to engage with AHS online.