



## Wood Buffalo Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 27, 2022/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Sonia Burke – Smith (Vice Chair), Christine Alexander, Kenneth Okwonkwo, Melinda Stewart Carol Theberge, Beverly Tupper ,
<b>AHS</b>	Sheri Pidhirney, Jordanna Lambert, Andrea Jackson, Sherry Nueman and Krystal Smith
<b>Regrets</b>	Todd Hillier, Patience Akenbor, Tinna Ezekiel, Natalie Gentili, Sandy Grandison, Evelyn Okoh
<b>Public</b>	0
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Sheri welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of previous minutes</b>	May 18, 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Alberta Health Services Wood Buffalo North Zone Update</b>	<p>Jordanna Lambert, Senior Operating Officer, provided a written report 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 Plan and performance measures and initiatives.</p> <p><u>Questions from Council:</u></p> <p>Q. What is AHS doing to promote local recruitment of healthcare professionals?</p> <p>A. Jordanna will bring more information on recruitment efforts to the meeting in January.</p> <p>Q. How can industry be used to help with recruitment, i.e.: fly-in fly-out programs for nurses or doctors?</p> <p>A. Jordanna indicated AHS is using some fly-in fly-out programs, but recruitment remains a national issue.</p> <p>Q. What about incentives to recruit locally to train? How can costs be eased?</p> <p>A. Jordanna will report back on recruitment at the January meeting, including some of the incentives being offered to those who agree to work in the north, specifically Fort McMurray.</p>
<b>Community Partners</b>	<p>Jill Tilley, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report with information about RhPAP. Upcoming events include the Alberta Primary Care Networks provincial overview on November 17. As well, a presentation about the role nurse practitioners in primary health care will take place on December 15. Visit <a href="http://www.rhpap.ca">www.rhpap.ca</a> for more information.</p>



<b>Voices of the Community</b>	N/A.
<b>Council Round Table</b>	<p>Council members shared the following updates:</p> <p>Melinda (Fort McKay)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A community celebration was held, people shared stories on their personal successes and sobriety</li> <li>• Fort McKay offers a doctor's services for the community eight times per week. The Nation pays for community medical services including mental health services, due to long wait times in Alberta, the Nation currently send members to BC, due to less wait times and longer than 28 day programs.</li> <li>• A new school has opened, built and operated by the Nation. Curriculum includes land-based learnings.</li> </ul> <p>Carole shared that after working in education for 25 years, mentoring with one of the major universities in Ontario, mental health concerns remain prevalent among students.</p> <p>Kenneth advises that his community is interested in understanding root causes for mental health and addictions.</p> <p>Christine shared about her work with a new Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) program in Fort McKay. AA is once per week on Mondays and a new Narcotics Anonymous program, with taxi service, is available once per week on Fridays.</p> <p>Sonia shared information about a local Community Garden and the importance of food security, particularly among Metis communities. Community Gardens provide seed collections and harvested items. She shared the community of Janvier donated 20,000 lbs. of potatoes to the Wood Buffalo community..</p>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Presentation(s)</b>	
	<p><b>Alberta Healthy Living Program</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sheri Neuman &amp; Krystal Smith; Self-Management &amp; Diverse Populations Coordinators, AHS</li> </ul> <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Alberta Healthy Living Program (AHLP) has free workshops designed to help Albertans better manage chronic conditions. Topics include diabetes, heart and stroke education, weight management, stress management, chronic pain or chronic conditions management, supervised exercise and COPD education. Learn more at <a href="http://www.healthylivingprogram.ca">www.healthylivingprogram.ca</a></li> <li>• A new program, Diabetes Self-Management Health Coach Program, is a free phone support program to help Albertans manage diabetes and connect with a peer coach. Register <a href="#">online</a>.</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussion Questions:</b></p> <p><i>Q. How do people who don't use Zoom effectively reach out to those with technology or internet barriers?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnerships with libraries, community or recreation centres, adult learning centres, post-secondary institutions (i.e. CAREER Pathway School outreach campus, Northern Lakes College, Bigstone Community School, Mistassiniy School)</li> <li>• The buddy system and making connections with other community members may help people feel more comfortable going into public places to seek information, or to participate in activities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Q. What suggestions are there to get people informed and interested in engaged?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find community role models with lived experience who are enthusiastic and willing to help other people. Their experience can be used as testimonials to encourage others to get involved.</li> <li>• Advertise on social media with geographic targeting.</li> </ul> <p><i>Q. How can better partnerships be built with Indigenous groups? What needs to be done differently to provide value to these communities with the AHLP programming?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ideal approach would be co-development and co-delivery of programming with Indigenous partners to reach a specific group. Advice is to connect with Health Directors from each of the First Nation Health Centres, as each Nation has its own system and will know best how to reach their communities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Items:</b></p>	<p>Sheri to send Sherry and Krystal contact information to Melinda. Sheri to send out North Zone HAC report – delivered by Jordanna Lambert.</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p>	<p>Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2023</p>



Alberta Health  
Services

Wood Buffalo  
Health Advisory Council

	Time: 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
	Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).  
[Find your Health Advisory Council here](#). Visit [Together 4 Health](#) (T4H) to engage with AHS online.