

Peace Health Advisory Council

2023-24 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Peace
Health Advisory Council

Message from Athana Mentzelopoulos & Dr. Lyle Oberg

As we reflect on the journey of the Health Advisory Councils over the past 15 years, it is with a profound sense of gratitude and appreciation that we bid farewell. The dedication, passion, and invaluable contributions of each member has left an indelible mark on Alberta's healthcare landscape, touching countless lives across our communities.

Since its beginnings, the Health Advisory Councils have served as a beacon of community engagement and collaboration, bridging the gap between healthcare providers and the diverse needs of Alberta. Your commitment to fostering dialogue, advocating for patient-centred care, and championing initiatives to enhance the quality of care in your respective communities has been truly commendable.

We are deeply indebted to the hundreds of volunteers who have served on the HACs and who have generously devoted their time and expertise, along with their unwavering support to improving healthcare in our province. Your efforts have helped to shape policies, drive innovations and ensure the voices of Albertans were heard by decision-makers.

While this marks the end of an era, we hope many of you are looking at new opportunities with Regional Advisory Councils, and have reached out to express your interest. The Health Advisory Councils may cease to exist in their current form but the bonds forged and the lessons learned will endure; the Regional Advisory Councils can benefit from their history and the commitment of those who have served.

On behalf of Alberta Health Services, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each and everyone of the members who served on Councils over the past 15 years. Your contributions will continue to inspire us.

Athana Mentzelopoulos
President and CEO, Alberta Health Services

Dr. Lyle Oberg
Executive Board Chair, Alberta Health Services

QUOTE FROM ZONE LEADERSHIP

It is a pleasure to work alongside the northern residents who volunteer as valued members of our Health Advisory Councils. These individuals are passionate about their communities and the importance of healthcare delivery in northern Alberta. Through engagement with our Councils, we continue to develop a rich understanding of the local needs from the community and patient perspectives. Thank-you to all our Council members for the time and thoughtfulness with which they engage on topics of relevance to health care in the north.

Stacy Greening
Chief Zone Officer, North Zone

WHO WE ARE



Top L-R: Barry Yaehne (Chair), Gladys Blackmore-Beauchamp (Vice Chair), Marc Boychuk, Charlene Cavers, Maurissa Hietland
Row 2 L-R: Murray Capon, Danielle Commandeur, Carla Day, Jancey Dolen
Row 3 L-R: Karen Egge, Samuel Elkins, Jennifer Hamilton
Row 4 L-R: Yvonne Rempel, Krista Schuett, Carol Van Slyke

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the rest of Council, AHS leadership and staff and most importantly, the public at large for their efforts during my term as chair. Our Council continues to value our strategic partnerships in health and focus on educating community stakeholders. I want to wish the new councils that are being created all the best in moving our work forward as thoughtful engagement produces positive outcomes.

Barry Yaehne
Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since their inception in 2009, Advisory Council members have shared advice and feedback from their communities with Alberta Health Services (AHS). They've held public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contributed to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

In the fall, Council hosted a presentation with Tyla Savard, Business Development Specialist with Ballad Consulting Groups. She provided an overview of the work they do and their affiliation with AHS, including information about Moms Stop the Harm, a group providing advocacy and support to families impacted by substance-related harm and death. She also provided information on life skill building offered through the Ballad Group, and the Community Opioid Response Task Force, through the City of Grande Prairie.

In September, Council hosted a meeting in Fairview where attendees engaged in discussion about workforce needs pertaining to the retention of physicians and nurses in the town of Fairview. Council learned about the International Educated Nurses (IEN) program and how communities in the local area help new staff integrate and feel a part of the community, from helping to find housing, obtain a driver's license and purchase a vehicle.

Elected officials, community members and Council came together at a virtual community conversation on retention of healthcare professionals in March. This event was designed to give AHS and the communities it serves an opportunity to brainstorm ideas for healthcare retention, discuss challenges, make connections and determine ways to work together to improve retention efforts in the community.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 97 plus public attended meetings and events through the year.
- 4 meetings and events between July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024.



THANK YOU MEMBERS PAST AND PRESENT

Barry Yaehne
Bobbi Matheson
Carla Day
Carol Van Slyke
Charlene Cavers
Cheryl Van Eerden
Connie Hansen
Darlene Frith
Donna Buchinski
Evelyn Bzowy
Fjola Joelson
Gladys Blackmore
Gloria Robertson
James McGregor
Jancey Dolen
Jennifer M Hamilton
Judy Brown
Karen Egge
Karen Balaski
Kim Pinnock
Kishor Ojha

Krista Schuett
Laura Hancharuk
Leona Hanson
Lucille Partington
Marc Boychuk
Maurissa Bruneau
Maurissa Hietland
Maxine Elter
Michael Ouellette
Michelle Margarit
Murray Capon
Penny Stone
Rebecca Stewart
Samuel Elkins
Shannon Sortland
Tammy Calliou
Terry Tissington
Theresa Sandul
Violet Dettling
Yvonne Rempel*

**Apologies if anyone is missing from this list.*

