



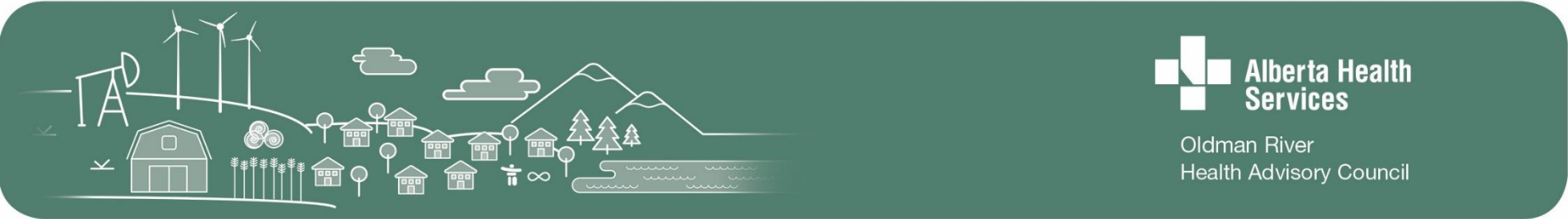
## Oldman River Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 2024 / 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Colleen Bianchi (Chair), Stephanie Leavitt (Vice Chair), Jacen Abrey, Barbara Boyer, Anne Michealis, Doug Thornton
<b>AHS</b>	Dr. Aaron Low, Christine Osunde, Linda Tessman-Potvin, Gwen Wirth
<b>Regrets</b>	Jim Bennett, Rebecca Bultsma, Behnia Hooshyarkhah, Marni Hope, Tracy Oosterbroek, Virginia Ridge, Margaret Thomas, Lisa Weekes
<b>Public</b>	23
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Colleen Bianchi welcomed all in attendance; Stephanie Leavitt addressed housekeeping.
<b>Approval of previous meeting summary</b>	The February 26, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from previous meeting</b>	All action items from the February 26, 2024, meeting are complete.
<b>Alberta Health Services Zone Update</b>	<p><b>Linda Iwasiw, Chief Zone Officer, South Zone, shared the following:</b></p> <p><b>Refocusing the healthcare system:</b> <a href="https://www.alberta.ca/refocusing-health-care-in-alberta">Refocusing health care in Alberta   Alberta.ca</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On November 8, the Government of Alberta (GOA) announced plans to refocus the healthcare system. These plans include goals to improve patient care and service delivery and to empower healthcare workers. These changes will focus on the priority sectors of primary care, acute care, continuing care and mental health and addiction.</li> <li><a href="#">Connect Care</a> launch eight will take place in South Zone on May 4, 2024, and launch nine is set for November 2, 2024.</li> <li>Anesthesiologists, emergency physicians and neurology are a recruitment priority.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3200 nurses will be transitioning to new organization - Recovery Alberta.</li> <li>• AHS has received its 2024-25 budget from government which includes an increase. Cost containment measures are still in place within the south zone.</li> <li>• Emergency preparedness for wildfire season is already underway.</li> <li>• Level 4 emergency – water conservation is in place.</li> <li>• AHS is in planning stages to address measles within the province. There are no active cases in South Zone.</li> <li>• Working with South Zone capital management team to prepare for a move of the Addiction and Mental Health and Public Health teams located at the train station. They will be relocated to the Melcor building this June.</li> <li>• The University of Lethbridge and the University of Calgary recently received government funding and are working together on a collaborative approach for their medical schools to train locally.</li> </ul> <p><b>Dr. Aaron Low provided a written report that was included in the meeting package, and included an update on physician recruitment in the South Zone, West:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 63 positions being recruited for and 43 active postings in the areas of: addiction and mental health, anesthesia, diagnostic imaging, family, emergency and rural medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, senior’s health, and surgery.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Round Table &amp; Good News Stories</b></p>	<p><b>Council members shared the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The drought conditions this year are concerning. Earth Day takes place on April 22.</li> <li>• Members have appreciated the connections made since being part of the Council.</li> <li>• Milk River doctors had a well-received meet and greet recently with community members.</li> <li>• Milk River will be honoring the dental professionals in town this month.</li> </ul>
<p><b>NEW BUSINESS</b></p>	
<p><b>Presentation(s)</b></p>	<p><a href="#">RhPAP</a>  <b>Presenter(s): Lynsey Robinson, RhPAP Consultant, shared the following:</b></p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An overview of RhPAP. More information about their virtual learning opportunities and events for rural community members and healthcare providers is available on their <a href="#">website</a>.</li><li>• RhPAP’s Rural Community Conference will take place October 8 – 10, 2024 in Wainwright, Alberta.</li></ul>
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Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).  
[Find your Health Advisory Council here](#). Visit [Together4Health](#) (T4H) to engage with AHS online.