

Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



Message from the Official Administrator

Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

Message from the Chair

Allen Dietz, Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council



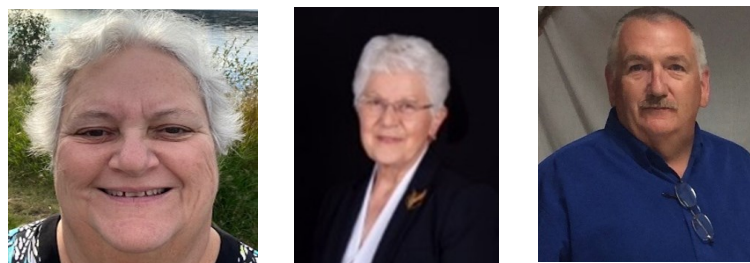
This past year has been an interesting year for me as a newly appointed Council member, then elected to the position of Chair in May 2023. I have appreciated those experienced Council members and the leadership of our outgoing Chair, Cyndy Heslin, to guide us as a Council as we fulfill our mandate.

The following summary is a review of the in-person and virtual meetings and events that were held for this annual report year. In September we held our first in-person Council meeting since 2019, in Vegreville. In December we held a virtual community engagement event on the services offered to Senior Citizens in the Yellowhead East area. Our first meeting of 2023 occurred virtually in February with a presentation on the long-term impacts of COVID-19. Lastly, in April, we held a virtual community engagement event focused on the Connect Care program being launched by Alberta Health Services (AHS) in May of 2023.

All of our guest speakers were excellent, and we are grateful for their time. As you can see, the Yellowhead East Health Advisory Council (YEHAC) reviewed a wide cross section of topics all of which were very enlightening to everyone in attendance. A special thanks goes out to those community members who attended the virtual meetings.

The Council met their commitments for the year and look forward to the upcoming year.

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



*Top L-R: Allen Dietz (Chair), Brett Huculak (Vice Chair), Judy Acres, Lori Barber
Row 2 L-R: Cathy Bartley, John Erkelens, Don Gulayec,
Row 3 L-R: Cyndy Heslin, Agnes Hoveland, Norm Martineau
Bottom L-R: Shana McIntyre, Stephanie Munro, Maya Rathnavalu*

“Partnering with the Central Zone Health Advisory Council chairs and members over the 2022-23 year has been a great honour. Their ability to keep us connected to the communities we support and provide feedback and advice on AHS services offered in the zone is undeniably beneficial. We are grateful for their volunteer time and efforts acting as key stakeholders between AHS and the residents of the Central Zone.

Janice Stewart and Dr. Mulholland

Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone and Acting Central Zone Medical Director

FACTS AND FIGURES



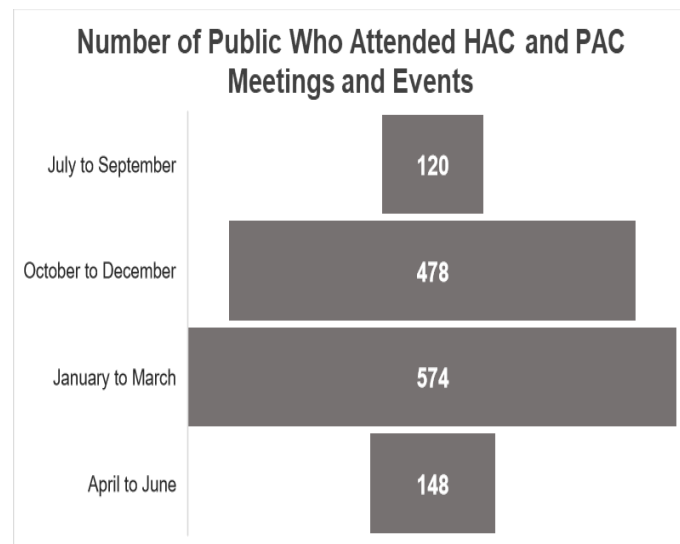
Council Member Representation

Camrose	Lloydminster
Chipman	Provost
Derwent	Ryley
Galahad	Tofield
Irma	Viking

By the numbers
 Participation in YEHAC meetings & events:

- 2** public meetings
- 39** public attended
- 2** engagement events
- 30** public attended
- 7** new members

Provincial participation at Advisory Council meetings & events*



*Reflective of the number of public that attended Health and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

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.

- ✓ 90-day Report session with Official Administrator (OA), Dr. John Cowell he reviewed his findings from his first 90 days as OA.
- ✓ Partnered with AHS Population and Public Health portfolio to learn about COVID-19, as well as about resources and services available in the Council area. The Council acquired information about screening, rehabilitation services and the Inter-Professional Outpatient Program (i-pop).
- ✓ Launch six of Connect Care greatly impacted the Yellowhead East area and to prepare the community YEHAC held a presentation with information from doctors, nurses, advisors and patients.
- ✓ Invited AHS Senior's and Continuing Care staff to present on dementia care and respite for caregivers. The presentation addressed topics such as stay-at-home supports and social activities to stay connected. The Council learned about Dementia Day Programs and Golden Circle Seniors Center.
- ✓ AHS staff from the Continuing Care Access Centre and our community partner from Kalyna Primary Care Network shared information on continuing care, home care, pain clinics and foot care services in the Yellowhead East area.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (FOR ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



2022-23 Influenza Immun- ization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the province-wide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



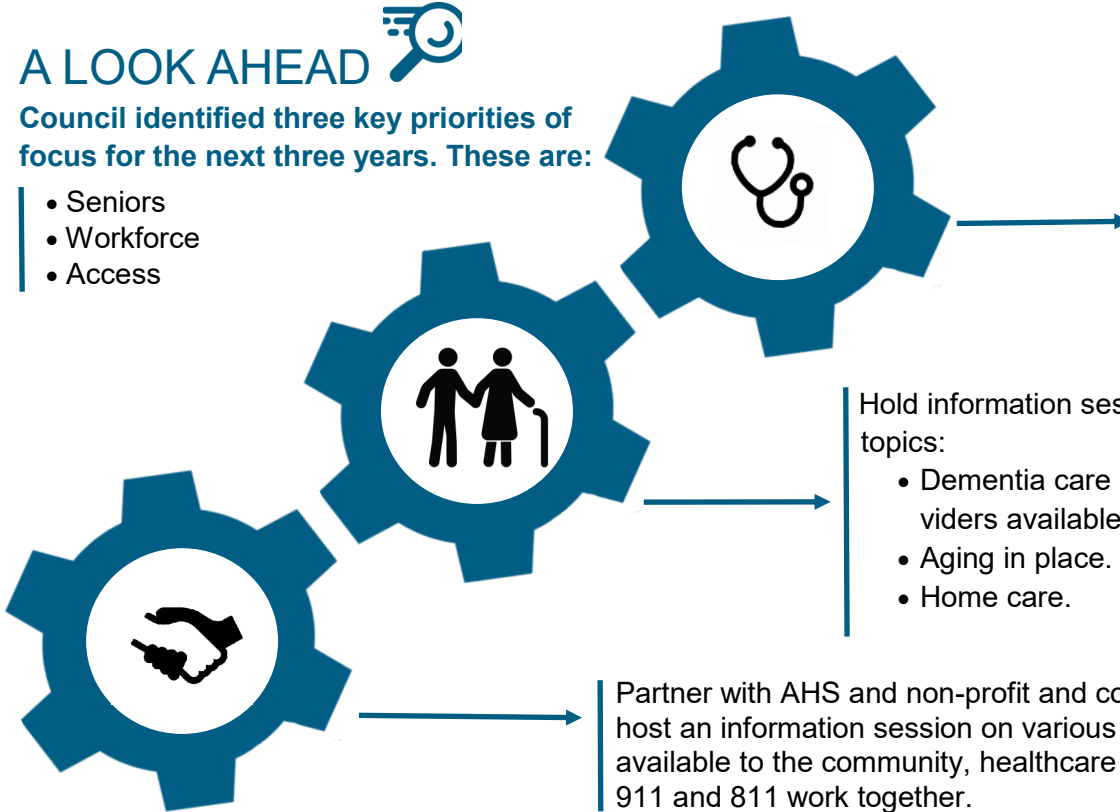
Spiritual Care Policy

Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Care Providers Access Policy.

A LOOK AHEAD

Council identified three key priorities of focus for the next three years. These are:

- Seniors
- Workforce
- Access



YEHAC commits to:
Hold discussion about strategies AHS, regulators and RhPAP are using to attract healthcare workers, and stopgaps and information on rural post-secondary healthcare programs.

Hold information sessions on the following topics:

- Dementia care and respite for care providers available in the Central Zone.
- Aging in place.
- Home care.

GET INVOLVED

Make a difference to the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email: yellowheadeast@ahs.ca
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attend an [upcoming meeting](#)
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

APPLY

