

David Thompson

Health Advisory Council

2023-24 Annual Report



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Health Advisory Council

Message from Athana Mentzelopoulos & Dr. Lyle Oberg

As we reflect on the journey of the Health Advisory Councils over the past 15 years, it is with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation that we bid farewell. The dedication, passion, and invaluable contributions of each member has left an indelible mark on Alberta's healthcare landscape, touching countless lives across our communities.

Since its beginnings, the Health Advisory Councils have served as a beacon of community engagement and collaboration, bridging the gap between healthcare providers and the diverse needs of Alberta. Your commitment to fostering dialogue, advocating for patient-centred care, and championing initiatives to enhance the quality of care in your respective communities has been truly commendable.

We are deeply indebted to the hundreds of volunteers who have served on the HACs and who have generously devoted their time and expertise, along with their unwavering support to improving healthcare in our province. Your efforts have helped to shape policies, drive innovations and ensure the voices of Albertans were heard by decision-makers.

While this marks the end of an era, we hope many of you are looking at new opportunities with Regional Advisory Councils, and have reached out to express your interest. The Health Advisory Councils may cease to exist in their current form but the bonds forged and the lessons learned will endure; the Regional Advisory Councils can benefit from their history and the commitment of those who have served.

On behalf of Alberta Health Services, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each and everyone of the members who served on Councils over the past 15 years. Your contributions will continue to inspire us.

Athana Mentzelopoulos
President and CEO, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Lyle Oberg
Executive Board Chair, Alberta Health Services

QUOTE FROM ZONE LEADERSHIP

Working with and getting to know the diverse members of the Health Advisory Council in the Central Zone has truly been a pleasure. Their dedication to offering insights and input on healthcare in Central Alberta has proven to be immensely valuable. I appreciate the countless hours Council members have volunteered to collaborate with zone leadership teams.

Janice Stewart
Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone

WHO WE ARE



Top Row L-R: Pam Hansen (Chair), Peggy Makofka (Vice Chair), Allyssa Deheer, Christine Heggart
Row 2 L-R: Darrin Thompson, Gerry Greschner, Janey Olson
Row 3 L-R: Judy Lorenz, Ken Hansen, Martha Winchell
Bottom Row L-R: Rob Yatkowsky, Rosemary Brown, Wendi Lautenbach

“I am looking forward to being a part of the healthcare system moving forward and am happy to contribute my time to add another voice to the mix. Our leads do a great job of keeping us in the loop as to issues and things we need to be aware of. (anonymous, from annual Advisory Council Satisfaction Survey).”

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since their inception in 2009, Advisory Council members have shared advice and feedback from their communities with Alberta Health Services (AHS). They've held public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contributed to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

During the last year, David Thompson Health Advisory Council (DTHAC) partnered with Provincial Population and Public Health to learn about routine vaccines for infants, school-aged children and adults. Council shared learnings with their networks to spread the word about the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Recognizing the significance of senior's health and continuing care services, particularly among an aging population, the DTHAC, alongside the Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council (YEHAC), hosted an event featuring AHS and community experts. The session addressed topics such as:

- Seniors and continuing care programs;
- The long-term care placement process;
- Fall prevention;
- The Seniors and Continuing Care Provincial Health Advisory Council (SCC PAC);
- Dementia Friendly Communities; and,
- Healthy aging initiatives.

In 2024, Council focused on increasing awareness of mental wellness resources and initiatives. The first meeting of the year addressed access to mental health promotion workshops and easy-to-implement stress management techniques.

DTHAC wrapped its meetings with an event on mental health literacy. This event underscored the importance of equipping youth and families with the resources to make informed decisions about the services they access. It delved into evidence-based practices aimed at enhancing mental health outcomes and explored avenues for accessing these resources within their respective communities.

Hot topics of discussion included:

- Workforce recruitment (shortages).
- Temporary service disruptions with specialized services i.e., labour and delivery.
- Emergency department closures.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 147 public attended meetings and events through the year.
- 4 meetings and events hosted between July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024.

THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Al Campbell
Allyssa Deheer
Art B. Plunz
Barb Shepherd
Barbara Hay
Bill Elliot
Bill Jackson
Bob Reid
Brenda Dale
Brenda Wismer
Bruce Buruma
Carole Tkach
Christine Cripps-Woods
Christine Heggart
Clifford Watt
Corinne Mandseth
Crystal Pell
Dallas Jones
Darren Kuz
Darrin Thompson
Dawn Konelsky
Dawn Morrow
Dawna Elliot
Debra Murphy
Denise Pamela Stefura
Deryl Comeau
Desiree Bauer
Don Scott
Doug Janssen
Dwane Smethurst
Elizabeth Louise
Eunice Louis
Faith Pilgrim
Geoff Tagg
Gerald Hildebrand
Gerald Ingeveld

Geraldine Greschner
Grace Higgins
Halima Ali
Heather Donald
Holly Alcock
Janey Olson
Janice Lockhart
Jeannette Vatter
Jim Bague
Johana Stark
Judy Lorenz
Ken Hansen
Kim Kornlyo-Walton
Lance Houston
Landa O'Neill
Linda Edgar
Linda Quaschnick
Loren Rodvang
Lou Soppit
Louise Russell
Margaret Gillis
Margaret Miller
Marianne Hunt
Marie Cornelson
Martha Wincell
Mary McKay
Melanie Hassett
Michael O'Hanlon
Michelle Narang
Pamela Hansen
Patricia Toone
Peggy Makofka
Phyllis Loewen
Quinton Hazel Winfley
Randy Littlechild
Renee Caron-Kinder

Richard Gehrke
Rob Poggemiller
Robert Long
Robert Yatkowsky
Rochelle Budwill
Rosemary Brown
Sandra Beaudoin
Sandra Doze
Sara Potts
Sharel Shoff
Shirley Ann Peterson
Shirley Ann Thomas
Stacey Carmichael
Stacey Stradecki
Stéphane Perreault
Terry Johnston
Tim Croker
Walter Lidster
Wendi Lautenbach
Wendy Dichrow*

**Apologies if anyone is missing from this list.*

