



Cancer Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2022 | 8:30–11:30am | Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Wendy Plandowski (Chair), Andrea DeYoung (Vice-Chair), Leanne Anderson, Mark Armstrong, Wendy Beauchesne, Jill Bernhart, Sheena Clifford, Marilyn Hundleby, Wanda Redel
AHS	Mauro Chies, Brenda Hubley, Mark Joffe, Nicole Merrifield, Monica Schwann, Douglas Stewart, Huiming Yang, Laura Lee Clarke
Regrets	Diane Huband, Courtney Kerrigan, Barbara O’Neill, Dean Ruether, Wally Sinclair, Lorri Winship
Public	0
Welcome & Introductions	Wendy opened the meeting with Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands. Wendy welcomed all in attendance.
Approval of previous minutes	January 8, 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<p>Action items from the January 8, 2022 meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to submit any AHS sessions, committees, projects in which they have participated in. This information will be incorporated into the 21-22 Annual Report – COMPLETE • If members requires additional information on cancer screening programs, Screening Programs would be willing to assist – COMPLETE • Wendy Plandowski was to be put forward for Board appointment as the new Cancer PAC Chair – APPROVED • Arrangement of a February Virtual Café session for the Cancer PAC – COMPLETE (February 15th) • Commitments document to be reviewed at the next meeting to ensure it continues to be relevant and reflects the work of the Council – AGENDA ITEM FOR THIS MEETING



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cancer Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) to follow up with Sheena C. and Marilyn H. from Wellspring as they are interested in being brokers for community engagement – UPDATE NEEDED • PAC Chair and Vice-Chair to confirm if Alberta Cancer Diagnosis (ACD) will be a standing item on Cancer PAC agenda - – UPDATE NEEDED • Cancer SCN to reach out to Janine S. to discuss connecting other Advisory Councils – COMPLETE • Members to identify how they might engage locally and support ACD engagement efforts – UPDATE NEEDED
<p>Alberta Health Services Updates</p>	<p>Mark Joffe, Vice President & Medical Director, Cancer Care Alberta, Clinical Support Services & Provincial Clinical Excellence and Mauro Chies, Vice President, Cancer Care Alberta & Clinical Support Services, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Surgical Initiative continues by managing capacity, including maximizing surgical volumes in chartered surgical facilities. • A \$100 million investment in the provincial budget will be able to add 50 permanent, fully staffed ICU beds in 2022. These new ICU beds will be distributed in all AHS zones which will result in a nearly 30 percent increase of available ICU beds. • More patients are now able to receive cancer treatment, close to home with the December 6th opening of the Grande Prairie Cancer Centre. The cancer centre includes two radiation vaults, making Grande Prairie the fifth city in the province to offer radiation therapy. • The construction of the Calgary Cancer Centre continues to be on time and on budget and is set to open in 2023. Commissioning for mechanical and electrical systems are now 80-90% complete and training on building systems and other equipment has begun. • To help realize the vision of the new Calgary Cancer Centre, the Calgary Cancer Project continues to partner with patients, families, staff, physicians and the community throughout planning, design and construction phases. <p>Monica Schwann, Director, Screening Programs and Huiming Yang, Provincial Medical Officer of Health, Healthy Living & Medical Director, Screening Programs, shared the following key highlights from the written update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With support from the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and Alberta Health Services, Screening Programs has started with the formal planning of a Provincial Lung Cancer Screening Program in Alberta. As part of a phased



approach, three diagnostic centres and three primary care networks will work together to screen up to 1,500 patients per year for two years. Consultation with the North Zone regarding a third site is underway.

- Creating Health Equity in Cancer Screening (CHECS), has engaged community members and health care workers in NE Calgary to design approaches to increase cancer screening awareness. A series of 7 animated cancer screening videos have been developed and will be available in six different languages. Support materials for health care providers are also under development. To leverage these new educational resources, enhanced social media activities are planned.
- Starting in January 2022, eligible Albertans were able to order their Fecal Immunochemical test (FIT) directly from Screening Programs: online through the Screening for Life website (www.screeningforlife.ca) or calling the toll-free phone line (1-866-727-3926). Since the launch of this initiative, 144 kits have been ordered.
- The Integrated Access to Cancer Screening (IACS) project, funded by Alberta Innovates, tested a new service delivery model to address the disparity in cancer screening participation in rural and remote communities in Northern Alberta. By aligning with the Screen Test breast screening mobile, Nurse-Practitioners provided cervical cancer and colorectal cancer screening. Since its launch in December 2020, over 700 clients in 35 communities have participated in the integrated service. Preliminary data shows that 82% of cervical cancer screening clients were unscreened or overdue for screening and 90% of colorectal cancer screening clients were unscreened or overdue for screening. The project is now in the evaluation phase.
- In 2020, all *cancer screening programs* (breast, cervical, colorectal) volumes were significantly impacted as a result of COVID-19. However, in 2021 colorectal volumes were higher than any other year, cervical screening volumes returned to normal levels, and breast screening was down to approximately 90% of normal volumes.

Dr. Doug Stewart, Senior Medical Director, Cancer Strategic Clinical Network shared the following updates on the Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative (ACD):

- An Evaluation Sub-Working Group has been established which will develop and implement a comprehensive evaluation plan for the initiative.
- Interviews and focus groups with sub-populations are being completed.
 - For adolescent and young adults, older adults and their family members, newcomers, immigrants and members of different ethnic minorities in Alberta, sessions have already occurred or are in progress



- Engagement planning is underway for rural and remote populations, 2SLGBTQIA+, disabled people in Alberta, and Indigenous people and communities
- Engagement with Primary Care leaders continues to inform co-design of solutions for ACD.
- Program elements for the ACD Program are under development with input from various stakeholders.

Brenda Hubley, Chief Program Officer, Cancer Care Alberta provided the following updates:

- The program is using videos/virtual clips as part of education and ways to make access to information for patients more user friendly. The Living Well with Cancer Transitions Program which has created four digital stories highlighting the importance of a seamless transition. In addition, four digital stories have been created about virtual care and will be used as part of the practice change strategy.
- The Drayton Valley Community Cancer Centre has been closed for the last several months due to staff and physician shortages. The Cancer Centre Transition Team is working with both oncologists and patients to determine the safest and most appropriate treatment and location plans for each patient. Active recruitment is underway and reassessment of the closure is occurring regularly with plans to re-open in May. Community Conversations with patients, families, staff, and community members will be taking place in the next couple weeks.
- Ensuring that all members of the community feel included and well-served is a priority for the Calgary Cancer Centre (CCC). Meetings are underway among CCC leadership and First Nations communities, Aboriginal Friendship Centres, and Region 3 of the Métis Nation of Alberta, with more planned in the months ahead. The ultimate goal is to provide a warm, welcoming and safe environment for Indigenous people experiencing cancer, and CCC leadership is building relationships and listening carefully to input on what will make a difference.
- An above-ground public walkway from the Foothills Medical Centre to the CCC will display wall-mounted installations in four distinct zones, to highlight the impact of past, present and future cancer research.
- Either in late 2022 or early 2023, Cancer Care Alberta will look to plan a tour and host a future Cancer PAC meeting at the new Calgary Cancer Centre.

Nicole Merrifield, Director, Community Engagement shared the following updates:

- Planning has started for an in-person Spring Forum in Edmonton on May 27-28th. Members are encouraged to attend.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to have challenges with recruitment of Advisory Council members in the North Zone particularly for True North and Lesser Slave Lake. Work continues with the Councils, local leadership, and community groups to identify new members. If Cancer PAC members know of anyone in these areas, we would encourage you to speak with them to see if they would be interested in applying.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellspring Calgary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There has been an increased interest in education programs (eg. brain fog and return to work). ○ Compared to 2020, the centre has seen a 137% increase in clients who are more than 100km outside of Calgary. Online programs will remain in place to continue to serve this population. ○ As part of the 2021-26 strategic plan, Wellspring Calgary committed to diversity and inclusion efforts as imperative. This means ensuring that all individuals living with cancer who need support – including those diagnosed, caregivers and family members – experience Wellspring as welcoming and inclusive. A Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Round Table has been established to advise the leadership team with respect to diversity and inclusion. Wellspring is looking for members to join this committee who have had a cancer experience, have knowledge, living, or lived experience with marginalization, racism, significant barriers to accessing community-based supportive care or the health care system (eg. might be: members of the 2SLGBTQ+ community, racialized groups, Indigenous people, newcomers to Canada, and those living in regional and remote communities across southern Alberta). ○ Firefighters Stairclimb Challenge will be taking place both virtually and in person at Canada Olympic Park in June. • Wellspring Edmonton: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Have seen a 48% increase in members over the last year with many from northern Alberta ○ Plans are being worked on to bring back the in-person Alberta Cancer Exercise Program in April. This program has had wonderful results in terms of improvement of physical and emotional health. ○ A mental health grant has been awarded that has allowed Wellspring Edmonton to pilot a few initiatives. One of the initiatives is the Connecting Circle. This is an evidence-informed program that provides an opportunity for members to learn from one another.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A need has been realized for Peer Support Volunteers. Members meet with a peer support volunteer to share their story, circumstances, and express any concerns they may have. Peer support volunteers also provide program navigation to help members select programming that is appropriate. ○ WellTalk Series in April will feature a speaker from the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta who will discuss cancer and oral health. ● Alberta Cancer Foundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ World Cancer Day featured a patient that was the second Albertan to receive the “Made in Alberta” CAR-T Cell Therapy. Great example of the power of community and people who want to see changes and improvements to cancer treatments. Research Saves Lives – Donato Bernardo’s Story ○ Actively fundraising for a Mobile Breast Screening Unit. ● Members have been receiving feedback from their communities on the great care and experiences they have had with the cancer system. ● Leanne has indicated that she will be resigning from the Cancer PAC. She has enjoyed being a part of the Cancer PAC and contributing to the improvement of cancer services. Members wished her all the best and thanked her for her commitment.
Cancer PAC Commitments/Priorities 2021-2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members agreed that the Commitments/Priorities document continues to be relevant and reflects the work of the Council. For the next meeting, members will discuss how some of the initiatives can be brought to life and actioned.
Action Item(s) from Standing Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distribute to members the seven animated videos being used to increase awareness of why breast, cervical, and colorectal cancer screening is important. ● Further discussion on the Commitments/Priorities document and how the initiatives can be actioned. ● Cancer Care Alberta leadership to tour and host a future meeting at the new Calgary Cancer Centre.



NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Cancer Clinical Practice Guidelines <i>Dr. Elizabeth Kuriem, Medical Lead, Provincial Tumour Team Council and Xanthoula Kostaras, Manager, Guideline Resource Unit, Cancer Care Alberta</i></p> <p>The objectives of this presentation were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss why clinical practice guidelines are needed, how they inform clinical decision making and improve patient outcomes; • Describe the processes for developing, implementing, and evaluating cancer clinical practice guidelines; and • Describe the roles of the Provincial Tumour Teams and the Guideline Resource Unit (GURU) in Cancer Care Alberta.
2023 Meeting Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting dates for 2023 were discussed and accepted with the caveat that logistics may change. • Will be looking at a hybrid strategy where members will have the option to attend some in-person meetings virtually.
Action Item(s) from New Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 meeting dates will be distributed and a calendar invite will be sent.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 Time: 1:30 – 5:30pm Location: In person (tentative)</p>

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