

Lakeland Communities

2020-21 Annual Report





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Since my appointment to the AHS Board in the fall of 2020, it has been my pleasure to become familiar with the work of the Advisory Councils. By all accounts, Councils have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic and have found success in connecting with stakeholders as they adapted to virtual meetings well through 2021.

Advisory Councils continue to be tremendous partners in health. They have been instrumental as a conduit of information from AHS to local communities, a task of particular importance during an extraordinary period of time. Through innovation and determination, each Council has remained committed to its role of advising AHS, and to bringing forward the voices of their communities.

I look forward to working with Advisory Councils in the years ahead and watching as they continue to evolve. Thank you to each member for your ongoing dedication to improving health services for all Albertans.

Sincerely,

Vicki Yellow Old Woman,
Chair, Community Engagement Committee, AHS Board



Message from the Chair, Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council



On behalf of the Lakeland Health Advisory Council, I would like to provide you with a report of our 2020-21 activities.

Our Council makes a difference in our communities by asking healthcare experts to provide information to the public at our meetings on new or ongoing health initiatives such as cancer support, loneliness support during this pandemic, mental health support, etc. We are grateful for any feedback or questions from community members participating in our meetings regarding the presentations on health services in their area. Any concerns or suggestions from the public are shared with AHS to assist in future decision making.

I would like to thank the public who has attended our virtual meetings, our presenters and our AHS representatives for their team approach in resolving issues and planning for the future.

Sincerely,

Robert Deresh
Chair, Lakeland Communities health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council (LCHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) from Cold Lake in the east to Athabasca in the west. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were unable to obtain photos of our membership. The following members sat on Council in 2020-21:

Robert Deresh (Chair)	Bonnyville, AB
Allyson Fox (Vice Chair)	Bonnyville, AB
Glen Anderson	St. Paul, AB
Brad Eamon	St. Paul, AB
Zicki Eludin	Lac La Biche, AB
Kathy Lepine	Cold Lake, AB
Janet Stone	St. Bride, AB
Lorin Tkachuk	Lac La Biche, AB
Amy Warren	Cold Lake, AB
Joanne Williams	Redwater, AB



Highlights



Presentations

- Health System Integration
- Lac La Biche Community Connectors
- AHS COVID-19 Psychosocial Supports
- Social Media & Evaluating Online Information
- Wellspring Cancer Supports



Public Participation

- 21 community members attended regular HAC meetings
- 95 community members attended community engagement events



Key achievements of 2020-21

Lakeland Communities had a very busy year creating awareness for the Council, and it proved to be worthwhile as 116 community members attended our meetings and events in 2020-21.



During the year we partnered with AHS to host two Community Conversations. In October, 45 community members attended a session where Dr. Richard Lewanczuk, Senior Medical Director, provided information on Health System Integration and the importance of connectedness in the community. He also spoke about wellness as it relates to overall healthcare. We received an update from Dr. Lenora LeMay who leads the Lac La Biche Community Connectors, a grassroots group combating loneliness in their community. This group was formed after an Enhancing Care in the Community information session held in Lac La Biche in 2019.



Our second Community Conversation in March had 50 community members participate and was centred around Social Media and Evaluating Online Information. AHS' Social Media Director shared real-life examples of misinformation shared on social media and how AHS addresses them. AHS Knowledge Resource Services also shared how to find trusted health sources online and how to evaluate online information. We were able to share links and resources with credible information with participants in our communities to help them make better informed decisions.



In March, Council members attended a virtual COVID-19 Community Conversation for the North Zone. Medical Officer of Health Dr. Kristin Klein provided an update on the status of COVID-19 in Alberta and the North Zone, and AHS' response – including its vaccination program. Dr. Klein addressed concerns and shared resources for members to share within their communities.



In April, Robert Deresh, Council Chair and Alyson Fox, Vice Chair, attended a Council of Chairs meeting with the Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health. Minister Shandro provided updates and engaged in dialogue with the Chairs.



Sadly our dear Vice-Chair, Brydon Ward passed away in September 2020. Brydon served on Council for two years and had been our Vice Chair for just over a year. He was a very active Council member and a strong advocate for his community. This is such a great loss; he is missed by so many, and we extend our condolences to his family and friends.



Fishing Lake Metis Settlement, Alberta



A look ahead

In the year ahead, Council will focus on connecting with the communities in our Zone as we plan for meetings and engagement events in 2021-22. We will host two public meetings and we encourage the public to attend and share insights on healthcare services in their community. This will also be an opportunity to hear from health experts and local stakeholders on topics of interest.

Council will co-host two community events in collaboration with AHS. Community stakeholders will be invited to participate and learn more about health initiatives across our Zone.

The year ahead will also include:

- Increasing public attendance and participation at HAC meetings through connections made at community events, promotion, and invitations to local stakeholders.
- Supporting the AHS Addiction and Mental Health portfolio to promote its programs and services.
- Sharing information about seniors and continuing care programs and services.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement at Council meetings and events.
- Member attendance at local community events to increase awareness of the HAC.
- Increasing Council connections with Indigenous communities in our area.
- Recruitment to fill vacancies on Council. Representation is needed from Athabasca, Boyle, Elk Point, Smoky Lake, and Thorhild. Click [here](#) to apply.

Our community health partners are essential and we will continue to build relationships through our meetings and events. Key stakeholders include Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN) in the Zone and local hospital foundations/ auxiliaries. We appreciate the connection with municipal leaders, Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) and other local community groups.



Over the past year, Alberta's six North Zone Health Advisory Councils have been instrumental in helping us get critical COVID-19 information out to our communities and in informing our pandemic response. In addition, they have shifted to a virtual model and engaged hundreds of local Albertans through their community events. The HACs are deeply connected to their local areas and work closely with AHS North Zone leaders. We are grateful for their advice and collaboration. We look forward to continuing to partner with the True North, Wood Buffalo, Peace, Lesser Slave Lake, Lakeland Communities, and Tamarack Health Advisory Councils.

Gregory Cummings

Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

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.



Get involved

You can make a difference to the health and well-being of your family, friends, neighbours and community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS. You can get involved by:

- Attending an [upcoming meeting](#). Agendas and notices are posted on the Advisory Council webpage: ahs.ca/advisorycouncils.
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest.
- Providing input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ lakelandcommunities@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

Check us out on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or by searching AHS Advisory Councils.

