



David Thompson Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

October 6, 2022 /5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Red Deer

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Gerry Greschner (Chair), Peggy Makofka (Vice-Chair), Rosemary Brown, Allyssa Deheer, Christine Heggart, Judy Lorenz, Robert Yatkowsky
AHS	Jody Barrett, Deanna Dament, Andrea Jackson, Dr. Michael Mulholland, Cindy Staniforth, Janice Stewart
Regrets	Deryl Comeau, Phyllis Loewen, Selena Redel, Lori Sparrow, Darrin Thompson, Martha Winchell
Public	2
Welcome and Indigenous Land Acknowledgement	Gerry welcomed attendees, asked for introductions, and provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous meetings minutes	Council approved March 9, 2022, minutes by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from the previous meeting	No action items from previous minutes.
Central Zone Update	<p>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on recruitment and retention of health professionals. • Two clinical priorities of the Central Zone (CZ) are the Alberta Surgical Initiative (ASI), and Addiction and Mental Health (A&MH). • A&MH set up a central intake line where staff perform assessments and get patients placed in the right location with the right care, the first time. This allows therapists to provide services rather than do intake. A soft launch in January 2022 was a challenge and resources were overwhelmed. AHS continues to work on this endeavor to address the gap in service. • ASI is working to meet pre-pandemic targets to reduce the lengthy surgical waitlist. • One anesthesiologist position remains open at the Red Deer Regional Hospital.



	<p>Dr. Michael Mulholland, Zone Medical Director, Central Zone, shared a physician recruitment update.</p> <p>Jody Barrett, Director, Continuing Care Partnerships and Community Administrative Support Services (CAS) provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch 5 of Connect Care (CC) is on November 6 for 779 spaces in the CZ. • On October 17 cut over starts, which moves data from the legacy systems to CC. Due to cut over, admission is paused between October 17-November 6 for sites going to CC. • Influenza immunization in Long Term Care is starting on October 4. • An update on the new homecare managers. • Launch 6 of CC is set for May 2023 for AHS owned and operated sites in the eastern portion of the CZ. <p>Cindy Staniforth, Director, Community Addiction and Mental Health, Red Deer Adult AMH Services, Central Zone:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided an update for child and adult addiction and mental health in the CZ. • One day per week of urgent walk-in care is set up in various rural areas in the CZ to provide immediate crisis help to patients. • Regional police and crisis response teams are expanding. • Red Deer Street Net program frontline staff (RNs and Social Workers) are providing the homeless with additional support. It is anticipated this will lower emergency department visits. • Developing collaborative partnerships with community organizations is ongoing and important. • A 75-bed treatment facility will open in North Red Deer in November. The Dream Center is a 40-50 bed treatment facility for males that opens November 12. Expansion is underway of a young adult residential treatment program by Nordegg.
<p>Central Zone Executive Leadership Q & A</p>	<p><u>Recruitment and Retention</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHS, in partnership with municipalities and community organizations, implements many different recruitment and talent acquisition programs both internally and externally. Recruitment is a top AHS priority. In rural high schools across the province there are skills days promoting healthcare careers to student grades 9 to 12. AHS is working with post-secondary schools and the Alberta government to increase the number of students admitted into highly competitive programs, to fill vacancies. AHS and accreditation bodies are



	<p>working together to certify foreign trained clinicians. Finally, it is leveraging the current staff and using creative measures to cover vacancies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two Council members heard on the radio and in the news there are no surgeries as of the end of October, in Rocky Mountain House Hospital. This report is false and there are no plans to close surgeries.
Action Items	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Janice to put the public member, Michele, in touch with talent acquisition.
Council Round Table	<p>David Thompson Health Advisory Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rosemary informed that construction on the operating room started in Rocky Mountain House (RMH). • Peggy reported a new doctor is in Rimbey with 400 people on the wait list. • Also in Rimbey, Opening Minds to Art hosted by FCSS pairs volunteers with dementia patients to create art. It is running an art show and sale on October 28. • Judy shared a grant was approved for Eckville to hire a fulltime Nurse Practitioner and now it is looking for office space. • Robert shared that Hanna lost one doctor, but did get another, so there are now four doctors in Hanna. • Christine shared that a pharmacy in the Central Zone has vacancies for three positions. It has been searching for over a year and may have filled one position.
Voices of the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carol explained the Rise Program in Coronation has started and is run by a recreation therapist. It helps get seniors socializing. Local foundations and auxiliaries are supporting it. As well, Coronation has a full complement of doctors, but their terms end soon so the situation will continue to be monitored. There are increasing patients coming from Consort to Coronation. • Virtual healthcare options are more available, and this is a positive sign.
Report from the Chair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gerry provided an update on DTHAC membership and the RhPAP conference in Drayton Valley in October. The conference focused on connections between communities, and that communities can help facilitate the relocation of doctors if needed. • Gerry attends monthly meetings with Janice Stewart. She appreciates getting updates on closures in the CZ.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gerry attended the Minister’s Tour in Olds. The top topics were access to healthcare, Emergency Medical Services and virtual health.
Advisory Council Coordinator Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deanna Dament provided an update on new membership, orientation and the website. Five recommendations made to the AHS Board have been approved. They started October 1. Five members terms are coming to an end, and they were thanked for their service. They are Carole Tkach, Marie Cornleson, Melanie Hassett, Phyllis Loewen and Selena Redel.
NEW BUSINESS	
Report from Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andrea provided an update on the upcoming AHS Influenza Campaign, asked for feedback from Council and requested members take part in a Zoom meeting on October 7, 2022, if possible.
Review DTHAC Commitments and Priorities 2021 - 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A&MH is the focus for the December meeting, new services and how things are being addressed in the CZ. Council will look at Seniors and Continuing Care (SCC) in the spring and focus on the decisions behind transfers between facilities that sometimes move patients away from family. There are two community engagement events coming up, one in December 2022 and in February 2023.
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: December 8, 2022 – Engagement Event Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Location: Online via Zoom Contact: david.thompson@ahs.ca for details.</p>

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
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