

Peace Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 | 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. | Zoom

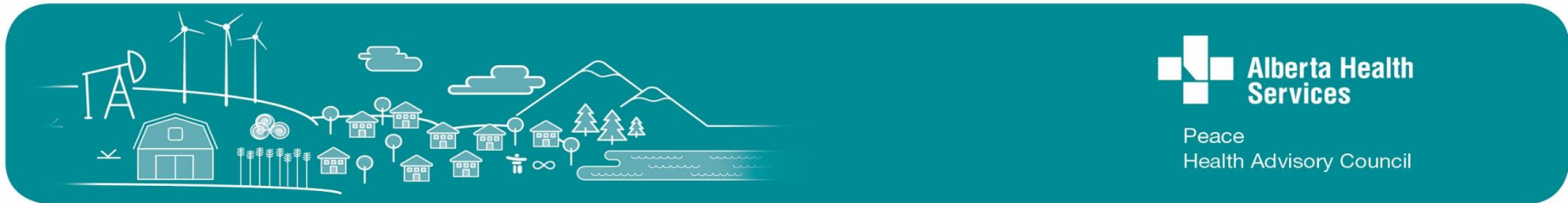
ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Barry Yaehne (Chair), Charlene Cavers (Vice Chair), Gladys Blackmore, Marc Boychuk, Danielle Commandeur, Carla Day, Karen Egge, Yvonne Rempel and Krista Schuett
AHS	Sara Blake, Laura Lee Clarke, Candice Edey, Rosilita Jn-Pierre, Aaryn Lynham, Lois Ryan-Ottley, Leona Small, Susan Smith and Caroline Velie
Regrets	Maurissa Bruneau, Murray Capon, Alison Cormack, Samuel Elkins, Jennifer Hamilton, and Carol Van Slyke
Public	68
Welcome and Introductions	Barry welcomed all in attendance, provided a land acknowledgement and went through introductions. Charlene reviewed housekeeping items and shared information about Health Advisory Councils.
Previous minutes	The previous meeting minutes from September 13, 2022 were disseminated by email to Council and approved.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aaryn to email Council about preparing to revise Peace HAC Work Commitments for Jul 1, 2023 – Jun 30, 2026. Complete.
Presentation: New Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program in Grande Prairie Dr. Alain Tremblay, Medical Lead and Nadine Strilchuk, Nurse Practitioner	<p>Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths and is expected to increase over the next two decades. Early lung cancer doesn't cause symptoms, which causes it to go undiagnosed. Seven in 10 cases are in advanced stages when discovered. Smoking is the most common cause of lung cancer. People who have smoked for many years are at the greatest risk. Exposure to second-hand smoke, radon, asbestos, and outdoor air pollution also increase the risk of lung cancer.</p> <p>Regular screening can lower the risk of dying from lung cancer by almost 25 per cent. An estimated 107,000 – 125,000 Albertans are eligible for lung cancer screening (adults ages 50-74 who currently smoke cigarettes, or who quit after smoking several years). A low-dose CT scan is used to screen for lung cancer. The imaging test uses a computer to create detailed 3D images of organs, tissues, bones, and blood vessels using x-ray imaging. The procedure is safe, effective, quick, and non-invasive. The program also offers smoking cessation.</p>

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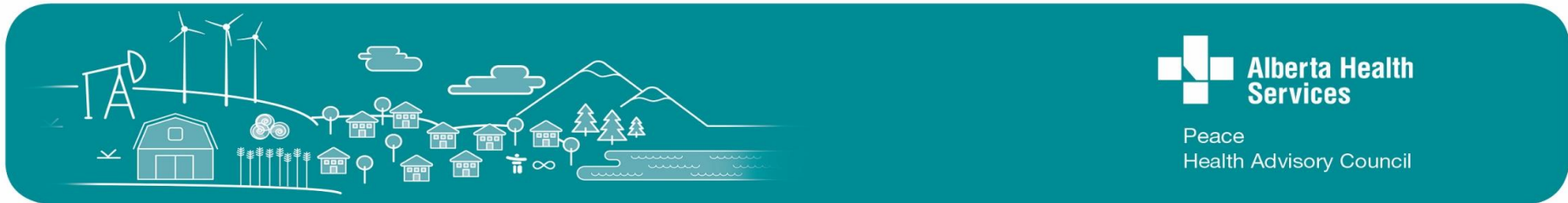
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	<p>AHS, with the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, is implementing a limited roll-out of lung cancer screening. Outcomes from this pilot project will influence a full province-wide rollout. In 2022-23, up to 1,500 patients will be screened at three AHS locations in Edmonton, Calgary, and Grande Prairie. In 2023-24, 1500 additional patients will be screened with follow-up scans for the first 1500 patients.</p>
<p>Council Roundtable & Good News</p>	<p>Berwyn / Grimshaw – Vice Chair, Charlene Cavers reports that attraction and retention is a top community priority with intermittent emergency room closures. The Grimshaw Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention (A&R) Committee received 17 applications for its six new healthcare education scholarships.</p> <p>Fairview – Council member Yvonne Rempel reports on the need for affordable housing and shelter for those experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Grande Prairie – Council member Gladys Blackmore had a productive meeting with Candice Edey about improving the flow of information from AHS to community, particularly about local attraction and retention. Krista Schuett adds that walking trails at the Grande Prairie Regional Hospital are not accessible due to the curb, which could be easily improved. She also reports a lack of home care support in Saddle Hills County, where a ‘self-directed healthcare program’ has been created: seniors are given \$300 per month to pay who they choose for at-home living assistance.</p> <p>Peace River – Marc Boychuk, Town Councilor and Animator with the Rural Mental Health Program has helped develop a regional Mental Health and Addictions Task Force. Membership includes Councilors from the MD of Peace, Peace River, Berwyn and Grimshaw, the RCMP, AHS North Zone leadership and other community service providers.</p> <p>Spirit River - Woking – Council member Karen Egge reported long wait times to see primary care physicians or specialists. Seniors are concerned about access but know they will receive good quality of care once taken on as a patient.</p>
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>AHS has been posting partial FTE (full-time equivalency) jobs to fill nursing vacancies. Why is AHS offering only part-time positions? This is based on feedback received from frontline AHS staff who indicate many staff prefer the flexibility that comes with working part-time, with improved work-life balance and more manageable hours. Rather than working in a full-time equivalent role (1.0 FTE), many would prefer partial FTE positions with the option of picking up additional shifts if so inclined, or their availability allows.</p> <p>Does AHS allow smudging in its facilities? Yes. AHS has a policy allowing spiritual ceremonies. Services provided by Indigenous Hospital Liaison Services include smudges, elder services, healing circles and formal ceremonial healing events. The AHS Indigenous Wellness Core partners with Indigenous peoples, communities and key stakeholders to provide culturally appropriate health services for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people in Alberta.</p>





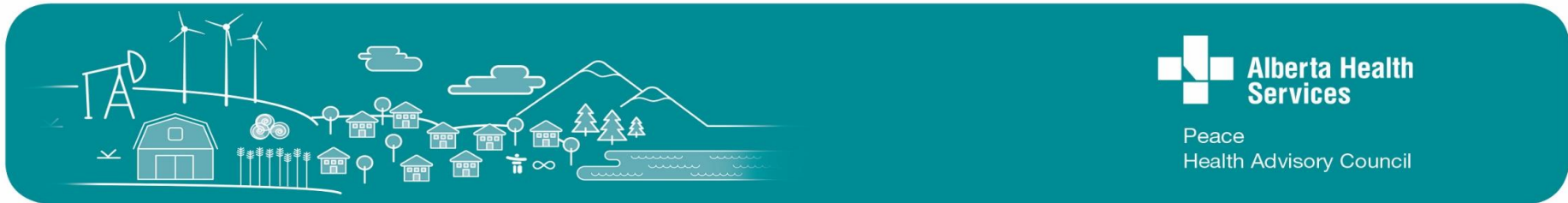
<p>AHS North Zone Update</p>	<p>Candice Edey, Senior Operating Officer for Area 9 provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also shared highlights from the AHS North Zone Operational Plan, performance measures and initiatives, including the AHS Indigenous Support Line. This toll-free support line connects Indigenous callers with Indigenous listeners from noon to 8 p.m., Monday to Friday. Call 1-844-944-4744 with requests for culturally appropriate care.</p>
<p>AHS Physician Recruitment Report</p> <p>Susan Smith, Physician Resource Planner, NZ</p>	<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. 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. Susan shared the following:</p> <p>Beaverlodge-Hythe – two new physicians started in January 2023. One additional family medicine physician is incoming.</p> <p>Grande Cache – one new physician is incoming.</p> <p>Grande Prairie – one of each of the following practitioners are incoming: anesthesiologist, medical oncologist, radiation oncologist, OB/GYN, ophthalmologist, otolaryngologist (ENT) and pathologist. The following will hopefully soon be confirmed: two additional family medicine physicians, one more OB/GYN and ophthalmologist, one adult psychiatrist and one urologist.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drs. Labuschange (Emergency), Afari (Pediatrics) and Grynspan (Radiology) began work in December 2022. One additional practitioner, Dr. Whitlock (General Surgery), is anticipated to start March 6, 2023.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<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>
<p>Chair Report</p>	<p>Barry Yaehne, Chair thanked departing Council member Alison Cormack for her six years of service. A new Council member from Sexsmith, Jancey Dolen, will start on March 1, 2022. Peace HAC continues to have a full roster with 15 members.</p> <p>The Peace HAC Community Conversation on November 15, 2022, about healthcare professional attraction and retention in the Peace Region was a huge success with 64 participants. The virtual event shared information about RhPAP, talent acquisition and physician / nurse recruitment. Breakout rooms brought participants together to talk attraction and retention successes, challenges, and opportunities in their communities. The Council is exploring a second event about local attraction and retention of in Spring 2023.</p>

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Next Council Meeting

<p>Council meetings are open to the public.</p>	<p>Date: Wednesday, June 14, 2023 Time: 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. Location: Peace River (location TBD) and on Zoom. A registration link will be posted closer to the date to attend in-person or online.</p>
<p>Action Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaryn to share the registration link for Feb 2 and 8, 2023 virtual town halls for the AHS Indigenous Support Line. Complete • Aaryn to share recruitment information for the Lesser Slave Lake Health Advisory Council with Gaylene Whitehead. Complete • Aaryn to follow up with Robert McLeod about EMS in Manning. Complete • Holly to share the RhPAP Nurse Practitioner Rural Information Session recording from December 2022. Complete • Susan Smith to share updated Physician Recruitment Report (as of Jan 24, 2023). Complete

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