



Tamarack Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 7, 2022 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Westlock Healthcare Centre, Telehealth Room

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Donna Kristiansen (Chair), Janet Wilkinson (Vice Chair), Tara Baker, Lorianne Edwards, Janet Jabush, Maureen Schnirer, Wendy Scinski, Sherry Jeffreys
AHS	Shauna Wallbank, Shelly Willsey, Andrea Jackson, Sheri Pidhirney, Sherry Gough
Regrets	Debra Hagman, Sandra Herritt, Crystal Browne, Stacy Greening, Deborah Whetstone
Public	No public in attendance
Welcome & Introductions	Donna Kristiansen welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
Approval of minutes	Thursday February 10, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus. One change on Council Round Table and Good News – corrected spelling of Mayerthorpe.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melony to send Susan Givens' contact to Charlene Sitar. - Complete • Anita to connect with Janet Jabush re: RESIDE program. - Complete • Sandra to look into getting an AHS ID clinic in Hinton/ Edson area. Ongoing.
North Zone Update	<p>Sherry Gough, Senior Operating Officer, shared the following:</p> <p>A written report was provided with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and performance measures and initiatives. An update on COVID-19, the novel coronavirus, as well as Influenza, was provided. Mainly, all mandatory public health restrictions were lifted in June due to declining cases and hospitalizations, though continuous masking remains in effect at all AHS, APL and Covenant sites across the province. Visit www.ahs.ca/covid for the most up-to-date information.</p>



	<p><u>Questions from Council</u></p> <p>Q. AHS is hosting clinics for COVID-19 testing and vaccination – what is the cost and who can access these services?</p> <p>A. Shelly Willsey will look into this and Sheri will provide a response to Council.</p>
Community Partners	<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. She also provided information about <i>Put on your Perspectacles!</i>, RhPAP’s Attraction and Retention Conference scheduled for October 4-6, 2022 in Drayton Valley. Visit www.rhpap.ca for more information.</p>
Physician Recruitment Report	<p>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrhead – Three postings, two family medicine, one with anesthesia and one general surgeon • Edson – One posting, family medicine with anesthesia • Hinton – One family medicine • Westlock – Three family medicine, one with anesthesia, one with ESSOB and surgery • Whitecourt – Two family medicine, one with anesthesia, one with ESS-OBS
Voices of the Community	<p>There were no public in attendance at the meeting.</p>
Council Round Table and Good News	<p>Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Edson Continuing Care Foundation hosted a barbecue over the summer and over 250 participants (healthcare workers) attended. • Mayerthorpe – finished emergency room upgrades – and are welcoming three new doctors.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentations	<p>Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Network</p> <p>Donna Kristiansen, Network Manager, FASD Network</p>



Highlights of the presentation: The Northwest Central Alberta FASD Assessment and Diagnostic Services provides community-based FASD assessment and diagnostic services and intervention planning for children and adults prenatally affected by alcohol exposure in the Network's region.

Up until now, children and families requiring these services have had to rely on services outside of the region. This has often resulted in longer wait lists and/or travel outside of the region. Coordinated follow-up support services to children and families on completion of the Assessment and Diagnostic Clinic has been limited as well.

In alignment with the strategic direction provided by the Government of Alberta, the network builds capacity in communities to respond to the prevalence of FASD by enhancing existing services and by fostering the development of new services in four areas:

1. Awareness and Prevention – The prevention conversation program empowers professionals, service workers, friends and family to have difficult conversations with women about their alcohol consumption during pregnancy. It is demonstrated in a stigma-reducing and supportive manner with the greatest chance of acquiring prenatal alcohol exposure, in order to have children assessed or prevent future alcohol impacted pregnancies.
 - Community and School Presentations
2. Support Services – It supports adults suspected and diagnosed with FASD through a one-to-one mentorship program. It supports women of childbearing years, who may have or be at risk for substance abuse issues, and their partners and children through the Parent and Child Assistance Program (PCAP). The program supports caregivers of suspected and diagnosed children and youth through caregiver supports, resources and connection to community resources.
 - In-Reach Program – Early Intervention
 - Mentorship
3. Training/Education - The Northwest Central Alberta FASD Network prides itself on its support of continuous professional development. It's important to continue learning new things from partners, stakeholders and professional organizations, and to share knowledge with these valuable groups. Several training opportunities are available at no cost for those interested.



	<p>4. Assessment/Diagnosis - Access to functional assessment for intervention. The goal is for Albertans who may be affected by FASD to have access to timely and affordable assessment and diagnostic services.</p>
Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sherry Gough to confirm when the second OR is scheduled to open in Edson. • Sherry Gough to provide breast cancer prescreen information to Council. • Donna to report back on the RhPAP conference in Drayton Valley. Sheri to add to November agenda. • Sheri to inquire about a Cross-Cultural presentation to Council from AHS' Indigenous Wellness Core. • Sheri to provide an update on COVID 19 clinics – vaccinations and testing. • Sheri to provide Council with the AHS organizational chart. • Sheri to provide the final copy of Council's Work Commitments after they're approved by the AHS Board.
Date of Next Event	<p>Date: Wednesday, November 2, 2022 Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Location: Virtual Zoom Meeting</p>

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
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