



Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE) Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2022; Seventh St. Plaza (Edmonton) and Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Jennifer Kneller (Chair), Rebecca Alley (Vice Chair), Kenyo Arujo, Jason Beck, Stephanie Booth, Renate Brault, Jane Oxenbury, S. Stewart
AHS	Dr. Sid Viner, Shahnaz Davachi, Rachel Dziver, Ray Harrison, Jordanna Lambert, Marni Panas, Bryan Peffers, Nicole Merrifield, Laura Lee Clarke
Regrets	B Adair, J. Anderson, Sarah Culkin, Michelle Soto, Jolene Wright, Heather Cobb, Lori Roe, Tammy Troute-Wood
Public	0
Welcome & Introductions	Jenn welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. Rebecca Alley provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	Notes from the February 5, 2022 brain storming in camera session were reviewed.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were asked to consider participating and leading a working group related to the trans and non-binary health priority/initiative as outlined in the 2021-23 SOGIE PAC commitments.
Alberta Health Services Update	<p>Dr. Sid Viner, Vice President & Medical Director-Clinical Operations, AHS</p> <p>AHS is finalizing the Health Plan 2022-25, which will guide the organization to ensure healthcare needs and goals of all Albertans are met. Each priority outlines planned actions for the next three years, as well as outcomes and performance measures. These ten priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alberta Surgical Initiative Continuing Care Digital Health Evolution & Innovation EMS 10-Point Plan Mental Health & Addiction Recovery Public Health & Pandemic Response and Recovery



- Quality & Patient Outcomes
- Rural Initiatives & Engagement
- Sustainability
- Workforce Recruitment & Retention

Further details on these priorities can be found at [Action on Priorities – Focusing on What Matters Most](#).

New Supports for LGBTQ2S+ Navigation

- Three positions were approved on a temporary two year term with the plan to complete an evaluation close to the end of term to gather evidence for permanent funding. Next steps include consultation and development of job descriptions and finalizing accountability before moving into recruitment.
- The addition of these positions will make a significant difference for Albertans who currently don't know how or where to begin when they need healthcare services related to sexual and gender diversity.

NEW BUSINESS

Monkeypox in Alberta: Advice for Public Health

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta Health, and Dr. Laura McDougall, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Alberta Health Services, joined the June 10th in camera meeting to discuss monkeypox, and the communication of information about this contagion with the LGBTQ2S+ community. From this discussion, an engagement session was held in which members agreed that it was important but a challenge to balance the need of sharing public health information without creating stigma as there are many different groups and perspectives. SOGIE PAC therefore suggests advising public health to rely on existing, trusted sources to help spread public health messages. Information is best received from those within community who can be seen and trusted, and those within the community are best positioned to reach community members most at risk. The following advice was agreed upon and would be conveyed:

- Involve a representative of the community as a visible part of communication;
- Provide clear, consistent information to community leaders and organizations so they can spread that information within their own communities using existing channels;
- Content needs to be clear and direct, and stay within the public health lane;
- Accept the risk of community groups messaging the public health information differently, in a way that will reach community members;
- Open dialogue with community leaders and decision makers;



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that those answering calls or receiving patient concerns are informed and know how to support; and • Support SOGIE PAC and its 'brand' as an intermediate group that can help reach and represent communities that AH and AHS may not be able access directly due to historic or cultural concerns.
Resignation of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resignations have been received and accepted for Shawn S., Carla G. and Stephanie B. effective immediately. Members thanked Shawn, Carla, and Stephanie for their commitment and dedication to the SOGIE PAC.
Appointment of Members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer K. welcomed recently appointed members Michelle S. and Sarah C.
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement will share with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health and Dr. Laura McDougall, Senior Medical Officer of Health, AHS advice related to the communication of monkeypox information to Albertans.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Saturday, September 17, 2022 Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Southport Tower (10301 Southport Lane SW) - Calgary</p>

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