



Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Summary

December 12, 2020, 8:30-12:30pm | Zoom

Meeting Summary is DRAFT and subject to approval at the next meeting of the Cancer Provincial Advisory Council

Introducing Your Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Members:

In Attendance: Brad Gillespie (Chair), Wendy Plandowski (Vice Chair), Leanne Anderson, Mark Armstrong, Jill Bernhart, Sheena Clifford, Diane Huband, Marilyn Hundleby, Wanda Redel, Wally Sinclair, Melissa Smith, Lorri Winship

Alberta Health Services: Mauro Chies, Dr. Mark Joffe, Brenda Hubley, Dr. Matthew Parliament, Janine Sakatch, Monica Schwann, Dr. Doug Stewart, Laura Lee Clarke

Regrets: Wendy Beauchesne, Andrea DeYoung, Ernie Grach, Courtney Kerrigan

Community Input

No public members in attendance.

Call to Order

- Brad Gillespie opened the meeting with Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands.
- Welcome to newly appointed public members:
 - Mark Armstrong and Courtney Kerrigan, Edmonton Zone
 - Melissa Smith, Edmonton/Central Zone
 - Jill Bernhart and Diane Huband, South Zone
- December 12, 2020 agenda was approved as circulated.
- September 19, 2020 meeting summary was accepted as circulated

Presentations

Your Role as an Advisor

Janine Sakatch, Executive Director Community & External Relations, Alberta Health Services (AHS)

Highlights included:

- By partnering with Albertans we can reach better decisions together. Council members have said that they want to be included, respected, and listened to. The members voice matters and their contributions are very important.
- Community Engagement conducted a review of Health Advisory Councils in 2019, which resulted in fourteen recommendations for change. These recommendations were transformed into a new model which is referred to as HAC 2.0.
- Council members act in an advisory capacity to Alberta Health Services in informing the decision making process.



- Some of the characteristics of a successful member include:
 - represent the voice of your community and network by seeing beyond personal experiences
 - share public information with your community/networks
 - give advice to inform the decision-making process
 - ask questions and seek clarification

Overview of the Cancer Care Alberta Program

Dr. Matthew Parliament, Senior Medical Director and Brenda Hubley, Chief Program Officer
Cancer Care Alberta, Alberta Health Services

Highlights included:

- Details on cancer services, the programs mandate/priorities, and the various portfolios within the program & how they support patient care.
- The cancer care continuum includes promotion, prevention & screening, early detection, diagnosis & treatment, follow up care, and survivorship/end of life care. Cancer Care Alberta does not have responsibility for all elements of the patient's journey but plays a key role in coordination and collaboration in their continuum of care.
- There are seventeen cancer centres across the province providing a range of cancer services; including 11 community cancer centres that play a critical role in supporting systemic treatment closer to home across the large geography and distributed population.
- There are a few things that support the programs work and guide planning and decision making such as Changing Our Future: Alberta's Cancer Plan to 2030 and Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control 2019-2029.
- The input and recommendations provided by the Cancer PAC are an integral part of Cancer Care Alberta's work and success.

Chair's Report

The Council of Chairs meeting was held on December 11th. Recommendations from HAC 2.0 are currently being applied to the Expression of Interest Form, member orientation and the template for meeting minutes. In addition, Health Advisory Councils have held 13 community events, with over 500 attendees. This is a significant increase in public participation in the HAC meetings.

Council Member Roundtable & Good News

- The Wisdom Council members have been working on finalizing their three year commitment statements.
- Wisdom Council provides guidance and recommendations to ensure AHS develops and implements culturally appropriate health service delivery for Indigenous Peoples.
- A member recently attended Falling Through the Cracks: Greg's Story. This film provides a glimpse of Greg Price and his journey through the healthcare system. It focuses on the events of his healthcare journey that ended in his unexpected and tragic death.
- A few members are planning to attend a focus group session related to the Cancer Diagnosis Public



Awareness Campaign where they will review and provide feedback into the communication materials developed.

- Wellspring Calgary has been doing presentation with various healthcare partners to bring awareness that programs are still being offered just in a virtual format. Programs and services are now also available to individuals Red Deer and southern Alberta.

AHS Update

- The primary business of the health care system over the many months has been the pandemic. Overall, AHS has done this quite effectively.
- AHS Review provides a series of opportunities to further the sustainability of our healthcare system. AHS continues to work on elements of this review.
- Alberta Surgical Initiative continues to be a priority. This wait time initiative ensures that patients get their surgeries within the clinically recommended time frame.
- Wave 2 of Connect Care went live in the suburban Edmonton Zone in November 2020. . Due to the demands of the pandemic on our health system and province, discussions are taking place regarding the implementation of the next wave.
- Health Canada approved the first COVID-19 vaccine on December 9th. AHS and the Government of Alberta are planning for the arrival of a small quantity of vaccine next week. The planning related to availability of vaccine and sequencing is extremely complex.

AHS Cancer Screening Update

- Cancer screening was one of the services paused in the spring with the first wave of COVID. Mammography, Pap screening, and FIT testing resumed at the end of May/beginning of June.
- Currently there are many touch points that individuals need to go through to complete a FIT test. A new project starting in January will minimize this and help facilitate easier access to the test through a mail out program. People can still go through their physician to order the FIT test.
- Mobile breast cancer screening program has been in operations for 30 years. Looking at developing a new service model that could also include cervical and colorectal cancer screening. This is targeting rural and remote communities and how services can be delivered closer to home.
- Over the last 2 years, the cancer screening program along with the Alberta First Nations Information Governance Centre has undertaken a data linkage project. Meetings have taken place with various partners to share the preliminary findings and discuss potential recommendation and plans to improve screening and outcomes for First Nations people.
- Discussions continue with AHS Executive Leadership on a business case for the expansion of lung cancer screening in Alberta.

Council Business

- Discussion took place regarding the results of a brief survey on the frequency, format (in person, Zoom), and timing of Cancer PAC 2021 meetings. Members agreed that meetings should continue to be held Saturday mornings every three months. Meeting dates proposed for 2021/22 were March 6,



June 5, October 2 and January 8. Members felt that it was important to meet in person at least once per year in either Calgary or Edmonton.

- The Cancer PAC terms of reference and bylaws are currently being updated. Once they have been reviewed by AHS Legal, they will be distributed to the council for review/feedback prior to going forward to the AHS Board for approval.
- A process for the development of work plans has been established for the Advisory Councils through HAC 2.0 and work done by the Wisdom Council in the development of their work plan. The intent is to have the work plan a living document that outlines what the Council can achieve within a one-three year period.
- Dr. Doug Stewart presented on Cancer Diagnosis – A Timely Diagnosis Matters. Highlights include:
 - With the onset of COVID-19, the number of Albertans diagnosed with decreased by 20 per cent across all geographies and age groups.
 - A public awareness campaign has been approved that will emphasize to Albertans that:
 - cancer remains a serious health issue and the number one cause of mortality;
 - educates Albertans on signs and symptoms suggestive of cancer that should prompt medical attention by their family physician; and
 - reassures Albertans that healthcare facilities and Primary Care Clinics are safe places if care is needed.
 - More information is available at www.ahs.ca/bodytalk

Actions/Next Steps:

- 2021/22 Cancer PAC meeting dates to be sent to members for review.
- A two hour session will be planned for the next meeting to discuss potential objectives and actions for the work plan/commitment statements.
- Members are encouraged to complete the Annual Advisory Council Survey prior to the December 22nd deadline.
- Members interested in receiving a printed copy of the Alberta's Cancer Plan to 2030 and/or the 2019-2029 Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control should connect with Laura Lee Clarke.

The next meeting of the Cancer PAC is scheduled for Saturday, March 6, 2021, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Learn about the organizational goals of AHS in the [2017-2020 AHS Health Plan and Business Plan](#).

Find your Health Advisory Council [here](#)

Visit the webpage for more info.

Email: pac.cancer@ahs.ca or Telephone: 1-877-275-8830