



## Tamarack Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 2, 2022 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Westlock Healthcare Centre, Telehealth Room

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Janet Wilkinson (Vice Chair), Tara Baker, Lorianne Edwards, Karen Gariepy, Jeff Goebel, Janet Jabush, Maureen Schnirer, Wendy Scinski
<b>AHS</b>	Shauna Wallbank, Shelly Willsey, Sheri Pidhirney, Sherry Gough, Sandra Herritt, Anita Fagnan, Kerri Mills, Stacy Greening
<b>Regrets</b>	Crystal Browne, Deborah Whetstone, Donna Kristiansen
<b>Public</b>	No public in attendance
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Janet Wilkinson welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of minutes</b>	The September 7, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus. The agenda for November 2 was accepted as presented.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from previous meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sherry Gough to confirm when second OR to open in Edson - <b>Complete</b></li> <li>• Sherry Gough to provide breast cancer prescreen information to Council - <b>Complete</b></li> <li>• Donna to report back on the RhPAP conference in Drayton Valley. Sheri to add to November agenda – <b>Complete</b>. Anita from RhPAP provided a report, Donna was not in attendance today.</li> <li>• Sheri to inquire about a cross-cultural presentation to Council from AHS’ Indigenous Wellness Core schedule for next meeting. In Progress</li> <li>• Sheri to provide an update on COVID-19 clinics – vaccinations and testing. – <b>Complete</b></li> <li>• Sheri to provide Council with the AHS organizational chart. - <b>Complete</b></li> <li>• Sheri to provide the final copy of Council’s Work Commitments after they’re approved by the AHS Board. – <b>Complete</b>; provided <a href="#">link</a> to website.</li> </ul>
<b>North Zone Update</b>	Sandra Hewitt, Senior Operating Officer, shared the following:



	<p>A written report was provided with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area</p> <p>Edson and Hinton have a pilot site, where nurses in acute care are gaining experience in community health. AHS is optimizing recruitment and retention efforts. One of the programs in place is preceptors, which is a buddy system for nurses to have a mentor when they graduate. The site manager is vacant, and recruitment is ongoing.</p> <p><u>Questions from Council</u></p> <p>Q. Are there any webinars available for adults regarding long COVID?</p> <p>A. Sandra will inquire.</p> <p>Q: With respiratory illnesses and COVID-19 case increases, how will this be managed in schools?</p> <p>A: This is a provincial responsibility. AHS is providing swabbing centres across the North Zone. Reported numbers are provincial. The absent rates in schools are very high right now.</p>
<p><b>Community Partners</b></p>	<p>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report with information about RhPAP’s upcoming information sessions. Visit <a href="http://www.rhpap.ca">www.rhpap.ca</a> for more information.</p> <p>Upcoming events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>November 17, 2022</b>, Alberta Primary Care Networks provincial overview.</li> <li>• <b>December 15, 2022</b>, a presentation by Jennifer Mador, Director of Rural Primary Care for Nurse Practitioner Association of Alberta (NPAA) will share more about the role that Nurse Practitioners can play in primary health care.</li> </ul> <p>145 attended the RhPAP conference in Drayton Valley in October and the conference had good evaluations from participants.</p>
<p><b>Physician Recruitment Report</b></p>	<p>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barrhead – 1 family medicine, anesthesia; 1 general surgeon and 1 family medicine</li> <li>• Edson – 1 family medicine, anesthesia</li> <li>• Hinton – 1 family medicine</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Westlock – 1 family medicine; 1 family medicine, anesthesia; 1 family medicine, Enhanced and Obstetrical Surgical Skills (ESS), Obstetrician (OB)</li> <li>• Whitecourt – 1 family medicine, anesthesia; 1 family medicine, Enhanced and Obstetrical Surgical Skills (ESS) and Obstetrician (OB)</li> </ul> <p>The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) is working to approve recruitment to Barrhead, Mayerthorpe and Edson.</p> <p>Update from January 2022: There have been 34 family physicians, and eight specialists placed within the North Zone.</p>
<p><b>Voices of the Community</b></p>	<p>There were no public in attendance at the meeting.</p>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentations</b></p>	<p><b>Seniors and Continuing Care – Kerri Mills, Area Manager, Senior Health - Navigating the Golden Years</b></p> <p>Highlights of the Presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Preparing for conversations, caregiving, and preplanning. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When is it time to start planning for the next steps?</li> <li>• What are some caregiver supports?</li> <li>• Myths about preplanning.</li> <li>• Facts about the preplan.</li> <li>• Having conversations with family, looking into support for staying in your home.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Accessing services, housing finances, and transportation and how these lead to living options. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accessing support (private or provincial)</li> <li>• Looking at housing options, home living, supportive living, DSL3 (Designated Supportive Living Level 3), DSL4 (Designated Supportive Living Level 4), LTC (Long Term Care).</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Getting paperwork in order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goals of Care, Income Taxes, Finances, Personal Directives, Power of Attorney, funeral arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>



	<p>4. Shared Links to resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.ahs.ca">www.ahs.ca</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca">www.hc-sc.gc.ca</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.elderwise.ca">www.elderwise.ca</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.ascha.com">www.ascha.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.caregiversalberta.ca">www.caregiversalberta.ca</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.veterans.gc.ca">www.veterans.gc.ca</a> 1 866 522 2122</li> <li>• Seniors Benefits 1 877 644 9992</li> </ul> <p>Q: Where should the green sleeves be stored?  A: On the fridge or somewhere easily accessible.</p> <p>Q: What can be done when someone wants to bring a new senior to the province?  A: Call the Continuing Care access line at 1-855-371-4122, press #2 where one can get an emergency health care number. For effective service, the key is to have the paperwork ready.</p> <p>Q: Does a person have to reside for eight years in Alberta before they qualify to live in lodge setting?  A: No that is a myth. The application is between the individual and the lodge. Calling the Continuing Care number walk one through the process.</p> <p>Q: Do you work with PCN (Primary Care Networks) within your network?  A: Each community is different so it depends on what service you are looking for and what is available, often what happens is your doctor will put in a request for that service, i.e.: foot care or social worker.</p>
<p><b>Action</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandra to inquire about webinars for long Covid.</li> <li>• Council would like to know how many physicians were hired over the past five years and how that compares to baseline numbers. Has the number increased or declined? Shauna Wallbank will report at next meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>Date of Next Event</b></p>	<p>Date: TBD</p>



Tamarack  
Health Advisory Council

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Email us at: [Tamarack@ahs.ca](mailto:Tamarack@ahs.ca)

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