



## Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Jennifer Best
<b>AHS</b>	Jeff Gillis, Melony Hately, Tina Hoang, Jordanna Lambert, Logan Clow, Fauzia Haq Nawaz
<b>Regrets</b>	Todd Hillier (Chair), Sonia Burke-Smith (Vice Chair), Christine Alexander, Patience Akenbor, Natalie Gentili, Ashley Makey, Ken Okwonkwo, Evelyn Okoh, Melinda Stewart, Beverley Tupper, Breanna Wallace
<b>Public</b>	14
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Melony welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of previous minutes</b>	November 23, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from previous meeting</b>	Jordanna Lambert to follow up with Cathie Landmead regarding supports for students with complex needs. <b>Complete.</b>
<b>Advisory Council Update</b>	<p><b>Melony Hately, Advisory Council Coordinator, shared the following:</b></p> <p>The last day of operations for all Alberta Health Services (AHS) Health Advisory Councils (HACs) is June 28, 2024. She expressed her gratitude for all Council members, who bring meaningful information to AHS through all their efforts and community insights. There is a great role and value for volunteer input. Community Engagement will continue supporting members until the end of June.</p>
<b>Alberta Health Services Area 10 Update</b>	<p><b>Jordanna Lambert, Senior Operating Officer Area 10, North Zone, shared the following:</b></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 Plan 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><b>Community Partners</b></p>	<p><b>Kate Tindall, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), shared updates with Council. Highlights includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 7-10, 2024 — RhPAP’s <a href="#">2024 Rural Community Attraction and Retention Conference</a>. Join this in person conference being held in Wainwright for a three-day dynamic and forward-thinking event focused on addressing the critical issues of attracting and retaining healthcare professionals in rural areas.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Continuing Professional Development for Healthcare providers</a> - Alberta physicians and other health professionals can upgrade existing skills or gain new skills to meet the medical needs of their community and surrounding areas.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">Rural Education Fund</a> is designed to empower multi-disciplinary healthcare teams with financial support for a wide range of innovative and collaborative training opportunities</li> <li>• Rural Education and Advanced Learning (<a href="#">REAL Program</a>) – Applications open May 8th!</li> <li>• <a href="#">Rural Research Grant Program</a> - Apply for up to \$25,000 for rural health research and quality improvement project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentation: Recruitment Update</b></p>	<p><b>Jeff Gillis, Manager, Talent Acquisition, provided a recruitment update for our area. Highlights include:</b></p> <p><b>Current Recruitment Initiatives in progress:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">AHS Health Workforce Strategy (HWS)</a> - Developed to act on recruitment challenges and coordinate planning to meet workforce needs. Split into two phases:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Phase one: Immediate response to short-term challenges.</li> <li>○ Phase two: Coordinate planning under four strategic pillars to meet medium and long-term workforce needs.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Allied Health Workforce Strategic Plan</a> - The HWS is organized around three pillars: recruitment, retention, optimization.             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Recruitment by growing our talent supply by inspiring young people to consider Allied Health professions.</li> <li>○ Retaining a vibrant and engaged workforce from hire to retire, in a range of rewarding roles within the organization.</li> <li>○ Optimizing the workforce and models of care - improved clinician experience, better patient outcomes, reduced costs and improved patient experience.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Rural Talent Pipeline</a> - Targeted recruitment of candidates considering employment in our rural zones.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Nursing Students &amp; New Grads</a> - Recruitment of nursing new grads and students to support areas of need. Ad campaigns, pipeline building and rural interest calls.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) Program</a> - Targeted recruitment of IENs including support for licensure and immigration.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Community Spotlight</a> - Showcasing rural communities, unique cities, towns, villages and varied landscapes across the five AHS zones. It highlights why AHS is a great place to work and why these communities are a great place to live.</li> <li>• <a href="#">AHS Health Care Aide (HCA) Training Program</a> - HCA Training Program, uncertified HCAs can 'earn as they learn' and have their tuition and books covered by AHS.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Presentation:</b> <b>Alberta Virtual Chronic Pain Clinic (AVCPP)</b></p>	<p><b>Dr. Tina Hoang, Associate Medical Lead, Alberta Virtual Chronic Pain Program (AVCPP) provided information on the new program.</b></p> <p><b>Highlights include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AVCPP is a virtual group education treatment program for Albertans experiencing persistent pain longer than three months.</li> <li>• The program is for patients looking to better understand their pain, connect with others living with pain, and who are seeking strategies to manage pain beyond medication.</li> <li>• It is an interactive program led by health providers with peer support incorporated throughout, as well as post-completion follow-up for up to one year.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is offered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and coaching on self-management strategies in a group setting. Sessions provide practical self-management tools, delivered in an interactive and engaging way.</li> <li>• Opportunities to ask questions and discuss self-management strategies with clinicians trained in chronic pain management.</li> <li>• Opportunities to form connections with participants.</li> <li>• Connection to other AHS and community services and resources, as required.</li> <li>• Group-based peer support available throughout the program, and follow-up after completion.</li> <li>• 1-hour sessions each week for six weeks (virtual group education and self-management program).</li> <li>• 1-hour peer support group sessions each week – provides opportunity to connect with others living with pain.</li> </ul> <p><b>What is not offered?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diagnosis, medical intervention, one-on-one care, prescription advice/renewals.</li> </ul> <p>AVCPP is free and available to people residing in Alberta, 18+ years old, suffering non-cancer pain, lasting three months or longer. No formal diagnosis is required. No formal referral from a healthcare provider is required. For patients interested in joining an upcoming Virtual Chronic Pain Program self-management group session, call 1-877-719-7707 to register.</p>



**Alberta Health  
Services**

Wood Buffalo  
Health Advisory Council

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