



Tamarack Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023 / 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Tara Baker (Chair), Lorianne Edwards (Vice-Chair), Jeff Goebel, Wendy Scinski, Rob Stauffer.
AHS	Georgina Blakely, Melony Hately, Sandra Herritt, Jessica Landry, Diana Rinne
Regrets	Karen Gariepy, Janet Jabush, Linda Prokott, Maureen Schnirer, Janet Wilkinson
Public	Seven
Welcome & Introductions	Tara welcomed all in attendance, went through introductions and provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	September 12, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	Melony to share the Physician Recruitment Report with Council members. Complete.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Sandra Herritt, Senior Operating Officer, Areas 1-4, North Zone, shared the following:</p> <p>A written report was provided with 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 were shared.</p> <p>Questions:</p> <p>Q: Is the Barrhead Hospital Tree of Hope operated through the Auxiliary or the hospital/ AHS?</p> <p>A: As of December 2020, all contributions to the health centre are through the Barrhead Healthcare Centre Auxiliary who manages the funds donated to the hospital.</p>
Physician Recruitment Report	Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, North Zone Medical Affairs reported AHS is currently recruiting to the following areas:



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrhead is recruiting one family medicine physician with anesthesia and one general surgeon. • Edson has two new family physicians incoming and is recruiting two additional family medicine physicians, two family medicine physicians with anesthesia and one family medicine physician with enhanced surgical skills (c-section). • Hinton is recruiting two family medicine physicians, one family medicine physician with enhanced surgical skills (c-section) and one orthopedic surgeon. • Westlock has two new family medicine physicians - Dr. Kelechi Olumba, and Dr. Emmanuel Ayoson, and is recruiting two more family medicine physicians and one family medicine physician with enhanced surgical skills (c-section). • Whitecourt is recruiting one family medicine physician with anesthesia and one family medicine physician with enhanced surgical skills (c-section).
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), shared updates with Council. Highlights includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RHPAP Knowledge Now! Virtual Session: November 23, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Members of the RhPAP team will highlight the many ways in which RhPAP supports health professionals practicing in rural Alberta. • RhPAP offers continuing professional development for practicing rural Alberta physicians and other health professionals to upgrade existing skills or gain new skills to meet the medical needs of their community and surrounding areas. • BIEN Program Funding: The Bursary for Internationally Educated Nurses (BIEN) provides funding to internationally educated nurses, already in Alberta, as they complete bridging training required to practice as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse, in exchange for a period spent working in rural Alberta. • Emergency Department Echo (EDE) course is offered through the Canadian Point of Care Ultrasound Society. The course aims to help physicians and other healthcare providers develop a basic understanding of ultrasound image generation and interpretation to enhance rural patient care. RhPAP will subsidize 50 per cent of the cost for rural Alberta healthcare providers to take this course in their community. • Financial Incentive for Rural Staff Training (FIRST) funding program supported the Westlock healthcare team to upgrade its advanced skills for treating shock. Check out the video here. • REAL (Rural Education and Advanced Learning) program funding is an initiative aimed at nurses, midwives, nurse practitioners, and allied health professionals working in rural Alberta. Applicants may apply for program funding for courses or training opportunities. The next round of applications opens on January 9, 2024.



<p>Report from the Chair</p>	<p>Tara Baker, Chair for the Tamarack Health Advisory Council, provided the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a new member starting soon <u>and</u> one new member joining in the new year. • Tara attended the Council of Chairs meeting in Edmonton in September <u>where they learned about the</u> Healthier Together initiative. Healthier Together is a community-based partnership that includes existing infrastructure to guide entire municipalities toward healthier ways of living, working, learning, and healing that give everyone a fair chance for health. • Tara also attended the Health Ministers meeting with HAC members on November 15, and she will attend the upcoming Council of Chairs meeting on December 11, if anyone has anything they would like her to bring forward.
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>Seven members of the public were in attendance. This is a summary of what was shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One person shared that her husband had to wait six months for a continuing care bed and was sent to Mayerthorpe from Westlock. She stressed the importance of nurse managers knowing the difference between power of attorney and the advanced directive agent. She sends kudos to the Westlock Healthcare Centre for all the excellent care he received while he was there. • Shamshad Khan had a question about how self-managed care funding is distributed. Sandra Herritt will follow up with her.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tara Baker shared that she met with Martin Long, West Yellowhead MLA and Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Health on October 2, on behalf of Health Professionals Attraction and Retention Committee of Whitecourt. She praised the work RhPAP has done in her community. Anita Fagnan has made a significant difference as she creates a space for providers and community members to work together. • Lorianne Edwards has heard concerns about the length of time to get in for diagnostic testing for heart failure in her community. She was provided contact information for AHS Patient Relations. • Wendy Scinski added she keeps hearing that AHS is working on wait times, but her community is not seeing results. A friend with a cancer diagnosis waited in emergency for 18 hours. She was provided with the contact information for AHS Patient Relations. • Rob Stauffer noted that AHS and Council members need to do more to share the Alberta Healthy Living Program and getting the word to people. He also shared that he met with the AHS Design Lab to see if they can help create a



	resource for more communities in the area, expanding awareness and improving navigability for health and wellness resources in rural communities.
Action Item(s)	Sandra Herritt to follow up with Shamshad Khan regarding self-managed care funding.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Wellspring Alberta – Rebecca Perkins, Outreach Manager, Wellspring Alberta and Rob Stauffer, Wellspring Volunteer Rob Stauffer shared his personal journey with cancer and how he became a peer support volunteer and a community connector for Wellspring Alberta.</p> <p>Rebecca Perkins shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wellspring Alberta is a non-profit organization created in 1992. It provides emotional, social, spiritual, and informational support and services to those living with cancer and their loved ones. It also restores resilience and confidence to those impacted by cancer and welcomes everyone, regardless of where they live. Their vision is a future where no one must face cancer alone. • Wellspring offers over forty programs designed to educate and empower individuals impacted by cancer. Programs are non-medical; evidence informed and evidence-based; facilitated by professional leaders; offered free of charge and without referral; and is accessible in-person, online and over the phone. • Programs pillars include education, movement and meditation, self-care, and expressive arts. • They also offer additional supports including child friendly and young adult programs; peer support; transition support; community groups; external referrals; and a lending library. • To find out more about volunteering visit Wellspring Alberta
Date of Next Event	<p>Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2024 Time: 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Location: Zoom</p>