



## Lakeland Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 11, 2023 / 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom Virtual Meeting

| ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS                        |  |
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| <b>Members</b>                                   | Ida Edwards (Chair), Heather Stromquist (Vice Chair), Robert Deresh, Brad Eamon, Cheryl Edwards, Zicki Eludin, Lindsay Iroume, Lorne Tkachuk, Ed Tomaszuk, Joanne Williams   |
| <b>AHS</b>                                       | Janet Barclay, Sherry Gough, Cindy Harmata, Christine Osunde, Sheri Pidhirney, Shelly Wallbank   |
| <b>Regrets</b>                                   | Carrie Goldsmith, Victoria Sparklingeyes, Elzbieta Berlund, Janet Stone and Amy Warren   |
| <b>Public</b>                                    | 39   |
| <b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>               | Ida Edwards welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.   |
| <b>Approval of minutes</b>                       | The October 12, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.   |
| STANDING ITEMS                                   |  |
| <b>Action items from previous meeting</b>        | All action items from the October 12, 2022, meeting are complete.  |
| <b>Alberta Health Services North Zone Update</b> | <p><b>Cindy Harmata, Senior Operating Officer</b>, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and performance measures and initiatives.</p> <p><u>Questions:</u><br/> <b>There are concerns re EMS operating at 50-60 per cent. What is being done to help attract more EMS workers to rural communities?</b><br/>           The work around recruitment is not specific to nurses. AHS is looking to recruit doctors, healthcare aids, paramedics, EMTs, and more. There are also paramedic programs in the North Zone to bolster awareness and recruitment. Currently, there are more positions available across Canada and internationally, than there were four years ago. AHS is competing with several other communities, as well as other locations in Canada and the world, which is impacting local recruitment.</p> |



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|  | <p><b>Is the Health Advisory Council (HAC) a good place to lobby for centralizing services, or services that have been lost in rural communities over the years?</b></p> <p>Council is a place to hear concerns and answer questions about health services, it is not a place for lobbying or advocacy. Members are free to do so as individuals, through municipalities and their Councils. The HAC is intended as a two-way conduit to Alberta Health Services where concerns and information on new and upcoming projects is shared.</p>   |
| <p><b>Community Partners</b></p>           | <p><b>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant</b> presented a written report from Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RhPAP</a> has many virtual learning opportunities available for rural community members.</li> <li>• RhPAP recently welcomed two new Community Consultants. In the Central-East area, Anya Langkow. Lynsey Robinson is the new South Zone representative and will also lead virtual event development.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rhapsody Awards</a> - nominations opened January 1st, 2023. These awards provide an opportunity to recognize the individuals, teams, and volunteers who make significant healthcare and civic contributions within rural Alberta communities. Deadline to submit a nomination is <b>February 28th, 2023</b>.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Physician Recruitment Report</b></p> | <p>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bonnyville</b> - two for family medicine with anesthesia; one family medicine with obstetrics; one family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/ obstetrics. Incoming physicians: one family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/ obstetrics (EESOB), and one pediatrician.</li> <li>• <b>Cold Lake</b> – three family medicine physicians. One new family medicine physician was hired and is practicing. One new physician set up general practice.</li> <li>• <b>St. Paul</b> – two postings for psychiatrists.</li> <li>• <b>Boyle</b> – one posting for a family medicine physician. A cohort of two international nurses are expected to arrive in the spring.</li> <li>• <b>Lac La Biche</b> – one for family medicine with enhanced surgical skills/ obstetrics; one family medicine with obstetrics; one family medicine with enhanced surgical skills; obstetrics (general surgery); two family medicine with anesthesia; one family medicine physician. Incoming physicians: one family medicine, one family medicine with anesthesia.</li> </ul> <p>North Zone received 37 family medicine physicians in total from January - December 2022.</p> |



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| <p><b>Voices of the Community</b></p>              | <p><b>There are concerns with hospital closures and lack of staff. What is AHS doing to recruit more nurses and doctors?</b><br/>         Recruitment of healthcare professionals can be cumbersome with the assessment process, which is coordinated and driven by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA).</p> <p>Despite barriers, the CPSA has been very good at being proactive and pushing recruitment forward. Steps in place are to ensure those filling vacancies are accredited, as needed, and well-equipped to fulfill requirements according to Alberta standards.</p> |
| <p><b>Chair update</b></p>                         | <p>Ida Edwards, Council Chair, provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gratitude to outgoing members: Janet Stone, Amy Warren, Robert Deresh and Zicki Eludin.</li> <li>• Welcoming new member Carrie Goldsmith.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Council Roundtable and Introductions</b></p> | <p>Council members were called upon to introduce themselves, advise of the community they represent and their reasons for joining Council. It was an eye-opening conversation that shed light on the broad skillsets of the collective group.</p>  |
| <p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p>                         |  |
| <p><b>Action Item(s)</b></p>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheri to provide a list of AHS leadership for each area, including names and titles. A link was provided at the meeting.</li> <li>• Sheri to send a fillable meeting evaluation form and link to the online evaluation form on Together4Health.</li> <li>• Sheri to provide a list of HAC membership. A link was provided in the meeting chat.</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Date of Next Event</b></p>                   | <p>Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023<br/>         Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.<br/>         Location: Zoom Meeting<br/>         Contact: <a href="mailto:lakelandcommunities@ahs.ca">lakelandcommunities@ahs.ca</a> for details</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.