



Peace Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 10, 2022 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Barry Yaehne (Chair), Charlene Cavers (Vice Chair), Sandra Baker, Danielle Commandeur, Alison Cormack, Carla Day, Karen Egge and Maurissa Heitland
AHS	Aaryn Lynham, Susan Given, Susan Smith
Regrets	Marc Boychuk, Tammy Calliou, Maxine Elter and Krista Schuett
Public	10
Media	N/A
Welcome	Barry welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions. Barry provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of minutes	February 15, 2022, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	✓ Peace HAC quarterly meeting dates to be determined and posted publicly. Done
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	Susan Given, Executive Director, Addictions and Mental Health, North Zone , provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. Susan also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and performance measures and initiatives.
Community Partners	<p>Holly Handfield, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided information on several free virtual learning opportunities available for rural community members. Visit the events page for more detail.</p> <p>Alberta Rural Health Week is May 30 – June 3, 2022. Use the hashtag #RuralHealthMatters to celebrate and visit ruralhealthweek.ab.ca for more information. Access the RhPAP toolkit at rhpap.ca/about/alberta-rural-health-week</p> <p>The 2022 Rural Community Health Provider Attraction and Retention (A&R) Conference, “Put on Your Perspectacles” is October 4 – 6 in Drayton Valley. Registration opens May 5, 2022. Visit rhpap.ca for more information</p>



	<p>RhPAP has developed a Rural VIP (Rural Information Panel) as a regular monthly feedback process using online surveys. All Health Advisory Council members, community champions of local health, are encouraged to join. Sign up here using the password "RURALVIP". Email ruralvip@rhpap.ca with questions.</p>
<p>Physician Recruitment Report</p>	<p>Susan Smith, Physician Resource Planner, provided the following physician resource update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fox Creek, Sexsmith, Beaverlodge / Hythe – currently recruiting family medicine physicians. • Fairview – two new physicians have started working in the community (one on April 4, another on May 1). • Grande Cache – three physicians have been recruited and are incoming to the community. • Grande Prairie – a new anesthesiologist is incoming, as well as one new OB/GYN, a pathologist and two pediatric physicians. One new psychiatrist and one new radiologist are also incoming. • Grimshaw – a new physician began practicing in the community on April 19. • Manning – one new physician is incoming. • McLennan – two new physicians have begun practicing, one on March 17 and the other on March 28. • Spirit River – two new physicians are incoming. <p>Since the beginning of 2022, fourteen family medicine physicians have been recruited, and one specialist for the area.</p>
<p>Presentation(s)</p>	<p>Alberta Healthy Living Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kathleen Arnold, Sheri Neuman & Krystal Smith; Self-Management & Diverse Populations Coordinators, AHS <p>Highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learned about the Alberta Healthy Living Program (AHLP) and its free workshops designed to help Albertans better manage their chronic conditions. Programming topics include: diabetes, heart and stroke education, weight management, stress management, chronic pain or chronic conditions management, supervised exercise and COPD education. To learn more about the AHLP in the North Zone, visit www.healthylivingprogram.ca • A new program, the Diabetes Self-Management Health Coach Program, is a free phone support program to help Albertans manage their diabetes and connect with a peer coach. Visit the link to register. • NOTE: AHLP can work with local community groups who want personalized programming for a specific session, tailored to meet their group's education needs.



	<p>Discussion Questions:</p> <p><i>Q. How do people with internet or technology barriers learn about, or have access to, this programming?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnerships with community halls, libraries and other public buildings where people could gather together for programming with a regular schedule to make connections with other community members could be effective. <p><i>Q. How do people become informed and interested in engaging with the new Diabetes Peer Health Coaching program?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council felt that the peer-to-peer aspect was very positive and would be a productive connection for both coach and client. Sharing information through community avenues varies by community, but the ideas of posters, social media posts, advertisements in the local newspaper or in e-newsletters were shared. <p><i>Q. How can better partnerships be built with Indigenous groups? What does the AHL program need to do differently to provide value to these communities?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key aspect of working with Indigenous communities is to go in with listening ears. To create a positive working relationship, it takes time to build trust, with consistent connections being made with regular meetings. Another suggestion was to meet people where they are at, and to show a genuine interest. One Council member found success in her career with building relationships by attending powwows, and other culturally significant events, to make connections that were outside of the business focus.
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p><i>Q: Is there a good working relationship with the RCMP or other law enforcement agencies when working with vulnerable populations, and those with addictions or mental health challenges?</i></p> <p>A: Grande Prairie has a Police and Crisis Team (PACT) that pairs officers with a registered psychiatric nurse to respond to crisis calls and wellness checks. The team supports the client in the community, meeting them where they are at, to consider the social aspects and mental health needs of the individual.</p> <p><i>Q: Does AHS recruit mental health workers for schools?</i></p> <p>A: AHS recruits healthcare professionals to serve the larger community. Alberta Education directs funding to school divisions directly, with the idea that they can then contract services that are needed (i.e. occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, mental health supports).</p>



Chair Report	Barry Yaehne shared his written report, thanking and acknowledging his fellow Council members. Peace HAC is also actively recruiting for new members, particularly in Fairview, Grimshaw, Falher, McLennan, Hythe, Beaverlodge, Valleyview, Fox Creek, Worsley and other rural communities in the HAC area. Learn more about Peace HAC and submit an application to join.
Council Round Table and Good News	<p>Sandy Baker spoke about the Hythe Dementia Care Centre and their Eden philosophy approach. She also recently attended the Lesser Slave Lake HAC meeting and encouraged fellow Council members to make connections, attend other Council meetings, and learn what is happening in other areas. Sandy also shared that the new Chair for the Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) is from Grande Prairie.</p> <p>Danielle Commandeur shared information about the Kyler Kindness Fund, set up in her son’s name after he was killed in June 2020. The fund supports youth ages 16-25 in pursuit of their career or life goals. The aim is to support youth who have struggled in school or with their mental health, in their efforts to move forward and achieve career goals.</p>
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Given to gather and share information regarding an Alzheimer’s support group around the Peace River area with Elaine Manzer, Mayor of Peace River. • Aaryn to extend an invitation for the next Peace HAC meeting to the new AMH PAC Chair, who lives in Grande Prairie. • Aaryn to circulate information about the Kyler Kindness Fund to Council.
NEW BUSINESS	
Date of Next Meeting	Date: Tuesday, September 13, 2022 Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Location: TBD

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).
[Find your Health Advisory Council here](#). Visit [Together4Health](#) (T4H) to engage with AHS online.