



Sexual Orientation Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting Summary March 14, 2020 Online via Zoom.

Introducing your SOGIE PAC members:

In attendance: Jennifer Kneller (Chair), Rebecca Alley (Vice Chair), B Adair, Jason Beck, Stephanie Booth, Renate Braul, Carla Grant, Jane Oxenbury, Jolene Wright, S. Stewart

Alberta Health Services: Dr. Ted Braun, Heather Cobb, Murray Crawford, Shahnaz Davachi, Lana Dunn, Sarah Hope, Andrea Jackson, Diane McNeil, Terri Miller, Marni Panas, Bryan Peffers, Janine Sakatch, Tammy Troute-Wood

Regrets: J. Anderson, Kenyo Arujo, Rachel Braeuer, Dr. Kristopher Wells

AHS Presentations

Family Presence Policy

Jennifer Symon, Engagement and Patient Experience

Highlights include:

- AHS is implementing a new policy related to family presence. Family presence is a philosophy and practice that welcomes families to partner in care. Patients define who their family includes, and how they can participate during their stay, in collaboration with the patient care team.
- Patient and family advisors, healthcare providers and community members were consulted as a part of the policy development process to ensure it reflects the needs of all stakeholders involved in the
- The policy will span across the continuum of care, in all care settings, and provide consistency across the province.
- There are five foundations to the policy:
 - **Family Presence** is practiced as **the norm** and **not the exception**;
 - 'Family' is **defined** and identified **by the patient**;
 - Family are considered **vital partners** in care planning;
 - Family members have **access to the patient**; and
 - **Communication** about Family Presence is **clear and consistent**.
- There are five major differences between the new policy and previous policies and guidelines:
 - Commitment to family as partners;
 - Guidance on involving family including during acute deterioration and resuscitation;
 - Removal of designated visiting hours for family;
 - The addition the *Managing Limits to Family Presence and Visitation Procedure*; and
 - Co-designed with Patients and Families advisors, consultation with over 42 different groups.

Questions and comments from Council:

- Council members shared feedback to ensure that the policy is inclusive of all Albertans and their families. This includes ensuring that language is inclusive and providers do not make assumptions about families and ask for more information.



- Council members recommended that based on their experiences information about advanced care directives, and healthcare decisions should be provided to ensure patients and their families have an understanding of who makes what decisions, and when.

Actions/next steps:

- Jennifer will come back to the group and engage them on ideas for rolling out the policy, promotion materials, and informing staff on the importance of the policy.
- Council will provide advice and recommendations as a part of the development of scripts, and guidelines to support providers discussing family and family presence with patients.

Working Group Updates

As a part of Council's strategy to address the priorities in their work plan, members have formed three working groups/sub-committees to create space for focused efforts on specific priorities. Each working group provided an update of the work done to date and upcoming priorities to discuss and validate with the whole Council.

AHS Priorities and Planning Working Group

- The SOGIE PAC has brought forward concerns from the community related to the practice of conversion therapy and the actions various organizations and groups are taking to protect the safety of the SOGIE community. AHS will be working with the Council to develop a set of guiding principles for how AHS will support safer and more inclusive care for LGBTQ2S+ Albertans.
- This working group has prioritized engaging with Primary Care providers to provide advice and recommendations to improve the healthcare experience for LGBTQ2S+ patients and families.

Training and Education Working Group

- The Training and Education Working Group will be engaging with AHS to update the www.ahs.ca/lgbtq2s webpage to ensure it is responsive to community needs and includes relevant metadata to make the information easier to find.
- This working group will be providing advice to AHS to help inform a SOGIE style guide to help improve AHS materials, resources and policies and make them more inclusive.

Engagement and Community Partnerships Working Group

- This working group is generating a stakeholder list to help identify groups, organizations and individuals across Alberta to connect with and begin building relationships.
- This working group is also looking at the Councils meeting schedule, community events, and other opportunities to engage with the community and bring forward broad perspectives to Council work.

Action items:

- AHS to bring forward examples of guiding principles for review and discussion by Council.
- Council to discuss at working group meetings and future meetings opportunities to engage with members of the community.



Council Member Roundtable

Council members and AHS representatives shared updates and information on work underway related to improving the healthcare experience of LGBTQ2S+ Albertans. Some of the highlights from the discussion are included below.

- The Alberta College of Social Workers is continuing work on their response to conversion therapy/reparative therapy; this includes a ban on conversion therapy and practice guidelines to support social workers providing care to people who have experienced these therapies.
- Trans reproductive health survey will be going online on May 1, 2020.
- Inclusive Health Conference at the University of Alberta has been cancelled due to COVID- 19 and the organizers will be looking to reschedule the conference.
- The Edmonton Pride Centre is working with AHS and the community to understand how best to keep the centre open and supporting the community during COVID- 19.
- The COVID- 19 response is a priority across AHS. AHS will be working with Advisory Councils to provide ongoing opportunities for information and engagement.
- Advisory Councils across the province and program areas are looking for opportunities to collaborate with each other. Over the coming months more work will be done to identify opportunities for partnership and shared priorities.

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

Join us in changing the conversation from [illness to wellness](#).

Contact us at: SOGIE.PAC@ahs.ca

Call: 1-877-275-8830.