



## Wood Buffalo Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 26, 2023/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Northern Lights Regional Health Centre

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Todd Hillier (Chair), Sonia Burke-Smith (Vice Chair), Christine Alexander, Jennifer Best, Sandy Grandison, Carol Theberge
<b>AHS</b>	Nicole Allan, Jordanna Lambert, Logan Clow, Andrea Jackson
<b>Regrets</b>	Patience Akenbor, Tinna Ezekiel, Natalie Gentili, Ashley Makey, Evelyn Okoh, Ken Okwonkwo, Melinda Stewart, Beverley Tupper, Breanna Wallace
<b>Public</b>	1
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Todd welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of previous minutes</b>	January 18, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Alberta Health Services Area 10 Update</b>	<p><b>Jordanna Lambert, Senior Operating Officer</b>, 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"> <li>• Acknowledgment to front line staff</li> <li>• Fetal Monitoring technology funding for \$250,000</li> <li>• Connect Care launches in November</li> <li>• Funding to open 10 transition beds at Willow Square</li> <li>• Resources for an Emergency Department (ED) transition team and a facility-based social worker</li> <li>• Willow Square occupancy is at 80/108 beds</li> <li>• EMS response times</li> <li>• ED wait times</li> <li>• Surgical wait times</li> <li>• Patient flow and demands</li> <li>• Workforce</li> </ul>



- 21.4 per cent vacancy rate
- Service disruptions
- Physician wait times
- Pediatrics maintain low occupancy
- Good news story – [Bike Around Award](#)
- OR minimal invasive suites: two opened at the beginning of the year and two are scheduled to open mid-summer

Questions and Comments:

**Are the 10 beds in addition to the 108 added to Willow Square and what needs do they address?**

The beds are local to the region and do not include midwifery/demographics/panels of physicians/local team supports aging population/supportive living care in long term care.

**Is there a decline in birth rates in Fort McMurray?**

The birth rate is trending down not only in Fort McMurray, but per capita.

Todd will forward demographic trends from 2018 – 2021 to Council. The next municipal census is scheduled for 2024.

**Are Emergency Room wait times going to be displayed on a dashboard?**

The upcoming Connect Care launch will address wait times.

**Patient Flow:**

Northern Lights Regional Health Centre (NLRHC) displays patient flow, admittance to bed, etc. There are bottle necks for discharge or social complexity for safety. ALOSS/ELOSS. Allied Health resources help with OT, speech and other treatments.

**Will some of the patient flow be improved with the addition of new transition beds?**

Position/recruiting to the new transition beds were the cause for the spike in vacancies in March, but once these positions are filled it will help with patient flow.

**ED Transition Team:**



The ED transition team is in the early stages of development but the NLRHC is establishing a case management team for mental health, including a registered nurse, occupational therapist and a facility-based social worker. This team will work with patients and follow up with community resources. This team will work on extending workdays and will provide weekend supports with community linkages and community resources.

**Has Alberta Health announced a new treatment facility location?**

Jordanna Lambert will report back when the information is released.

**ED mental health RCMP transition to the community. Mental health versus criminal health**

PAC team for mental health. System prospective of how to work together for patient. 3-year rapport with the RCMP.

**With increasing reliance on community organizations to provide support for rising mental health issues, is there a need for psychiatry services in the city?**

The 10-bed unit is full but striving to an 80 per cent occupancy. Jordanna has offered to connect with AHS Mental Health for a presentation on services available from mental health, to the community.

**Can partnering with major companies help bring psychiatry services to the area, and with recruitment for high school and post-secondary enrollment?**

RhPAP is always looking to get in front of the student body to get students interested in the North, at all levels. RhPAP works within a given community to showcase its best features to potential practitioners. It also supports high schools and post-secondary institutions, to attract future practitioners. Anita will bring forward to her team for help and will report back.

**Andrea Jackson, Lead, Advisory Council, on behalf of Shauna Wallbank,** provided the following recruitment update for Fort McMurray:

- Three successful physician recruitments for:
  - an internal medicine specialist physician
  - an orthopedic surgeon
  - a critical care specialist physician
- Ongoing recruitment for general and adult psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, hospitalist, diagnostic health and radiology



<b>Community Partners</b>	<p><b>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant</b> presented a written report from Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RhPAP</a> has virtual learning opportunities available for rural community members.</li> <li>• RhPAP offers continuing professional development for practicing rural healthcare providers to upgrade existing skills or gain new skills. Visit the <a href="#">website</a> to learn more.</li> </ul> <p>RhPAP has a new bursary for internationally educated nurses. The Bursary for Internationally Educated Nurses (BIEN) is intended to provide funding to internationally educated nurses as they complete bridging training required to practice as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse, in exchange for a period of time spent working in rural Alberta. For more information, please visit the website: <a href="#">BIEN Program</a>.</p>
<b>Voices of the Community</b>	<p>No voices from the public.</p>
<b>Council Round Table</b>	<p>Sandy – great information on the orthopedic surgeon and reduced wait times.          Jennifer – has seen positive social media posts supporting the ED and ER.          Christine – works at Mark Amy; the virtual opioid clinic is working great.          Carol – raves about quality of care for a relative with in the dementia unit at Willow Square.          Todd – seconds comments re front-line staff for their excellence. Todd asked if PCNs can attend HAC meetings. Andrea responded that they can, and some Councils have included them on their agenda to provide regular updates.</p>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Action Items:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work commitments - Andrea Jackson will collate the themes from the Work Commitment discussion, draft the document and share with Council for review.</li> <li>• Jordanna Lambert will provide an update re the new treatment centre in the North Zone, when it is available.</li> </ul>
<b>Date of Next Event</b>	<p>Date: September 20, 2023          Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.          Location: Northern Lights Regional Hospital – Boardroom          Contact: <a href="mailto:WoodBuffalo@ahs.ca">WoodBuffalo@ahs.ca</a> for details</p>