

Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 6, 2023 | 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Zoom

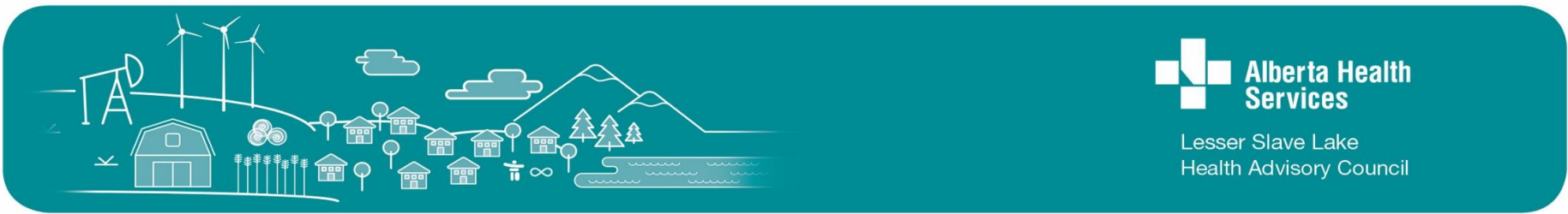
ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Susan Giesbrecht (Chair), Calvin Badger, Edna Boucher, Fay Cardinal, Richard Mifflin, Lorraine Muskwa, Shane Pospisil, Terria Rosser, Ann Stewart, and Norman Wang
AHS	Laura Lee Clarke, Andrea Jackson, Aaryn Lynham, Dalique van der Nest and Shauna Wallbank.
Regrets	Robin Guild and Jennifer Horsnall
Public	14
Welcome & Introductions	Susan welcomed all in attendance, provided a land acknowledgement and went through introductions. Aaryn went through housekeeping items and shared information about Health Advisory Councils.
Previous minutes	The previous meeting minutes from September 12, 2022 were disseminated by email to Council and approved.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaryn to email Council with details about preparing to revise Work Commitments for Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2026. Complete.
Chair Report	<p>Susan Giesbrecht, Chair reported that Council is actively recruiting new volunteer members to fill two vacancies. Specifically, Council is seeking representation from communities north of Slave Lake. Learn more and apply online. Email lesserslavelake@ahs.ca with questions.</p> <p>The virtual Community Conversation held on December 5, 2022, about Connect Care and MyAHS Connect was a success. Presenters from AHS shared the local launch schedule, and highlighted patient stories about how this new technology enhances the quality and continuity of health services. The Council is exploring a future event around local healthcare professional attraction and retention. Stay tuned for details!</p>
Chair and Vice Chair Elections	<p>The purpose of the election was to select a new Chair and Vice Chair to serve two-year terms from March 1, 2023-February 28, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Chair. Terri Rosser put her name forward. Norman Wang made a motion for nominations to cease. Shane Pospisil seconded, all in favour. Motion carried. Terri Rosser was declared Chair of the Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council by acclamation.

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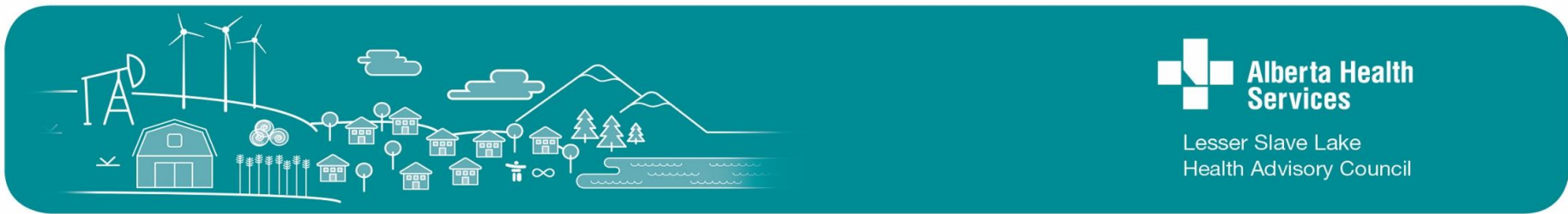
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The floor was opened for nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Lorraine Muskwa put her name forward. Richard Mifflin made a motion for nominations to cease. Ann Stewart seconded, all in favour. Motion carried. Lorraine Muskwa was declared Vice Chair of the Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council by acclamation.
<p>Council Roundtable and Good News</p>	<p>There were broad comments about province wide staffing shortages and the critical need for mental health and addiction supports in the Council area. Community mental health concerns are related to increased death by suicide, drug use, gang and criminal activity.</p> <p>Cadotte Lake – Edna Boucher works as a maternal health advisor for the surrounding communities. Programs have resumed since the pandemic and staff are conducting community visits. Mental health is a top community concern.</p> <p>High Prairie – Ann Stewart expressed concern about ambulances being dispatched from Slave Lake or Grande Prairie to serve the High Prairie. Chair Terri Rosser said the new EMS/811 Shared Response is promising but is waiting to see applications in rural Alberta.</p> <p>Joussard – Richard Mifflin expressed a need for healthcare professional housing. Calvin Badger shared that Sucker Creek First Nation is offering Cree language lessons every Sunday at the Treaty 8 First Nations building. He also mentioned the successful new toll-free AHS Indigenous Support Line that connects Indigenous callers and listeners to answer questions or requests for culturally appropriate care.</p> <p>Slave Lake – Susan Giesbrecht reported long appointment wait times at the Slave Lake clinic. Shane Pospisil advised that Grouard residential school site ground penetrating radar results will be released in late May. The announcement is expected to draw 400 - 600 community members, with mental health supports on site. A similar event will be replicated in Joussard. Additionally, the Lakeside Police Force, a regional, Indigenous self-administered force with an integrated crisis response team, now operates 24/7 and will double in size.</p> <p>Wabasca-Desmarais – Fay Cardinal spoke about multiple recent losses in the community. Norman Wang reported being busy providing mental health crisis support for vulnerable community members. Vice Chair Lorraine Muskwa shared that the Bigstone Cree Nation will release ground penetrating radar results in March 2023 and the Nation anticipates mental health impacts in the broader community.</p>
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>Community members came forward with questions and concerns centered on the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors and continuing care, with a desire to prioritize independent living supports to keep seniors in their homes as long as possible. A question around augmenting law enforcement with trained addiction and mental health professionals. A noted disconnect between AHS and school division psychologists causing psychiatrist referral delays, impacting vulnerable students who require additional mental health supports.





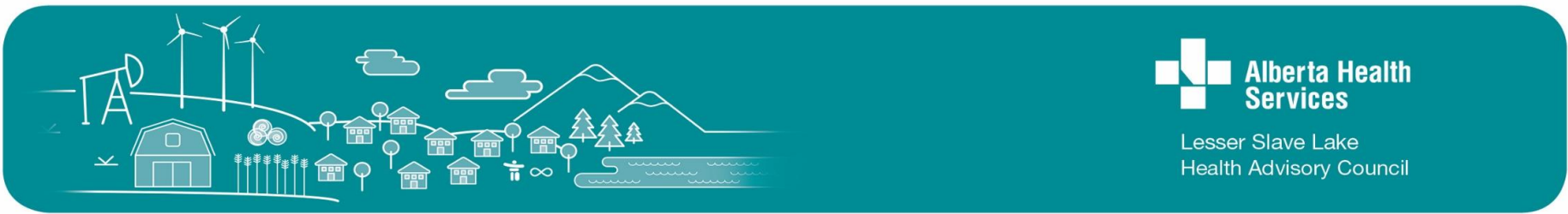
AHS North Zone Update	<p>Dalique van der Nest, Executive Director, Allied Health, North Zone, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also shared highlights from the AHS North Zone Operational Plan, performance measures and initiatives.</p>
AHS Physician Recruitment Report Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner	<p>In 2022, a total of 37 family medicine physicians and 8 new specialists were recruited across the North Zone. Already in 2023, four additional family medicine physicians and three new specialists have started working in the North Zone.</p> <p>See current physician vacancies at AHS Doctor Jobs. Find a family doctor accepting new patients in Alberta by community on the CPSA website using the “Find a Physician” tool. Shauna added the following physicians will begin practice in 2023:</p> <p>High Prairie – there are six family physicians currently practicing and one family medicine physician incoming. Slave Lake – there are eight family physicians currently practicing and one family medicine physician incoming. Wabsaca-Desmarais – there are three family physicians currently practicing and it is hoped to recruit two more.</p>
Community Partners	<p>Holly Handfield from the Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) provided information on several free virtual learning opportunities available for community members. Visit rhpap.ca to learn more about upcoming “Rural Information Session” webinars.</p> <p>Nominate a rural Alberta health-care hero for an RhPAP Rhapsody Award, either the Rural Physician Award or the Health-care Heroes Award (individual or team) before February 28, 2023 at rhpap.ca/rhapsody-awards.</p>
Presentation: MyHealth Records	<p>Kim Wieringa, Assistant Deputy Minister of the Health Information System Division, and Ryan Gallivan, Executive Director, Strategic IMT Services Branch from Alberta Health presented an overview of MyHealth Records.</p> <p>Albertans 14 years of age and older can sign up for MyHealth Records. Currently, over 1.4 million Albertans use the software to access or share their personal health information, including medications, immunizations, and lab results. Albertans can download the MyHealth Records app and connect their personal devices to integrate with apps like Fitbit or Apple Health. Learn more at alberta.ca/myhealthrecords.</p> <p>What is the difference between MyHealth Records and MyAlberta Digital ID? A verified MyAlberta Digital ID (also known as an Alberta.ca account) is required to access MyHealth Records. Verification against government records ensures the personal information provided in MyHealth Records belongs to the individual. To create a MyAlberta</p>

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	<p>Digital ID, one must confirm their identity online using an Alberta-issued driver’s license or identification card. Next, create a MyHealth Records account by entering the Alberta personal health number and verifying the account by email.</p> <p>Can Indigenous people use their NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits) or status card to connect to MyHealth Records? To create a MyAlberta Digital ID, a preliminary requirement to access MyHealth Records, one must confirm their identity online using an Alberta-issued driver’s license or identification card. An NIHB or status card is not a suitable type of government ID for this purpose.</p>
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Next Council Meeting

Council meetings are open to the public.	<p>Date: Monday, June 12, 2023 Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Location: Wabasca-Desmarais (location TBD) and on Zoom. A registration link will be posted to attend in-person or online.</p>
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaryn to share the registration link for the February 8, 2023 virtual town hall for the AHS Indigenous Support Line. Complete • Aaryn to share links to the EMS 10-point plan, EMS/811 Shared Response and upcoming pediatric rehabilitation webinars. Complete