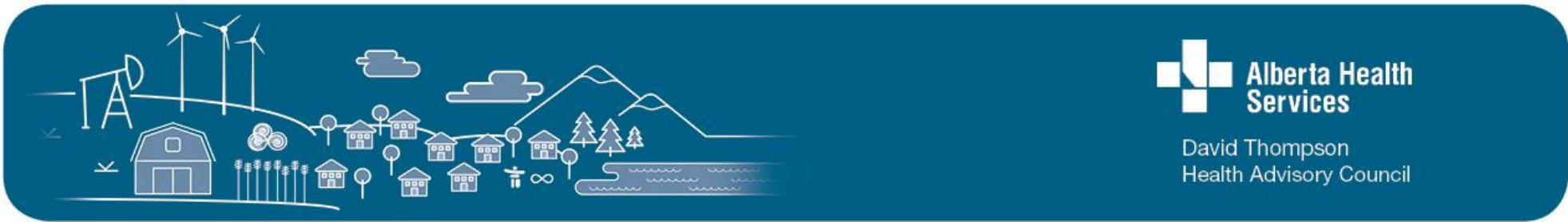


David Thompson Health Advisory Council (DTHAC) Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2024 / 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

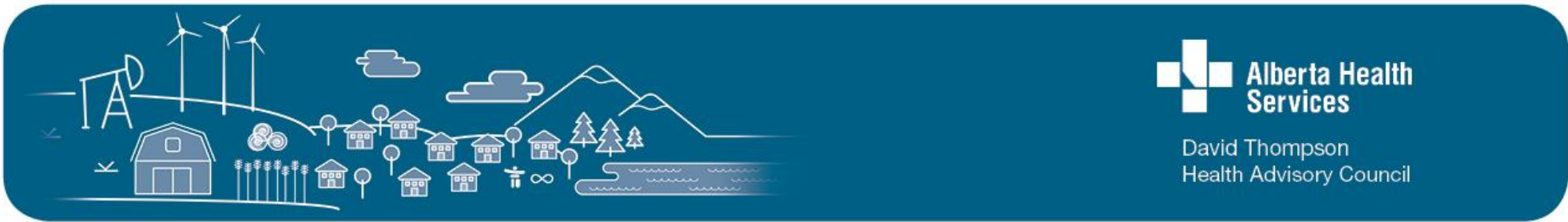
ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Pam Hansen (Chair), Peggy Makofka (Vice Chair), Rosemary Brown, Allyssa Deheer, Bill Elliot, Gerry Greschner, and Ken Hansen
Alberta Health Services (AHS)	Maya Atallah, Nicole Allan, Janice Stewart, Leanne Rudrum, Colleen Pruden, Shannon Oberle, Raina Page
Regrets	Christine Heggart, Wendi Lautenbach, Judy Lorenz, Janey Olson, Darrin Thompson, Martha Winchell, Quinton Wintfley and Robert Yatkowsky
Welcome & Introductions	Pam Hansen welcomed all in attendance, facilitated introductions and provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	Council approved the October 5, 2023, minutes by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from the previous meeting	<p>Action items from October 5, 2023 meeting have been completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice to follow up with Quinton on referral system in Coronation. • Janice to follow up with her medical colleagues about immunocompromised patients in ED waiting rooms.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Jennifer Bestard has temporarily moved into an executive leader role as medical director in clinical operations. For the next six months Dr. Jaco Hoffman will cover her previous position on an interim basis. • As part of redevelopment of the Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC), work has begun with the design team and is on track to meeting the target date of completion in 2031. Other government-funded active projects at RDRHC include lab upgrade, elevator upgrade, building envelope repair, nurse call replacement, roof sections replacement, ICU/CCU bed expansion, and catalytic converter replacement. Parkade expansion will start this summer. • Wetaskiwin Hospital and Care Centre is undergoing a major redesign of the emergency department as well as upgrades to the medical device processing department, roof replacement water lines, nurse call system, and repairs to the building envelope, the chiller, medical gases and heating systems. • Ponoka Hospital and Care Centre is getting a new humidification boiler and operating room (OR) lights.



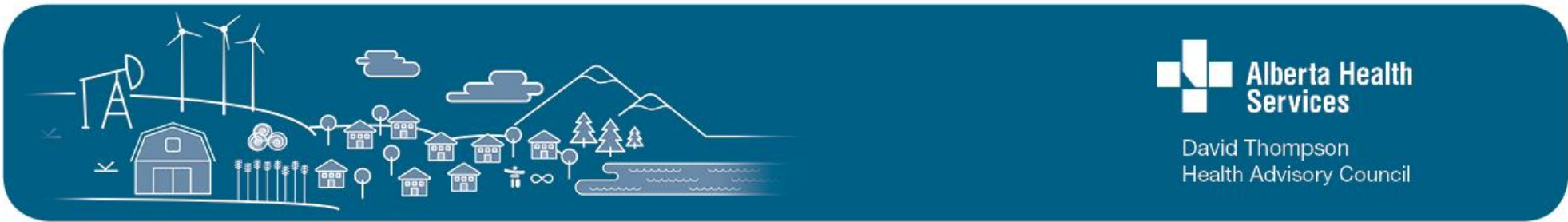


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innisfail Health Centre is undergoing a redesign of the soiled linen storage, the sewer pipeline relining, replacement of the building control system, replacement of the nurse call, and replacement of the chiller and heat exchangers. • Rocky Mountain House Hospital will see the development of a new operating room and Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR) processing area. • MDR projects are also underway at the Olds Hospital and Care Centre. • Stettler Hospital and Care Centre is undergoing replacement of the emergency generator and replacement of roof sections. • She spoke to the Government of Alberta’s Refocusing Alberta initiative and how it has changed the reporting system within Alberta Health Services. There will be four specialized areas of focus, deemed as individual organizations: primary care, acute care, continuing care and mental health and addiction. To learn more about the changes to come to Alberta’s health system, please visit the Refocusing health care in Alberta website. <p>Leanne Rudrum, Director Continuing Care Services, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Directed Invoicing started in three pilot sites (Camrose, Drumheller and Red Deer) in January 2024. • This is a new home support service delivery model that supports client choice, an alternative to AHS contracted service providers, AHS Health Care Aides or self-managed Care. • Clients can select an eligible care provider agency to provide services up to a maximum number of preapproved hours per month, as authorized by AHS. • Launch 8 of Connect Care will occur on May 4, 2024, and will include 183 sites and more than 8,700 system users. • Sites include Community Care and Public Health in all five zones and many from the Provincial Public Health Programs; Long-term Care and Supportive Living in Calgary and Central Zones; Home Care in Calgary Zone and Central Zone; and AHS partner Carewest.
<p>AHS Zone Update (Q & A)</p>	<p>In response to questions, Janice added the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interpretation & Translation Services that AHS provides. • The role of nurse practitioners currently with Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and what refocusing health care in Alberta is claiming to change. Details remain to be seen at this time. In the meantime, central zone physician assistants have been hired in communities to help physicians with the demand of patients needing to see a primary care provider.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members:</p>





	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enthusiasm is great for the ongoing work on capital projects in their vicinities, with high hopes they will contribute to enhancing care in surrounding communities. • Gratitude for the informative update reports provided by the Central Zone leadership team. • Personal anecdotes were shared regarding the benefits of RhPAP Skills Days in attracting healthcare workers to communities. For upcoming dates and locations, visit the RhPAP website. • While most physician vacancies in Rimbey have been filled, there remains a need for healthcare aides. • Positive feedback from communities where physician assistants have been introduced. • Sundre is currently utilizing a temporary building as a health center. Efforts are underway, in collaboration with Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services, to transition it into a permanent facility.
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community members have shown keen interest in understanding the forthcoming nurse practitioner model and evaluating the effectiveness of the existing one. • Janice shared what is known about nurse practitioners working alongside some physicians within AHS, and discussed what is working well and what isn't. She noted that AHS awaits guidance from Alberta Health on what the new model will be for nurse practitioners to work independently. • A community member inquired about physician workforce planning. Janice clarified that not all physicians engage in mixed practices, indicating that not all collaborate with AHS, and some operate private clinics independently. This choice is dictated by the preferences of the individual physician, irrespective of vacancy availability.
<p>Rural Health Professional Action Plan (RhPAP)</p>	<p>Alicia Fox, Rural Community Consultant with RhPAP, provided an update that was emailed to council and community members which included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Now Series, RhPAP Student Supports - February 15, 2024, at 11 a.m. • The RhPAP Rhapsody awards nominations are open until February 29, 2024. • The Let's Go Rural! High School Events and Post-Secondary Experience Expression of Interest (EOI) is now open. • Upcoming event for rural high school students, grade 9-12, to learn about the pathway to rural practice in the second of a three-part series on nursing careers. This will be held on February 28.



Report from the Chair	Chairs are meeting monthly during the noon hour with Andrea Jackson, Lead of Advisory Council Relations. They discuss the status of Advisory Councils. Changes are coming though it is not confirmed yet exactly what this will mean. Information will be shared as it is available.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation	<p>Title: Strategies to Promote Mental Wellness</p> <p>Presenters: Colleen Pruden, Education Consultant from Mental Health Promotion & Illness Prevention, Promotion, Prevention and Community Initiatives, and Shannon Oberle and Rania Page, Health Promotion Facilitators from Addiction and Mental Health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The presentation started by discussing what mental wellness is, and the presenters provided strategies to promote mental wellness. A few highlights from some of the mental health promotion workshops were also shared. Participants were then led through one easy-to-do technique to help manage stress. The Central Zone Addiction Prevention & Mental Health Promotion team then explained who they are, what they do, and what areas they cover.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Thursday, May 2, 2024</p> <p>Time: 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Location: Zoom</p>

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