



## Wood Buffalo Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 23, 2023/ 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

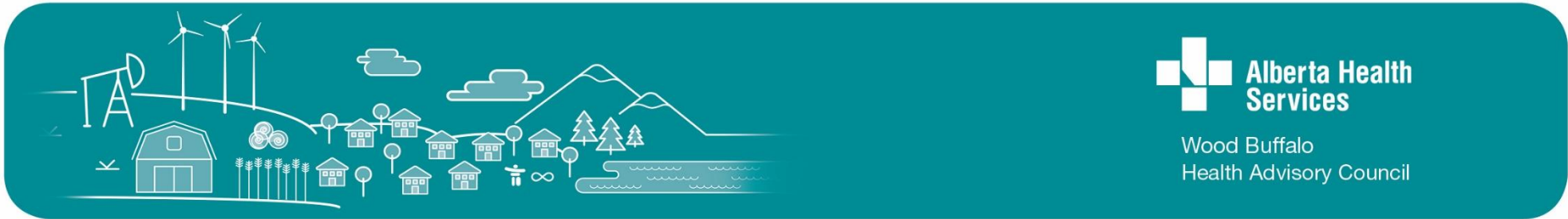
ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Jennifer Best, Breanna Wallace, Evelyn Okoh
<b>AHS</b>	Melony Hately, Jordanna Lambert, Jessica Landry, Logan Clow, Valarian Nyaga, Fauzia Haq Nawaz
<b>Regrets</b>	Todd Hillier (Chair), Sonia Burke-Smith (Vice Chair), Christine Alexander, Patience Akenbor, Natalie Gentili, Ashley Makey, Ken Okwonkwo, Melinda Stewart, Beverley Tupper
<b>Public</b>	13
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Jennifer Best welcomed all in attendance and went through introductions.
<b>Approval of previous minutes</b>	September 20, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from previous meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jordanna Lambert and Sonia Burke Smith to connect to explore possible ways to preserve the mural and have local art displayed in the NLRHC. <b>Complete.</b></li> </ul>
<b>Alberta Health Services Area 10 Update</b>	<p><b>Jordanna Lambert, Senior Operating Officer Area 10, North Zone, shared the following:</b></p> <p>A written report was provided with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. She also provided highlights from the North Zone Operational Plan and performance measures and initiatives. An update on the Connect Care launch 7 as well as several Public Health and Seniors Health initiatives were shared.</p> <p><u>Questions and Comments:</u></p> <p>Q. Is there a breakdown of the vacancy rates for physicians compared to other health professions in the North Zone?          A. The largest gap after physicians is registered nurses; AHS is working on bringing internationally educated nurses (IEN) to the community.</p> <p>Q. Schools have noted a lack of support for students with complex behaviour issues. What can be done to work together to ensure all students have the support they need?</p>



	<p>A. AHS is seeing the same thing and is working on child and youth mental health programming. Despite a global shortage of child psychiatrists, AHS is still trying to recruit. Jordanna Lambert to follow up with Cathie Landmead.</p>
<p><b>Physician Recruitment Report</b></p>	<p><b>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner, North Zone Medical Affairs, provided the following recruitment update for Fort McMurray:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One successful physician recruited for adult psychiatry.</li> <li>• Ongoing recruitment for child and adolescent psychiatry, general and adult psychiatry, anesthesiology and hospitalist physicians.</li> </ul> <p><u>Questions:</u></p> <p>Q. Does AHS do exit interviews when a healthcare worker leaves?</p> <p>A. The facility medical director does them with physicians. Two-thirds of the time physicians leave for family reasons. Other reasons include cumbersome travel plans in and out of the community (e.g., three flights required to get to Fort McMurray), personal reasons and relocation. AHS monitors these trends.</p> <p>Q. What is being done to work with local universities to produce local students and professionals who remain in local communities?</p> <p>A. The Northern Lights Regional Health Centre Facility Medical Director is working with the U of C and U of A residency program to bring resident doctors to the community and keep them in the community. There is a program called RESIDE through RhPAP, a ‘grow your own’ initiative where students return to the community after university and training. Learn more: <a href="#">RESIDE Program - Rural Health Professions Action Plan (rhpap.ca)</a>.</p>
<p><b>Community Partners</b></p>	<p><b>Anita Fagnan, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), shared updates with Council.</b></p> <p><b>Highlights includes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">RhPAP</a> offers continuing professional development for practicing rural Alberta physicians and other health professionals to upgrade existing skills or gain new skills to meet the medical needs of their community and surrounding areas.</li> <li>• <a href="#">BIEN Program Funding</a>: The Bursary for Internationally Educated Nurses (BIEN) provides funding to internationally educated nurses already in Alberta, as they complete bridging training required to practice as a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse, in exchange for a period spent working in rural Alberta.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Emergency Department Echo (EDE)</a> course is offered through the Canadian Point of Care Ultrasound Society. The course aims to help physicians and other healthcare providers develop a basic understanding of ultrasound image generation</li> </ul>



	<p>and interpretation to enhance rural patient care. RhPAP will subsidize 50 per cent of the cost for rural Alberta healthcare providers to take this course in their community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Financial Incentive for Rural Staff Training (FIRST)</a> funding program supported the Westlock healthcare team to upgrade its advanced skills for treating shock. Check out the video <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>• <a href="#">REAL (Rural Education and Advanced Learning)</a> program funding is an initiative aimed at nurses, midwives, nurse practitioners and allied health professionals working in rural Alberta. Applicants may apply for program funding for courses or training opportunities. The next round of applications opens on January 9, 2024.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Council Round Table</b></p>	<p>Jennifer Best shared that the Athabasca Tribal Council has secured funding for 13 positions for three mobile crisis response teams. One team in Fort McMurray, Fort Chipewyan and Janvier. These new teams will help provide coordinated services and build local capacity to connect with community helpers. This will be good for the whole region.</p>
<p><b>Presentation</b></p>	<p><b>Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression (SOGIE) Provincial Advisory Council (PAC) - Jenn Kneller, Chair</b> <a href="http://albertahealthservices.ca">Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Addiction and Mental Health (albertahealthservices.ca)</a></p> <p>Definitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual orientation describes a person’s emotional and/or sexual attraction to others. Gender identity and sexual orientation are NOT the same thing. Sexual orientation can be fluid and may change over time.</li> <li>• Gender identity is a personal sense of one’s gender. Unlike gender expression, gender identity is not visible to others.</li> <li>• Gender expression refers to the way a person communicates their gender identity to others through behaviour, clothing, hairstyles, voice, language, pronouns or body characteristics.</li> </ul> <p>The SOGIE PAC works in partnership with Alberta Health Services (AHS) and Alberta Health (AH) to create a safer and more welcoming healthcare environment for sexual and gender minority (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and 2 Spirit, or LGBTQ2S+) patients and their families.</p> <p><u>Questions from Council</u></p> <p>Q. Is there any specific frontline healthcare providers need to do to focus on better supporting this community?</p> <p>A. Be respectful of pronouns, have staff ask questions if they’re not sure. Educate staff. Reach out to the Council if they have questions.</p>



	<p>Q. Can you provide some guidance how to provide peer support? Are there programs and services we can direct people to when they are looking for assistance?</p> <p>A. The AHS website has lots of resources available <a href="#">LGBTQ2S+   Alberta Health Services</a></p>
<p><b>Action Items:</b></p>	<p>Jordanna Lambert to follow up with Cathie Landmead regarding supports for students with complex needs.</p>
<p><b>Date of Next Event</b></p>	<p>Date: February 21, 2024          Time: 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.          Location: Zoom</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.