

Seniors & Continuing Care

2020-21 Annual Report





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

Since my appointment to the AHS Board in the fall of 2020, it has been my pleasure to become familiar with the work of the Advisory Councils. By all accounts, Councils have persevered through the COVID-19 pandemic and have found success in connecting with stakeholders as they adapted to virtual meetings well through 2021.

Advisory Councils continue to be tremendous partners in health. They have been instrumental as a conduit of information from AHS to local communities, a task of particular importance during an extraordinary period of time. Through innovation and determination, each Council has remained committed to its role of advising AHS, and to bringing forward the voices of their communities.

I look forward to working with Advisory Councils in the years ahead and watching as they continue to evolve. Thank you to each member for your ongoing dedication to improving health services for all Albertans.

Sincerely,

Vicki Yellow Old Woman,
Chair, Community Engagement Committee; AHS Board



Message from the Chair, Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council



Julie Kelndorfer

I would like to acknowledge and thank all members of this Council for their efforts as we navigated alongside our partners at Alberta Health Services through a year like no other. We know COVID-19 has challenged us all locally, provincially, nationally, and globally but we saw how this pandemic particularly impacted seniors and continuing care - the very focus of our Council.

Through the year, Council has had several exciting engagement opportunities including providing feedback to the Alberta Health Facility-Based Continuing Care Review. We look forward to continued conversations as the legislation is brought forward in 2021.

I am honoured to be a part of this Council alongside this strong group of dedicated volunteers, all focused on improving the lives of Albertans in the continuing care system.

Sincerely,

Julie Kelndorfer,
Chair, Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council



Who we are

The Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council (SCC PAC) is comprised of 15 volunteer members with lived continuing care system experience, each of whom are passionate about improving continuing care service quality, accessibility, and availability.



*L-R top: Susan Sommerfeldt, Lou Henderson, Julie Kelndorfer, Linda Grant, Jim Hubbard
L-R bottom: Ray Clark, John Erkelens, Teresa Willigar, Gabrielle Kirk, Fred Bosma
Missing: Diahann Polege-Aulotte, Irene Pirie, Joan Monson, Judy Long*



Highlights



Consultation

- Provided feedback to Facility-Based Continuing Care Review
- Provided data to Statistics Canada re the impact of the pandemic on people with long-term conditions
- Consultation on the AHS Family Support and Visitation in AHS LTC and DSL Policy
- Worked with Indigenous Wellness Core in development of Supporting Indigenous



Engagement

- Participated on COVID-19 Continuing Care Visitation Policy Development Working Group
- Shared personal impacts of COVID-19 with CMHA-Alberta Division Rural Mental Health Project (survey)



Key achievements of 2020-21

The AHS Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council, in an advisory role, considers existing and emerging issues from the perspectives of those with lived experience in the continuing care community. It makes recommendations to the AHS Board, CEO and Executive Leadership on system-level opportunities to improve continuing care services provision and access for Albertans. We strive to ensure patients and families are at the centre of all health care activities, decisions, and teams.

- Participated in AHS Provincial Seniors Health & Continuing Care Seniors Health branding exercise
 - Received presentation and provided feedback to AHS PSHCC team
- Strengthened relationship with the SOGIE Provincial Advisory Council through receipt of presentation and open discussion regarding shared challenges in the health system.
- Learned about the impact of COVID-19 on informal caregivers in Alberta and support best practices
 - Received *A Tale of Two Solitudes Experienced by Alberta Family Caregivers during the COVID-19 Pandemic*
Dr. Jasneet Parmar and Dr. Sharon Anderson
- Participated in Family Caregiver Wellness Virtual Event
- South Zone Council members participated in Oldman River Health Advisory Council sessions
 - Seniors Health
 - Navigating Addiction & Mental Health Services in a Virtual Environment
- Edmonton-based Council members Edmonton Zone Continuing Care Client & Family Advisory Council
- AHS Neurosciences, Vision & Rehabilitation Strategic Clinical Network
- Represented continuing care system-access perspective on:
 - AHS Provincial Continuing Care Policy Review & Implementation Panel
 - AHS Edmonton Zone Continuing Care Client & Family Advisory Medical Equipment and Supplies Working Group
 - AHS Home Care Development Steering Committee
 - AHS Seniors Health SCN Appropriate Prescribing and Medication Use Strategy for Older Albertans
 - Ad hoc groups participation as requested/required



A look ahead

The AHS Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council encountered a 'new COVID reality' in 2020, in which members had to learn to function using virtual tools in lieu of in-person meetings. Presentations, initially suspended, have now resumed and members are settling into a new way to work together.

Over the coming year Council will promote health system integration where housing, congregate living and community support programs are coordinated under the single umbrella of community wellness.

Council celebrates the support informal caregivers provide within the continuing care system and will seek to learn and build community awareness of the value these volunteers add to quality of life for those they assist, and to the health system as a whole.

Council believes empathy and communication are the foundation for quality care and will work to bring its voice and the voices of Albertans to AHS.

2021 will see departure of two members with recruitment to follow across AHS Calgary and Central Zones. Interested in [applying](#)? Visit www.ahs.ca/advisorycouncils.

The Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council has been a great asset to AHS. Members of the Council discuss significant and relevant issues and provide input to the Provincial Seniors Health & Continuing Care team on a regular basis. In addition, and perhaps of even greater value, has been the enthusiastic participation of individual members of the Council on several major initiatives within AHS, bringing the perspective of the patient/public into the work and ensuring that is why we are doing we are doing is not forgotten.

Dr. Jim (James) Silvius

Senior Medical Director, AHS Provincial Seniors Health & Continuing Care



Advisory Council members share advice and feedback from their communities with AHS. Councils hold public meetings and engagement activities virtually or in locations throughout their geographic area that further contribute to improving healthcare services in Alberta.

Get involved

You can make a difference to the health and well-being of your family, friends, neighbours and community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS. You can get involved by:

- Attending an [upcoming meeting](#). Agendas and notices are posted on the Advisory Council webpage: ahs.ca/advisorycouncils.
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest.
- Providing input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Applying to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for two- or three-year terms.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ cc.pac@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

Check us out on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) or by searching AHS Advisory Councils.

