



Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2022 /5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Cyndy Heslin (Chair), Judy Arces, John Erkelens, Deb McMann, Maya Rathnavalu, Leah Taylor
Regrets	Taneen Rudyk (Vice-Chair), Agnes Hoveland, Glenys Reeves, Lesley Hansen, Stephanie Munro
AHS	Maribela Arruda-Block, Maya Atallah, Barb Melhorn, Brant Poirier, Monica Schwann, Janice Stewart, Andrea Thain Liptak
Public	Seven
Welcome & Introductions	Cyndy welcomed all in attendance, gave introductions, and provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	October 9, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from the previous meeting	There were no action items from the October 9, 2021 meeting.
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID update in Central Zone. • Nursing staff vacancies and physician coverage continue to be the primary reasons for service disruptions in the Central Zone. While some of the challenges are linked to historical vacancies in areas that have been difficult to recruit to, increased sick time related to the pandemic has exacerbated both staff and physician coverage challenges. • Announced by government earlier this year, the Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE) program will provide \$2 million to 20 new family physicians in each of the next three years. • Connect Care wave 5 launches will be in May. For more information on implementation timelines visit Connect Care website. • Two Hills Health Centre service disruptions to the Emergency Department (ED). • Work continues to happen between AHS and the Galahad Care Centre. An announcement will come in the next few months.



	<p>Andrea Thain Liptak, Senior Operating Officer, Rural Acute Care, Primary Care, Allied, and Indigenous Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHS has opened additional continuing care beds in Drayton Valley and Ponoka, helping to provide the highest level of supportive living services to local seniors, as close to home as possible. • Effective December 20, 2021, AHS officially assumed operation of both the Dr. Cooke Extended Care Centre, and the Lloydminster Continuing Care Centre facilities from the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). <p>Barb Melhorn, Area Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided specific updates regarding Acute Care Southeast and primary care in Stettler, Castor, Coronation, Consort, Hanna, Drumheller and Three Hills. <p>Brant Poirier, Area Director:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided specific updates regarding Continuing Care Northwest, Breton LTC, Drayton Valley Home Care & LTC & Serenity House (SL), Wetaskiwin Home Care & LTC, Rimbey Home Care & LTC, Ponoka Home Care & LTC, Camrose Home Care, Bashaw Home Care and Winfield Home Care.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Colleen Lindholm, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared updates with council. Highlights include: Ms. Tracy Sopkow has accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer, effective March 1, 2022. On April 21st, 2022, AHS Talent Acquisition seniors advisors will discuss the AHS recruitment process for hiring nursing and allied health staff and how communities can get involved. Alberta Rural Health Week is May 30th – June 3rd, 2022. The Attraction and Retention Conference has been scheduled for October 4 – 6, 2022 in Drayton Valley. She also announced shared information on the Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience.
<p>Council Round Table</p>	<p>The following was shared by Council members in their communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Attraction and Retention Committee (CARC) for Tofield, Ryley, and Beaver County West won the 2021 RhPAP Rhapsody Community Award and was finally awarded the trophy on Wednesday, May 4. • Council members shared how their communities are adjusting to getting back to normalcy. • Concerns with physician shortage and service disruptions in central zone facilities.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Health Services has partnered with the University of Calgary to offer a Bachelor in Nursing (B.N.) degree program called the Rural Registered Nursing Degree Program that began on September 7, 2021 with a pilot cohort of eight students. The University of Calgary will provide delivery of the program, with AHS providing classroom space at the Wainwright Health Centre where nursing students will be trained.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Presentation: Alberta Cancer Screening Programs Monica Schwann - Director, Screening Programs, Provincial Population and Public Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monica presented to the council on the different newborn and cancer screening programs available, what cancer screening is, and how early detection is important. She shared the principles of screening and the types of screening tests common for different types of cancer. Monica also acknowledged that many barriers may affect one’s decision to participate in cancer screening and early detection, and invited attendees to discuss what other barriers may exist in the community. The presentation concluded with questions and answers, and sharing of tools and supports available to clients and families. For more information on the Alberta Cancer Screening Program visit their website.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – Engagement Event – Connect Care Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Location: Online via Zoom. Contact: community.engagement@ahs.ca for details</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.