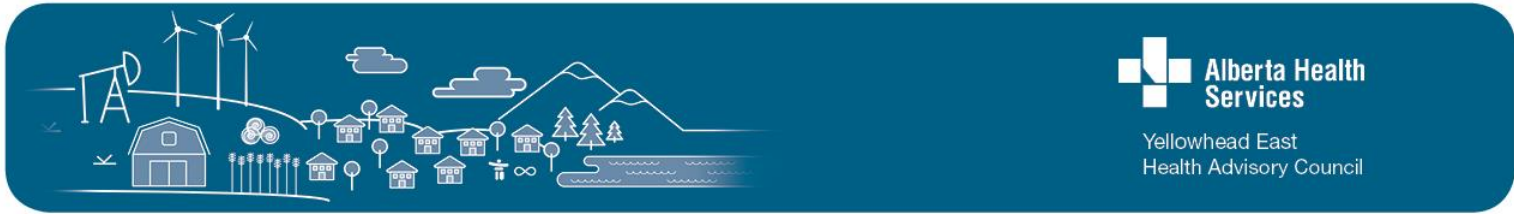


Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council (YEHAC) Meeting Minutes

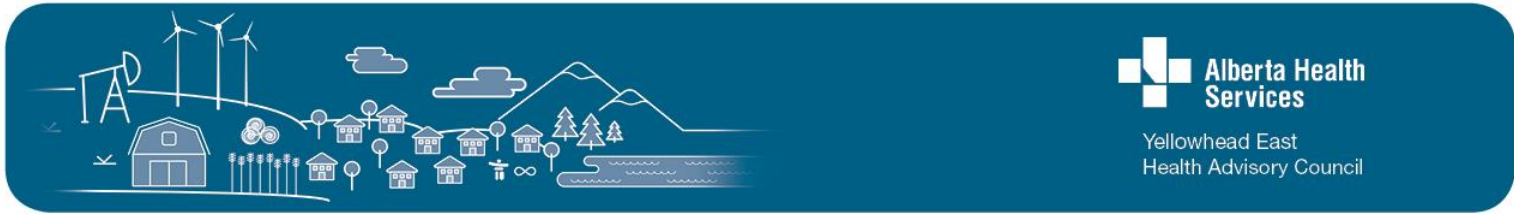
Feb. 9, 2022 /5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

| ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS | |
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| Members | Cyndy Heslin (Chair), Judy Arces, Lori Barber, Cathy Bartley, John Erkelens, Don Gulayec, Agnes Hoveland, Brett Huculak, Norm Martineau, Shana McIntyre and Stephanie Munro |
| Regrets | Taneen Rudyk (Vice-Chair), Maya Rathnavalu, Dr. Michael Mulholland (Acting Central Zone Medical Director) |
| Alberta Health Services (AHS) | Janice Stewart (Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone), Debora Okrainetz, Carla Prediger, Janis Carscadden |
| Public | 24 |
| Welcome & Introductions | Cyndy welcomed all in attendance, gave introductions, and provided a land acknowledgment. |
| Approval of Previous minutes | Two corrections to the minutes were proposed and implemented. In the attendance section, Allen Dietz was not listed, but he did attend. The full names and hometowns of the two members that started on Dec. 1 have now been included. Dec. 1/2022 minutes are approved by consensus. |
| STANDING ITEMS | |
| Action items from the previous meeting | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deanna will email YEHAC about Feb. meeting presentation topics (complete). Deanna will email YEHAC about other AHS meetings for Beaver County, Vegreville and Vermillion (complete). |
| Alberta Health Services Zone Update | <p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Janice provided a written report, including the list of projects foundations have sponsored over the year in the zone. She shared her appreciation for their work and ability to raise generous amounts of funds. New priorities from Official Administrator (OA) are on reducing emergency department wait-times, improving Emergency Medical Services (EMS) response times, increasing access to surgeries, and improving patient flow. The Red Deer Regional Hospital Emergency Department (ED) is one of 16 facilities that is being monitored for ED wait times and EMS response times. |

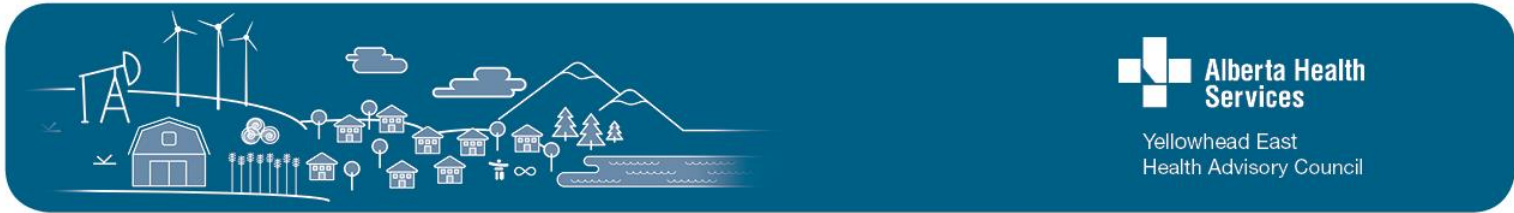
Commented [AJ(1): Monitored for what?



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interfacility transfer pilot project will start in the Zone in March. There will be an increased number of transport vehicles to allow community ambulances to stay in their communities and respond to local 911 calls vs. being tied up transporting patients. • Discussed workforce in the Zone. Vacant positions in some communities have been filled. Two Hills has a full compliment of doctors and in Wainwright management positions remain unoccupied. • One newly hired nurse will start in the summer in Hardisty, and two more nurses are needed to reopen the ED • In addition to contracted nursing staff, AHS is recruiting internationally educated nurses. • Housing for contract nurses is a concern. Placing them in hotels is costly and it's a challenge to find other options. One community offered up a house to rent and other communities will offer up housing in the local lodge. |
| Alberta Health Services Zone Update Questions and Answers | <p>Q: What is the uptake on transport vehicles? A: EMS is responsible for this.</p> <p>Q: Where will the interfacility transfer pilot project be based out of? A: The project has not started yet but most likely it will be Red Deer Regional Hospital.</p> <p>Q: What happened to the old resources from the Interfacility Transport System (ITS) AHS ran in the past? A: Its resources were subsumed by EMS.</p> <p>Q: Can you comment on the service distributions in Daysland and Tofield Emergency Department? A: They are the result of a shortage of nursing staff. AHS hired four individuals who subsequently resigned after obtaining positions in Edmonton.</p> |
| Council Round Table | <p>Council members shared the following updates from their communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lloydminster citizens are frustrated by the renal dialysis unit construction delays. The architect of the project asked Saskatchewan Health Authority, who is running the project, to find a different location. A building with a concrete floor and not wooden floors is required for the new unit. • The new East-Central Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) representative advised that a healthcare student is going to be studying in Viking for one month. |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents in Tofield and Viking can access a drop-in mental health clinic one day per week at their respective Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) office. • Beaver County is currently revising its emergency response plan. • Brett praised the Wainwright’s Registered Nursing Program and appreciates the resources available from AHS on assorted topics from cancer to elder care. • The Flagstaff Attraction and Retention Committee’s 2023 business plan is approved, and funding is in place. • A local non-profit called The First Group runs a program with two psychologists and a registered therapist. The program is sponsored by Inter Pipeline. It is proving \$40,000 per year over the next four years for mental health services for Inter Pipeline employees and surrounding community members. • In Camrose, there has been an increase in the allotment of surgeries. Consequently, recovery rooms need renovating to accommodate Connect Care and patients from the three operating rooms. • Research is underway at Augustana University to study the mental health of farmers. |
| <p>Voices of the Community</p> | <p>No community members expressed any concerns or asked questions.</p> |
| <p>Report Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP recently welcomed two new Community Consultants. The YEHAC’s representative in the East- Central area, Anya Langkow, started mid-December. Lynsey Robinson is the new South Zone representative. • The next RhPAP events are February 16 on RhPAP’s housing programs, and March 16 is on the importance of land acknowledgements. • Rhapsody Awards - nominations opened January 1, 2023. These awards provide an opportunity to recognize the individuals, teams, and volunteers who make significant healthcare and civic contributions within rural Alberta communities. The deadline to submit a nomination is February 28, 2023. • RhPAP launched an expression of interest for the Let’s Go Rural High School and Post-Secondary Programs which aligns with the Grow Your Own Initiatives. |
| <p>Report from the Chair</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taneen’s term ends at the end of February. Council thanks her for her support. Up for renewal in May are Maya and Agnes. They are renewing their commitments to YEHAC. • One applicant to the YEHAC is going to be presented to the Official Administrator (OA) for appointment on April 1. Recruitment will continue to fill vacancies. |



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| Report from Advisory Council Coordinator | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the Connect Care launch May 6, AHS community meetings in Beaver County, Vegreville, Lamont etc. are on hiatus until September. • Deanna presented potential meeting and event dates for 2023-24, discussed briefly the results from the Annual Satisfaction Survey, asked about ideas for the next event on April 13 and mentioned the upcoming Chair and Vice Chair elections to be held via email in April. |
| Action Items | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deanna to email Council the proposed YEHAC meeting dates. • Deanna to email Council about the April 13 community engagement event topic ideas and location. • Deanna to email Council Chair and Vice Chair roles and EOI forms. • Deanna to email Council members in attendance the meeting evaluation. • When the dates are available, Deanna will email Council the AHS community meetings in Lamont, Beaver County, Vegreville and Vermillion. |
| NEW BUSINESS | |
| Presentation(s) | <p>Title: Long-term Impacts of COVID</p> <p>The definition of long-COVID was provided and information on resources offered to attendees. More information can be found at one of these three sites. The links are for Access, Awareness and Additional Supports. Email: Janis.Carscadden@ahs.ca</p> |
| Presentation Q & A | <p>Q. What demographic is affected the most by long-COVID? A. People over 65 years old as they are the some of the most vulnerable.</p> <p>Q. Are there waitlists for the clinics? A. Yes, there are 30 to 40 referrals per week, and it is not slowing down.</p> |
| Date of Next Meeting | <p>Date: Thursday, April. 13, 2023 –Community Engagement Event Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Location: TBD</p> |

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.

Email us at: YellowheadEast@ahs.ca

Call: 1-877-275-8830

ahs.ca/advisorycouncils