



## Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 29, 2022 /5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Vegreville

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Cyndy Heslin (Chair), Taneen Rudyk (Vice-Chair), Judy Acres, Allen Dietz, Lesley Hansen, Deb McMann, Stephanie Munro
<b>Regrets</b>	John Erkelens, Leanne Grant, Agnes Hoveland, Colleen Lindholm, Maya Rathnavalu, Glenys Reeves, Leah Taylor
<b>AHS</b>	Andrea Jackson, Deanna Dament, Valerie Thompson
<b>Public</b>	15
<b>Welcome, Indigenous Land Acknowledgement &amp; Introductions</b>	Cyndy welcomed attendees, conducted introductions and provided a land acknowledgment.
<b>Approval of Previous Minutes</b>	Council approved March 17, 2022, minutes by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from the previous meeting</b>	No action items from previous minutes.
<b>Central Zone Executive Leadership Update</b>	<p><b>Valerie Thompson, Acute Care Director Central Zone Northeast, shared the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valerie provided an update on the Health Minister’s Tour, Connect Care, COVID-19, Allied Health, Seniors and Continuing Care, skills day at rural schools, recruitment of healthcare staff and post-secondary programs in the Central Zone.</li> <li>Valerie discussed the Stroke and Geriatric Empowerment program (SAGE) program. It is a post-stroke Occupational Therapist-run rehabilitation program, and the Zone is struggling to fill the Occupational Therapist (OT) position. There are forty-four OT vacancies in the Zone out of 283 OT vacancies across Alberta. The program will cease to be operational in Two Hills until an OT is hired.</li> <li>Valerie informed about a service disruption in Daysland.</li> <li>Lamont Hospital’s 100-year celebration was fun and fabulous.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Central Zone Executive Leadership Q &amp; A</b></p>	<p><b><u>Health Record Databases</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinicians in Lloydminster will have access to NetCare but not Connect Care. Presently, there is no plan to implement Connect Care in the border city. However, in the areas where Connect Care is being launched, Albertan’s will have one electronic health record that they and their professional health care providers can access.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Transportation to Appointments</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seniors who live at home and who have no family or friends to help them, struggle getting to medical appointments. There is a van in Vermillion that can be hired to transport people. Use of it decreases the use of ambulances to transport citizens to appointments. In other communities, a transportation service is occasionally available to residents as a pilot project but usually it is fully booked.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Recruitment and Retention</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vegreville is in need of two family physicians. Currently, because one position is being advertised internationally, there is a three-month wait to post the second position internationally.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Items</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valerie to find out the name of the Vermillion transportation service and who runs it.</li> <li>• Valerie to speak with Medical Affairs and find out if physician job postings need to be three months apart when the job is advertised internationally.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Round Table and Good News Stories</b></p>	<p>The following was shared by YEHAC members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allen Dietz provided a Flagstaff area update. The Recruitment and Retention Committee of Flagstaff will be revised soon. Allen to speak with Kerry Bales, Chief Program Officer, about access to mental health services.</li> <li>• Judy Acres shared an update from Viking – the community is cautiously optimistic about getting new ambulances and hopeful that new graduates from the Wainwright healthcare program will stay in the area. Judy also expressed disappointment that the contract for a mental health service provider in Viking was cancelled with notification, by AHS.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taneen presented an update on Vegreville and area. The Vegreville Homestead Lodge’s renovations are completed; it is at its highest capacity in seven years. There is also a new physical therapist and a new doctor in Vergreville. Lastly, there is hope that the local healthcare aid program will be offered to local students in January 2023.</li> <li>• Debbie McMann provided an update on Innisfree area. She is concerned there aren’t a lot of mental health services available for local seniors and adults. She adds, a walking group will be revised soon to get people in Innisfree exercising.</li> <li>• Cyndy Heslin gave an update for Beaver County. The Attraction and Retention Committee of Beaver County is holding a skills-day that will include the new Holden School. The three doctors in Rimbey are very busy but they get the weekends off because of a locum program.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Voices of the Community</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian provided an update on Hardisty’s economic impact on the province and is disappointed there is no emergency department at the Hardisty Hospital, despite there being several oil and gas companies in the area who employ 1500 workers that are in/out of Hardisty.</li> <li>• Shana reported two mental health first aid courses were offered to the public in Chipman.</li> <li>• The Rural Municipalities Association (RMA) is requesting that the Government of Alberta establish a salary-based funding model that will fairly and equitably compensate Nurse Practitioners in rural health facilities and independent clinics.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Report from Chair</b></p>	<p><b>Cyndy Heslin, Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cyndy gave a YEHAC membership update on outgoing, renewing and new members. Deborah McMann and Glenys Reeves’ terms are ending at the end of September. Cyndy thanked them for their service. As well, YEHAC is recommending the names of four new Council members to the AHS Board for Dec. 1.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advisory Council Coordinator</b></p>	<p><b>Deanna Dament, Advisor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deanna provided a Health Advisory Council update on ongoing recruitment efforts and new member orientation.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deanna made a request to the Health Advisory Council asking members to email her if they were interested in attending a quarterly virtual meeting to discuss health services offered in Lamont, Vergreville and/or Beaver County. At one time all three meetings had YEHAC representation, and that volunteer can no longer attend so a new volunteer is needed to represent YEHAC.</li> </ul>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Review of YEHAC Commitments and Priorities 2021 - 2023</b>	<p>Cyndy reviewed the goals in each section of the Work Commitments, and how to move them forward. This included discussion of forming working groups with members taking the lead on each of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addiction and Mental Health</li> <li>Seniors and Continuing Care</li> <li>COVID Coping Fatigue</li> </ul>
<b>Action Item</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deanna to email Council to determine the areas of interest each member wants to work on.</li> </ul>
<b>December 1 Meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council must decide via email if YEHAC is having a general meeting or a community engagement event on Dec 1.</li> <li>A topic needs to be determined for either activity.</li> </ul>
<b>Action Items</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deanna to email Council to determine if the Dec. 1, 2022 session will be an engagement event or a regular public meeting.</li> <li>Deanna to email Council to determine the topic of the Dec. 1 event or meeting.</li> </ul>
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p>           Date: Tuesday, December 1, 2022            Time: 5:00 p.m. –8 p.m.            Location: TBD            Contact: <a href="mailto:Yellowhead.East@ahs.ca">Yellowhead.East@ahs.ca</a> 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.