

David Thompson

2021-22 Annual Report

(July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022)





Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



Vicki Yellow Old Woman

It's been another remarkable year for health services in Alberta. While the COVID-19 pandemic carried on, vaccines became available which has been monumental in slowing the spread of the virus and preventing severe illness. Through it all, AHS Advisory Councils remained connected with their communities and have demonstrated an incredible spirit of volunteerism through their engagement activities.

Through Advisory Councils, AHS has received feedback on a number of important initiatives which are outlined in each of these reports. We are grateful for the involvement of our Councils in advising AHS on a range of matters of importance to all Albertans.

On behalf of the AHS Board, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all Advisory Council members for continuing to foster relationships with stakeholders across Alberta. These grassroots connections have been vital to AHS' ability to make well-rounded decisions on health services that impact so many of us. Your commitment is greatly appreciated and we look forward to the year ahead.

Sincerely,

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



Message from the Chair, David Thompson Health Advisory Council



Geraldine Greschner

I don't believe any of us thought we would still be in pandemic-mode after almost two years, but here we are. Our David Thompson Health Advisory Council (DTHAC) continued to meet virtually, and we have hosted several very successful community engagement sessions throughout this period of time. There definitely is merit in the virtual option as we have been able to have more community members attend meetings – with no driving involved.

Our roundtable talks have shared the happenings in our communities and the similar struggles being faced by so many. Mental health is a top priority throughout our health area and has been a focus of our Council this year.

Thank you to DTHAC members for your ongoing commitment to healthcare in your communities, and our area. Thank you also to our Coordinator, the Community Engagement team and Zone Leadership for keeping us up-to-date with the constant changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for supporting us through it all. We appreciate you!

Sincerely,

Geraldine Greschner
Chair, David Thompson Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The David Thompson Health Advisory Council (DTHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) surrounding Red Deer. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



*Top L-R: Allyssa Deheer, Carole Tkach, Derly Comeau, Gerry Greschner, Janey Olson
Middle L-R: Martha Winchell, Michelle Narang (departed), Peggy Makofka, Phyllis Loewen
Bottom L-R: Rosemary Brown, Selena Redel, Shelagh Slater (departed)
Missing: Marie Cornelson, Melanie Hassett
Terms ended in 2021-22: Al Campbell, Dawn Konelsky, Gerry Johnston*



Key achievements of 2021-22

2021-22 saw a total of 121 community members attend our meetings and events. This helped us continue in our commitment to ensuring the voice of local communities was heard.



We partnered with AHS to host two successful community engagement events. In January, we hosted a session on Palliative Care Advanced Care Planning and Goals of Care. This was an opportunity to learn about palliative care services and advance care planning within the Zone, which includes goals of care and personal directives.

In May, we hosted a session on Connect Care in Central Zone. This session introduced Council and community members to a basic understanding of Connect Care – a central access point for more complete, up-to-date patient information and best practice. This session also provided an opportunity for attendees to learn about [MyAHS Connect](#).



During our general meetings, we had the opportunity to provide feedback on planning of the Addiction & Mental Health (AMH) Strategic Plan, how it fits into the AHS 10-year vision, and the strategic alignment of high-level goals and objectives and what they mean for communities.

A presentation on the Addiction & Mental Health (AMH) plan and new initiatives was shared with Council in March. We learned about initiatives related to justice within mental health, including the Mental Health Act, Community Treatment Orders and Provincial Corrections. This was a great opportunity to learn what is available and how these services are accessed.



COVID-19 remained a central focus and we received ongoing updates throughout the year. We participated in virtual COVID-19 Community Conversations pertaining to Central Zone, where community members had questions and concerns addressed. Resources were provided that we shared within our communities. We were also part of conversations regarding temporary service disruptions that occurred at various facilities within the Zone.



Council provided input on a variety of initiatives and conversations, including:

- The Red Deer Regional Hospital Centre (RDRHC) project
- EMS Dispatch Consolidation
- Grateful Patients consultation with AHS Foundation Relations
- Alberta Cancer Diagnosis Initiative
- AHS Code of Conduct engagement session
- Drayton Valley Community Cancer Centre

AHS Community Engagement held its annual Advisory Council Forum in May 2022. The event was held in Edmonton over two days. Themed as ‘Bridging Communities,’ sessions included AHS experts and award-winning external speakers on timely topics such as Indigenous health, mental wellness, virtual health, opioid resources, and allyship in healthcare.

A look ahead

We are excited about what the coming year has in store for both AHS and Council. We will continue our focus on bringing community voices on healthcare service delivery to AHS through both virtual and in person meetings. The relationships we have, and continue to build, with local communities and their leaders are key in ensuring our engagement conversations remain robust as they provide essential community perspective to AHS from across the Zone.

It is through this diverse membership that our Council is able to continue being a great resource to AHS. We will continue to enhance our diversity through recruitment efforts to fill vacancies.

Plans for the coming year include:

- Focus on mental health and addiction resources – connecting with various community leaders and organizations to learn their perspectives, understand gaps in service, promote programs, and share resources. We have a particular interest in connecting with schools, younger adults and adolescents through a partnership with AHS' Addiction and Mental Health team.
- Continued work with health partners, Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), Primary Care Networks (PCN), and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS).
- Sharing of information about Seniors and Continuing Care programs and services and learning of the needs of communities in our area.
- Continuing to build relationships with other AHS Advisory Councils by sharing information through member involvement at Council meetings and events.

We are excited to welcome three new members to Council. Allyssa Deheer and Martha Winchell join us from Red Deer, along with Rosemary Brown from Rocky Mountain House. A few members left over the year as their terms came to an end or priorities changed. We wish them all the best and thank them for their contributions to AHS and to Council.



It has been a pleasure working with the Central Zone HAC Chairs and Advisory Councils over the 2021-22 year. Their ability to keep us connected to the communities we serve, and to provide feedback and advice on services within the zone has been invaluable. We truly appreciate all the time and effort members have committed to engaging with their communities, and speaking on their behalf.

Janice Stewart
Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone

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 or concern.
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#).
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.

Learn more

Visit ahs.ca/advisorycouncils

✉ davidthompson@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

