



David Thompson Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 7, 2021 /5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Gerry Greschner (Chair), Peggy Makofka (Vice-Chair), Michelle Narang, Carole Tkach
AHS	Maribela Arruda-Block, Maya Atallah, Lisa Barrett, Tara Duhaney, Barbara Frere, Heather Kipling, Barb Mehlhorn, Leanne Rudrum, Lori Sparrow, Janice Stewart, Kimberly Storey, Andrea Thain Liptak
Regrets	Deryl Comeau, Marie Cornelson, Melanie Hassett, Dawn Konelsky, Phyllis Loewen, Janey Olson, Selena Redel, Shelagh Slater
Public	2
Welcome & Introductions	Gerry welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. Carole provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	October 13, 2020 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from the previous meeting	Maya Atallah will ask the Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) if it is involved in any work pertaining to PharmaCare. Complete.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reorganization with executive leadership in Central Zone is complete and leads are all in their new roles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea Thain Liptak, Senior Operating Officer - Rural Acute, Allied Health, Primary Care, and Indigenous Health Lori Sparrow, Senior Operating Officer, Community and Seniors Health Kimberly Storey, Senior Operating Officer, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre Sherie Allen, Senior Operating Officer, Addiction Mental Health & Public Health Alberta is currently in the middle of fourth wave of the pandemic. There is an increase of cases compared to previous waves. Data for the zone was shared; for the most up-to-date data visit COVID-19 Alberta statistics. <p>Kimberly Storey, Senior Operating Officer, Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An update on the Delta variant and acuity in the Intensive Critical Care Unit (ICU) at Red Deer Regional Hospital (RDRH).



- Collaborative work within the hospital and Zone is focused on supporting the ICU.
- Shared that Sandra Sebastian is now the Director of Women's and Children's Health Services, and Kelly Longard will be the Director, Cardiac Sciences, Critical Care and Respiratory units.
- Status of the RDRH is now completed.

Andrea Thain Liptak, Senior Operating Officer, Rural Acute Care, Primary Care, Allied, and Indigenous Health:

Andrea shared the geographical map of Central Zone and introduced the newly assigned Area Directors to each area. She shared general ICU bed capacity across the Zone, and information on the collaborative work underway among Central Zone leadership staff. Bed huddles and load-leveling ensure all sites are supported across the province. Leadership is looking at staff modeling to consider projected cases as well as staffing levels resulting from the AHS immunization policy.

Each Area Director spoke on the impact of COVID-19 in their specific areas, including surgical delays and temporary closures of departments and services. Communities and stakeholders are notified once a news release is publicly shared. For more information on the latest advisories visit [AHS.ca](https://www.alberta.ca).

The Alberta Government's Rural Health Facilities Revitalization Program (RHFRP) is providing funding for Olds Hospital, and the Care Centre is almost complete with parking lot resurfacing. The cooling unit will also be replaced in addition to roof repairs and a new nurse calling system. Emergency Department (ED) triage desk renovations at the Drayton Valley Hospital and Care Centre will also be part of the RHFRP.

Lori Sparrow, Senior Operating Officer Community, and Seniors Health, Central Zone:

Lori introduced the new area directors in seniors health. Lori explained the criteria of a COVID-19 outbreak as two or more confirmed cases (patient or staff) within 14 days. She adds, all residents in designated and long-term living sites and lodges have received their third dose of vaccine. Independent living facilities are scheduled to have residents receive their third dose in early November. To create capacity in Central Zone, some patients in acute care beds were moved to sites away from their home town. Work is underway to move them back, or close to home as cases decline. Lastly, each congregate-care facility has unique guidelines for visitors. For information on the visitor guidelines visit the Government of Alberta [website](https://www.alberta.ca).

Sherie Allen, Senior Operating Officer, Addiction Mental Health and Public Health:



	<p>There has been an influx of mental health needs in Central Zone in the last year, with a specific increase in people 16-75 with suicidal ideation, in addition to those with addictions. Recruitment and partnership with local physicians is ongoing to meet the need for more support. Central Zone is introducing a program called Acute at Home that will provide clinical and therapeutic care to young people in their own homes. It supports families who need help but don't need to be hospitalized, or who cannot attend appointments. Central Zone will also have an access program for addiction and mental health, similar to that of Edmonton's Access 24 / 7, Adult Intake Services.</p>
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Alicia Fox, Rural Community Consultant with RhPAP, shared an update on the rural information series hosted by RhPAP and community organizations. As well, 2021 Rhapsody Award winners were announced during Alberta Rural Health Week. Celebrations are postponed until after the pandemic. RhPAP's 30th Anniversary Celebration will include 30 for 30 videos, recapping interviews they've done and RhPAP's history.</p>
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>Community Members from Sundre are grateful there is now a vaccine clinic close to home, especially local seniors.</p>
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>David Thompson Health Advisory Council members shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is divide within communities amongst those who are vaccinated and those who are not. Daily life is impacted as there are uneasy feelings on what is the right thing to do. • There is frustration about bed closures and temporary closures of departments due to staff shortages. • There is concern about losing more staff as a result of the AHS' immunization policy. • Kudos to Dr. James Silvius for his personal touch in extending support to community senior health leaders. • Frustration re the perceived lack of communication with local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) on patient transports in the Coronation, Consort, and Castor areas; patients left without service. • Personal experiences during the pandemic and the impact it's had on personal lives and in members communities. • Council Chair, Gerry Greschner shared her experience attending the grand opening of the renovations to the Emergency Room at the Stettler Hospital and Care Centre. She also shared highlights from the Council of Chairs meeting, and monthly Zone Executive Leadership meetings. Gerry attended a HAC 2.0 listening session hosted by Community Engagement, to discuss progress since implementation in 2020. Gerry also gave an update on current membership status and disclosed that Al Campbell and Gerry Johnson are no longer with the Council.



NEW BUSINESS	
Action Item	Maya will send an invitation out to Council to join the Yellowhead East HAC meeting on Oct 21, 2021.
Date of Next Meeting	Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022 – Engagement Event Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Location: Online via Zoom Contact community.engagement@ahs.ca for details

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
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