

Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

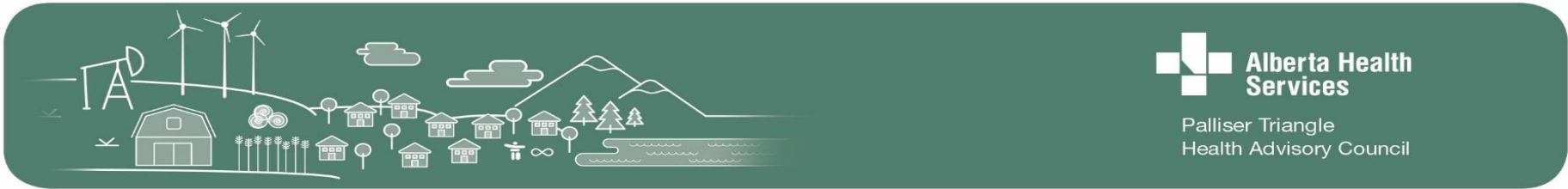
Monday, April 22, 2024 /12:00 – 2:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Krista Weiss (Chair), Rachel Vossen (Vice Chair), Daphne Anstey-Martin, Jill Bernhart, Wanda Diakow, Gwendoline Dirk, Cathy Fox, Sasha Loewen, Wes Paterson, Deborah Reid, Janine Tolhurst
AHS	Trevor Inaba, Linda Iwasiw, Dr. Aaron Low, Christine Osunde, Linda Tessman-Potvin, Gwen Wirth
Regrets	Sasha Loewen, Michelle Miller, Amanda Peterson
Public	21
Welcome & Introductions	Chair Krista Weiss welcomed all in attendance and provided a land acknowledgment; Rachel Vossen addressed housekeeping.
Approval of previous meeting summary	The February 13, 2024, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	All action items from the February 13, 2024, meeting are complete.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Linda Iwasiw, Chief Zone Officer, South Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided 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 Plans and performance measures and initiatives. • An update on the Connect Care launch 7 as well as several Public Health and Seniors Health initiatives. <p>Refocusing the healthcare system: Refocusing health care in Alberta Alberta.ca</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

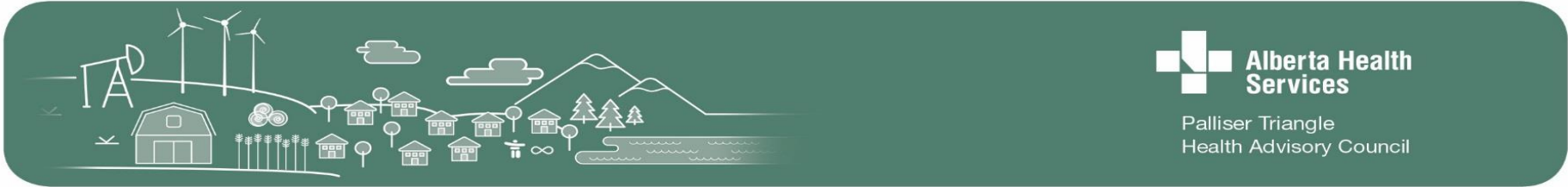
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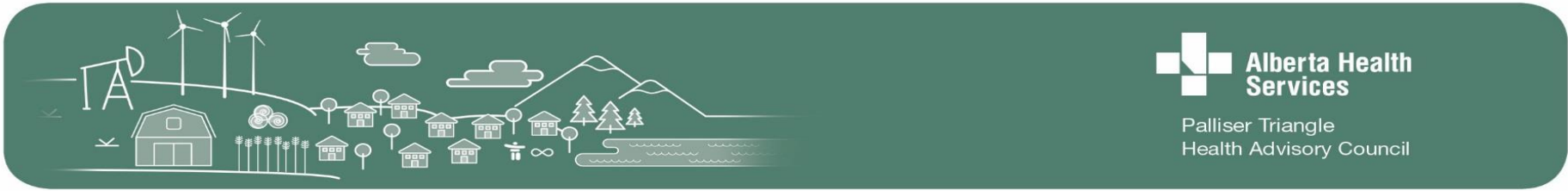
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Mental Health will oversee the new Mental Health organization which is scheduled to be stood up in June. The other three pillars are to be stood up in the fall. • Applications are now being accepted for Alberta Health’s new Regional Advisory Councils (RAC). Advisory councils – Health Alberta.ca. • Connect Care launch eight will take place in South Zone on May 4, 2024, and launch nine is set for November 2, 2024. • Health care planning and clinical service planning will fall under the government. • AHS has received its 2024-25 budget from government which includes an increase. Cost containment measures are still in place within the South Zone. • Emergency preparedness: there are major concerns throughout Alberta related to measles, drought and fire. • Thank you to all current and former HAC members for their participation with HACs over the years. <p>Dr. Low provided a written report included in the meeting package, which included an update on physician recruitment in the South Zone, East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 38 positions being recruited for and 21 active postings in the areas of: addiction and mental health, diagnostic imaging, family, emergency and rural medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, senior’s health, and surgery.
<p>AHS Community Engagement and External Relations Update</p>	<p>Andrea Jackson, Lead for Advisory Council Relations, Community Engagement and External Relations shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last day for Health Advisory Council operations is Friday, June 28, 2024. • Andrea expressed her gratitude for the work and time volunteers, members and zone leads have committed to AHS Health Advisory Councils. • The Government of Alberta (GoA) has opened recruitment for the Regional Advisory Councils online.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Anya Langkow, RhPAP Consultant - Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP has virtual learning opportunities and events available for rural community members and healthcare providers. • Tickets are now on sale for the RhPAP Rural Community Conference which will take place October 8-10, 2024 in Wainwright, Alberta.



<p>Council Round Table & Good News Stories</p>	<p>Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathy Fox is thankful for the opportunity to be part of her community as a HAC member. She added that one doctor’s office in Brooks has opened a walk-in clinic. • Deb Reid – Excited about the expansion of at-home service delivery for seniors in the community, so they can age in place and stay in the community of Duchess. • Rachel Vossen – Lab service experiences in Medicine Hat have greatly improved. As well, Connect Care communication is allowing for a robust and broader aspect of healthcare interactions that are contributing to care. • Jill Bernhart - Connect Care is up and running – staff say there’s a bit of learning curve. Bow Island welcomed a new doctor in January, and they are trying to recruit the doctor’s husband to also practice. • Janine Tolhurst – As an occupational health and safety specialist in the K-12 education sector, she is working closely with communicable disease control to ensure educational information about pertussis and measles is shared widely. • Gwendoline Dirk– Grateful for the opportunity to learn about healthcare via membership on the Council. It has been a very rewarding experience. She adds, the Tom Baker Cancer Centre is an amazing facility. • Wanda Diakow – In Oyen things are going smoothly. There are concerns with staff/nurses being exhausted and it’s hoped additional nurses can soon be recruited to the area. Oyen is getting a new facility. • Daphne Anstey-Martin - Has enjoyed the experience of being a HAC member. She adds there is a clinic in Brooks that will be closing at noon on April 26. Though the HAC is coming to an end, she is committed to finding ways to help people through volunteering in her community.
<p>Presentation(s)</p>	<p><u>Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta</u> Presenter(s): Rebecca Perkins, Outreach Manager</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellspring Cancer Support Alberta provides a range of free programs designed to provide connection and belonging; ease pain, fatigue, and distress; build strength and mobility; and support financial and workplace challenges. • Wellspring Alberta programs are available online, in local communities, over the phone and in-person – meeting people where they are or where they feel most comfortable.



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.

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