



Wood Buffalo Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

| ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS | |
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| Members | Todd Hillier (Chair), Sonia Burke-Smith (Vice Chair), Christine Alexander, Jennifer Best, Natalie Castro-Gentili, Sandy Grandison, Ashley Makey, Evelyn Okoh, Melinda Stewart, Carol Theberge, Beverly Tupper, Breanna Wallace |
| AHS | Jordanna Lambert, Valerian Nyaga, Shelly Wisely, Deborah Whetstone, Sheri Pidhirney |
| Regrets | Tinna Ezekiel, Patience Akenbor, Kenneth Okwonkwo |
| Public | 16 |
| Welcome & Introductions | Todd welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. |
| Approval of previous minutes | October 27, 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus. |
| STANDING ITEMS | |
| Alberta Health Services Area 10 Update | <p>Jordanna Lambert, Senior Operating Officer, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects, 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>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service disruptions update • Connect Care • Indigenous Support Line • My Alberta Digital ID • Maternal Fetal Stress Testing education • Influenza update • Novel Coronavirus update • Monkey Pox update • Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program (ABCSP) |



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| | <p>Questions:</p> <p>What information is available on patients numbers and timelines re orthopaedic surgeries? There is nothing specific at this time. The Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (NLRHC) initiated a fast referral program that is a triage process with a streamlined approach for referrals. This will assist with surgical backlog and wait times. As well, NLRHC has hired another orthopaedic surgeon bring the total number to four.</p> <p>Does the emergency department at NLRHC operate differently than in rural hospitals? For the most part, no. However, NLRHC has a fly-in and fly-out physician program, which is different than rural hospitals that rely on local physicians coverage.</p> <p>Deborah Whetstone, Manager, Medical Affairs North Zone, provided the following recruitment update for Fort McMurray:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One child and adolescent psychiatrist vacancy; a new child and adolescent psychiatrist is arriving in the next few months • Two adult psychiatrist vacancies. • Two hospitalist physicians vacancies. • Two new internal medicine physicians. • One orthopaedic surgery vacancy. • College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) Pilot Project – specialists from international locations will not have to write all the required exams. A review will be conducted over three years. Countries in the pilot are Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, Hong Kong, Singapore and Great Britain. <p>Is AHS considering hiring physician assistants? AHS has approval to hire a clinic assistant and a nurse practitioner. The positions are posted for NLRHC in Fort McMurray.</p> <p>That is the status of the UofA physician residency program for NLRHC? This work is moving forward. It is expected the residency program will be running by the summer.</p> |
| <p>Community Partners</p> | <p>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant presented a written report from Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP has virtual learning opportunities available for rural community members. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP recently welcomed two new Community Consultants. In the Central-East area, Anya Langkow. Lynsey Robinson is the new South Zone representative and will also lead virtual event development. • Rhapsody Awards - nominations opened January 1st, 2023. These awards provide an opportunity to recognize the individuals, teams, and volunteers who make significant healthcare and civic contributions within rural Alberta communities. Deadline to submit a nomination is February 28th, 2023. |
| Voices of the Community | Sixteen members of the public were present but there were no updates provided. |
| Council Round Table | Council members were called upon to introduce themselves, advise of the community they represent and their reasons for joining Council. It was an eye-opening conversation that shed light on the broad skillsets of the collective group |
| NEW BUSINESS | |
| Action Items: | Todd Hillier will forward information pertaining to cold medicine shortages, as he learns more. For awareness, AHS is not in charge of supply chain for this. |
| Date of Next Event | Date: March 29, 2023 Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location: Zoom/Virtual Contact: WoodBuffalo@ahs.ca for details |

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.