



## Greater Edmonton Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 / 6:00 pm – 9:00 p.m. / Zoom

| ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS                                |  |
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| <b>Members</b>   | Floyd House (Chair), Shakib Rahman (Vice Chair), Shelley Biermanski, Maria Melizza Carino, Donalda Farwell, Ben Gronberg, Austin Mardon, Leahann McKinnon, Andrea Petryk, Kavis Reed, Nazret Russon  |
| <b>Alberta Health Services (AHS)</b>                     | Carol Anderson, Dr. Kirstie McLelland, Deanna Dament, Valerian Nyaga   |
| <b>Regrets</b>   | Towunmi (Priscilla) Coke, Vincent Liu, Diane Mineault-Ellis  |
| <b>Welcome, Land Acknowledgement &amp; Introductions</b> | Floyd House welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions and provided a land acknowledgment for the Edmonton Zone (EZ).   |
| <b>Approval of previous minutes</b>                      | September 14, 2022, meeting minutes were approved by consensus.  |
| STANDING ITEMS   |  |
| <b>Action items from the previous meeting</b>            | Action items from the September 14, 2022, meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selene Tash will inquire the number of private surgical facilities in Alberta. Of note, there is a surgical facility on the Enoch Cree Nation. (completed)</li> <li>• Selene will inquire the number of adults and children accessing mental health services in the Zone, and how it's changed. (completed)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Edmonton Zone Executive Leadership Update</b>         | <b>Dr. Kirstie McLelland, Acting Edmonton Zone Medical Director, provided the following update:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Influenza, COVID, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and Shigella update.</li> <li>• Soon, AHS will announce performance metrics e.g., Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response times, and will monitor the repatriation of patients from acute care beds to their hometown hospitals and other settings.</li> <li>• The Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI) continues and is using underutilized operating rooms in small communities.</li> <li>• AHS is working on demand capacity so when patient beds are in high demand AHS will seek the most appropriate space with the right equipment and staff. The Zone has integrated operations control to support demand capacity.</li> <li>• The Community Health Hub's Access 24/7 program received 7800 phone calls and 257 walk-ins in November.</li> </ul> |

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|                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Edmonton Zone Health Plan is in draft form, and it will be released soon. A key learning is that AHS needs to work with Indigenous communities and develop an Indigenous Health Action Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Carol Anderson, Chief Zone Officer - Edmonton Zone, provided the following update:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Opioid Response Committee continues to facilitate knowledge transfer and support family physicians.</li> <li>The Vulnerable Population Team is officially established and funded by AHS.</li> <li>AHS opened Shasta Care Community, supportive living for seniors in Edmonton and run by the vendor Shasta Group. It has 160 new beds for dementia patients.</li> <li>Homecare clients can select their personal care service providers. Alberta Blue Cross is a partner in the project.</li> <li>Alberta Health (AH) funded a palliative care course called Pallium and it has been taken by 112 clinicians.</li> </ul> <p><b>Capital Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AHS is adding beds to all zones, and design work for various facilities is underway where needed.</li> <li>Updates on the Brain Centre and the Edmonton Hospital were provided.</li> <li>New funding from various foundations is greatly appreciate in Strathcona County and Westview.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Action Items</b>              | Deanna to share Pallium link with GEHAC.  |
| <b>Zone Leadership Q &amp; A</b> | <p><b>Zone Leadership provided responses to Council members questions, as follows:</b></p> <p><b>Q:</b> When is the engagement session for Indigenous youth on the health action plan?<br/> <b>A:</b> AHS' Indigenous Wellness Core and other partners are working on a date.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Are regional municipalities aware of the Edmonton Zone Health Care Plan and how might they assist with planning?<br/> <b>A:</b> Engagement sessions by local geographic area (LGA) were held and AHS invited municipalities.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> Will there be pop-up immunization clinics at homeless cold shelters?<br/> <b>A:</b> No</p>   |
| <b>Action Items</b>              | Deanna to watch for updates on the Indigenous Youth Engagement Session and send to GEHAC.   |
| <b>Council Round Table</b>       | <p>The following was shared by Council members regarding:</p> <p><b>Workforce</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council expressed concern over a lack of communication about the former chief paramedic and underutilized nurse practitioners.</li> </ul>  |

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|                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shakib expressed gratitude for all the AHS staff who worked over the Christmas break.</li> <li>• Family doctors are reducing their hours resulting in patients losing their doctors and unable to find new ones. Often, what's posted online and on Find a Doctor is inaccurate/ outdated.</li> <li>• Staff's psychological safety is important. Response to the Psychological Health and Safety Plan is positive, and implementation will continue.</li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Medical Services (EMS)/Emergency Departments (ED)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EMS feels recognized and that there are more mental health supports in place.</li> <li>• Underfunded and under resourced rural emergency departments (ED) experiencing high volumes, increased acuity and Computed Tomography (CT) scan needs were discussed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Addiction and Mental Health (AMH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A suicide ideation program is being implemented in various schools and youth are using online therapy more.</li> <li>• The Alberta government's mental health funding is now distributed to school boards. AHS, Alberta Education and Alberta Health will assist and advise when needed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional updates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many Council members reported their family and friends are now getting in for various surgeries.</li> <li>• Leadership clarified the Government of Alberta implements masking mandates, not AHS.</li> <li>• Discussion about who can and cannot carry naloxone kits within the City of Edmonton.</li> <li>• Discussion about how misinformation about cough medicine is being propagated online.</li> <li>• Connect Care allows contractors and AHS to share more patient information internally.</li> <li>• Parking fees and ambulance transportation costs to a hospital during an emergency are high.</li> <li>• Comment about the Edmonton North Community Health Hub receptionist's inability to contact home care.</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Action items</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deanna to email Floyd about Darren Sandbeck.</li> <li>• Carol to investigate the complaint from Edmonton North Health Hub.</li> <li>• Deanna to share the <a href="http://albertafindadoctor.ca">albertafindadoctor.ca</a> with Council.</li> <li>• Deanna to follow up with AHS communications on misinformation on influenza medications.</li> <li>• Deanna to follow up with Dr. Sikora on the status of naloxone kits and their use by contracted staff and city employees.</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>Voices of the Community</b>                       | <p><b>Q:</b> Where can youth get mental health support?<br/> <b>A:</b> <a href="#">Access Open Minds</a> is for those 16-24 years old.</p>  |
| <b>Report from the Chair</b>                         | <p>Floyd provided an update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No members terms are ending in 2023, but Priscilla is set to renew in September.</li> <li>• Recruiting from rural areas is ongoing.</li> <li>• Reminder to members to fill out the Advisory Council Annual Satisfaction Survey.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Action Items</b>                                  | Deanna to inform Priscilla her term is up for renewal in September 2023.  |
| <b>Advisory Council Update</b>                       | Deanna provided an Advisory Council update on recruitment. The next start date is June 1.   |
| <b>Engagement Topics and working group for March</b> | GEHAC discussed different topics. Many members are interested in an engagement session with youth to look at issues like cyber bullying, self-harm and loneliness.  |
| <b>Action Item</b>                                   | Deanna to email Council and determine the location and topic for the community engagement event on March 8.   |
| <b>NEW BUSINESS</b>                                  |   |
| <b>Presentation(s)</b>                               | <p><b>Services Offered to the Homeless in Greater Edmonton.</b><br/> <b>Jimmy Morrison, Operation Friendship Seniors Society (OFSS), Leahann McKinnon, Edmonton People in Need (EPINS)</b><br/> <b>Mark Snaterse, AHS Executive Director of Addiction and Mental Health (AAMH)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jimmy and Leahann discussed their organization’s programs, referral processes and funding sources</li> <li>• Mark discussed AAMH services delivered by AHS. It offers a spectrum of programs from early intervention education in schools to tertiary beds in specialized facilities. AHS collaborates with different organizations and all levels of government. AAMH services are for all Albertans. The goal is to make all facilities accepting and welcoming.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Action Items</b>                                  | Deanna to email any unanswered questions to Mark and forward the answers to attendees.  |
| <b>Date of Next Meeting</b>                          | <p>Date: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – Community Engagement Event<br/> Time: 6:00-9:00 p.m.<br/> Location: TBD</p>   |

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