



## Lakeland Communities Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 27, 2023 / 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Athabasca Health Care Centre

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Ida Edwards (Chair), Heather Stromquist (Vice Chair), Carrie Goldsmith, Terri Hampson, Victoria Sparklingeyes, Maureen Sullivan, Ed Tomasz
<b>AHS</b>	Nicole Allan, Lana Hataley, Andrea Jackson, Shauna Wallbank
<b>Regrets</b>	Elzbieta (Ela) Berglund, Brad Eamon, Cheryl Edwards, Diane Mineault-Ellis, Lorin Tkachuk and Joanne Williams
<b>Public</b>	0
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Ida Edwards welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of minutes</b>	The January 11, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from previous meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheri to provide a list of AHS leadership for each area, including names and titles. A link was provided at the meeting.</li> <li>• Sheri to send a fillable meeting evaluation form and link to the online evaluation form on Together4Health. <b>Complete.</b></li> <li>• Sheri to provide a list of HAC membership. A link was provided in the meeting chat.</li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Health Services North Zone Update</b>	<p><b>Lana Hataley, Senior Operating Officer</b>, spoke about workforce recruitment and retention, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and Capital Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoky Lake bathtub project is scheduled to start in June.</li> <li>• Redwater flooring project will commence in June.</li> <li>• Lac La Biche Medical Device Reporting renovation will be close to completion by the end of June.</li> <li>• Bonnyville is undergoing an addition to have an ER.</li> <li>• The Primary Care Network (PCN) is working on a mobile unit for the Buffalo Lake area and the Kikino Metis Settlement.</li> <li>• Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI)– last year, in the last quarter, North Zone exceeded projected surgical targets and had the biggest reduction in waitlist. This year the North Zone is projecting to complete 23,000 surgeries and a waitlist of zero.</li> </ul>



- Connect Care is launching in the North Zone in November.
- Maternal Fetal Stress Testing education is continuing at all North Zone sites.
- The Adult Day Program is up and running at the Lac La Biche Continuing Care Centre.
- The Alberta Healthy Living program offers virtual education for various chronic disease management, self-managed and supervised care.
- There is a face-to-face meeting planned for April 17-19 with Northeast side Metis Settlements re response training, educational promotion teams, AHS First Aid, non-violent crisis prevention and psychological first aid.
- There are discussions underway with area PCN's to add services to Fishing Lake, Elizabeth, Buffalo Lake and Kikino.
- The breast cancer screening program will be in Fishing Lake on May 19; Saddle Lake Cree Nation on May 30 and Buffalo Lake Metis Settlement and Kikino in June.
- Red Cross has an international educated initiative for recruitment of nurses; Boyle has recruited three nurses in the first wave.

Questions:

**What is the process for non-profit funds granted to AHS?**

Donors, typically via the auxiliary, will have connected with the site to determine need. Prior to any transfer of funds, a request is reviewed by the site manager or director and summited for approval. Upon approval, the community/foundation proceeds.

**What is the outcome from the Northeast Metis Settlement meeting in April?**

Lana spoke about the engagement opportunity and the requests from our healthcare centers, taking positive steps to improve feedback and improve diverse communities. Carrie will provide Red Dawn Metis Women Society information about the various regions, benefits and opportunities.

**Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, tentatively confirmed:**

- **Athabasca** – one family medicine physician is incoming and under assessment; June is the projected start date.
- **Lac La Biche** – one family medicine physician with anesthesia has a projected community start date for July and one family medicine physician will commence mid-August.
- **Bonnyville** - one family medicine with obstetrics will finish their first assessment and will start tentatively mid-June/July.



<p><b>Community Partners</b></p>	<p><b>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant</b> presented a written report from Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RhPAP</a> has virtual learning opportunities available for rural community members.</li> <li>• RhPAP offers continuing professional development for practicing health professionals. Details on the <a href="#">website</a>.</li> <li>• RhPAP has a new bursary for internationally educated nurses. The Bursary for Internationally Educated Nurses (BIEN) is intended to provide funding to internationally educated nurses as they complete bridging training required to practice as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse, in exchange for time spent working in rural Alberta. Visit the link for more information: <a href="#">BIEN Program</a>.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physician Recruitment Report</b></p>	<p><b>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner</b>, reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bonnyville</b> - one for family medicine with anesthesia; one family medicine with obstetrics; three family medicine and one pediatrician. Incoming physicians: one family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/obstetrics (EESOB), set to begin in June-July. Also, there were two pediatricians interviewed and one candidate will be offered a site tour. There is a family medicine candidate going through the recruitment process for Bonnyville.</li> <li>• <b>Cold Lake</b> – three family medicine physicians.</li> <li>• <b>St. Paul</b> – two postings for psychiatrists.</li> <li>• <b>Athabasca</b> – one family medicine physician. Incoming physicians: one family medicine, projected to start in June.</li> <li>• <b>Boyle</b> – one posting for a family medicine physician.</li> <li>• <b>Lac La Biche</b> – one for family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/obstetrics; one family medicine with general surgical skills; one family medicine with obstetrics; one family medicine physician; two family medicine with anesthesia and one family medicine physician. Incoming physicians: one family medicine set to begin in August and one family medicine with anesthesia who is projected to start in July.</li> <li>• <b>Smoky Lake</b> – one family medicine physician.</li> <li>• North Zone received 12 family medicine physicians and 11 specialists to date in 2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voices of the Community</b></p>	<p><b>There are concerns with hospital closures and lack of staff. How is AHS recruiting more nurses and doctors?</b></p> <p>Carrie Goldsmith responded that recruitment of healthcare professionals can be cumbersome with the assessment process, which is coordinated and driven by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA). Despite barriers, the CPSA has been very good at being proactive and pushing recruitment forward.</p>



<b>Chair update</b>	<b>Ida Edwards, Council Chair</b> , provided the following update: In March, RhPAP, hosted 40 high school students for potential health and wellness recruitment in Athabasca at a day event with an engagement workshop featuring injections, sutures and resuscitation. It highlighted community involvement with Athabasca University and potential future involvement with Northern Lakes as both schools have the nursing bridging program.
<b>Advisory Council Coordinator Update</b>	<b>Andrea Jackson, Lead, Advisory Council</b> , proposed 2023-24 meeting and event dates and encouraged HAC members to register for Spring Forum.
<b>Council Roundtable and Introductions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heather commented on upcoming election, recruitment, tuition free options, healthcare staff retention and community support for the recruited AHS employee.</li> <li>• Maureen is concerned about rules for long-term care residents for voting in the election. The Town of Lamont is working with the local hospital to arrange to have residencies constructed for long term care.</li> <li>• Carrie spoke about advocating for healthcare aids and retainment of doctors.</li> <li>• Ida spoke to Employabilities and Athabasca Employment Services, a government managed program for new employment.</li> <li>• Victoria expressed concern for mental health in the community.</li> </ul>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Action Item(s)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lana and Nicki to provide a list of AHS leadership for each area, including names and titles.</li> </ul>
<b>Date of Next Event</b>	Date: Wednesday, October 4, 2023 Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location: Elk Point Healthcare Centre Contact: <a href="mailto:lakelandcommunities@ahs.ca">lakelandcommunities@ahs.ca</a> for details

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