

## PRIMARY HEALTH CARE INTEGRATION NETWORK

The Primary Health Care Integration Network (PHCIN) is focused on improving transitions of care between primary healthcare providers and acute care, emergency departments, specialized services and other community services. This will ensure Albertans get the care and social supports they need in the communities where they live.

# Primary Health Care Integration Network



- Rob Skrypnek, Senior Program Officer, PHC (AHS)
- Tracy Wasylak, Senior Program Officer, SCNs (AHS)
- Dr. Brad Bahler, Medical Director, PCN Evolution; Senior Medical Lead, PHCIN
- Jacque Lovely, Acting Executive Director, Integration & Innovation (AHS)
- Dr. Francois Belanger, Vice President Quality & Chief Medical Officer (AHS)
- Dr. Richard Lewanczuk, Senior Medical Director, PHC (AHS)
- Shelly Vik, Assistant Scientific Director, PHCIN (AHS)
- Colin Penman, Patient and Family Advisor
- Melissa Hartwell, Patient and Family Advisor
- Dr. Phillip van der Merwe, Co-chair, PCN Physician Leads Executive

With a theme on integration, the Primary Care Network (PCN) Strategic Leadership Forum in Calgary on September 8 provided the perfect opportunity to launch the Primary Health Care Integration Network (PHCIN).

Jacque Lovely, Director of Innovation & Integration at Alberta Health Services (AHS), said the forum enabled some of the key partners in the PHCIN to come together and discuss some of the work underway as well as some of the promising future integration practices in the province. “We were inspired by the excitement and enthusiasm among our colleagues in primary healthcare to work together and improve transitions of care for all Albertans,” said Lovely, noting that the key areas of focus that have been identified include community-based care, access to specialty care and transitions of care from hospital back to the community.

Dr. Ernst Greyvenstein of South Calgary PCN was one of the forum attendees, stating that integration is not the responsibility

of one person or one entity. “It’s a system wide change that needs to focus around patients’ needs and caring for the patients,” he said. “We are not there yet but we are definitely making big strides towards an integrated health system.”

Leanne McGeachy, Executive Director of Edmonton North PCN, commented that there are terrific people in the healthcare system, but the challenge is that they often work in silos.

This is something Patient Advisor Melissa Hartwell hopes will be addressed through the PHCIN. “My hope for the integration network is that it builds a bridge between the medical facilities directly to my doctor,” said Hartwell.

AHS, Alberta Health, PCN and patient representatives were among guests who joined for an evening reception to celebrate the occasion at the conclusion of the integration-themed day.

If you are interested in learning more,  
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