



Oldman River Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 17, 2023 / 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. / Chinook Regional Hospital

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Colleen Bianchi (Chair), Stephanie Leavitt (Vice Chair), Jacen Abrey, Jim Bennett, Barbara Boyer, Anne Michealis, Virginia Ridge, Doug Thornton
AHS	Jeremy Chief Calf, Kara Eagle Bear, Samantha First Charger, Karen Fritz, Linda Iwasiw, Dr. Aaron Low, Thomas Mountain, Christine Osunde, Linda Tessman-Potvin, Victoria Trautman, Germain Wells, Kienan Williams, Gwen Wirth, Colin Zieber
Regrets	Rebecca Bultsma, Behnia Hooshyarkhah, Marni Hope, Vicki Koersen, Tracy Oosterbroek, Margaret Thomas, Lisa Weekes
Public	27
Welcome & Introductions	Colleen Bianchi welcomed all in attendance, Colin Zieber gave the Indigenous Land Acknowledgment and Vice Chair Stephanie Leavitt addressed housekeeping.
Media	Ose Irete, Video Journalist - CBC Lethbridge Bureau
Approval of previous meeting summary	The April 17, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<p>All action items from the April 17, 2023 meeting are complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In person HAC meeting on October 17, Colleen and Christine to find a venue. (COMPLETE) Christine to share the presentation by the Chinook Primary Care Network with all attendees. (COMPLETE)



<p>Alberta Health Services Zone Update</p>	<p>Linda Iwasiw, Chief Zone Officer and Dr. Aaron Low, South Zone Medical Director shared the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On the progress of the South Zone Healthcare Planning. The draft plan will be shared with engaged stakeholders early January 2024 before approval and will be aligned with government direction. Updates can be found on Together4Health.ca • On the AHS Enhanced Masking Directive, and which sites in Alberta have currently implemented the directive. • On service disruptions and staff and physician shortages in Milk River, Pincher Creek and the zone. • On the 2023-24 AHS Influenza Immunization Campaign. • On the AHS provincial consolidation of AHS mental health and addiction programs. Effective October 23, the accountability for Addiction and Mental Health (AMH) service delivery will transition from South Zone leadership to the new Provincial AMH portfolio. • Connect Care implementation in South Zone - all sites are scheduled to go live in Launch 7 - November 2023. <p>Dr. Aaron Low, South Zone Medical Director, provided a written report that was included in the meeting package. An update was provided on physician recruitment in the South Zone, West:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several positions being recruited for and 60 active postings in the areas of: addiction and mental health, anesthesia, diagnostic imaging, family, emergency and rural medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, senior's health, and surgery. • Active recruitment is ongoing for sites in Milk River and Pincher Creek.
<p>Community Partners</p>	<p>Lynsey Robinson, RhPAP Consultant - Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), provided a written report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP has virtual learning opportunities and events available for rural community members and healthcare providers.
<p>Council Round Table & Good News Stories</p>	<p>Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to an influenza immunization appointment was efficient and accessible. • Encouraging to see the Police Commission and AHS work collaboratively by sending a healthcare professional and an officer to emergency calls that have a mental health or addiction element.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are nine family doctors in Raymond. Some of the concerns effecting other rural areas in south zone are not present in Raymond. • Good news story from Council member sharing that her grandson who is too young to get a job, has begun volunteering for AHS and takes his service dog Winnie to visit local seniors. • The engagement event in Picture Butte went well, praise for Dr. Aaron Low who answered many difficult questions from attendees. • New Council member happy to be participating with the Advisory Council. • Concerns about physician shortages in Pincher Creek; AHS South Zone leadership are welcome back to the community to share updates and good news around recruitment. • Milk River pleased to have Dr. Meyer back in town. They've found a house, the clinic is running well and there are lots of compliments all around. As well, Hutterite women would really like to have a female doctor in town for their needs. • Really need to have rural communities train their own for healthcare careers and encourage them to live, work, and play and enjoy the areas they are from.
<p>Voices of the Community</p>	<p>Community members expressed the following concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not having access/adequate healthcare services or providers in rural areas, including Milk River and surrounding rural areas, that would allow seniors to comfortably age in place. • Concerns over walk-in clinics not being available in some rural areas. As well, concerns about service hours of the walk-in Clinic in Coaldale during the week and on the weekend. Happy to hear that walk-in services are coming to Picture Butte. • Concerns over food quality at the Pincher Creek Health Centre.



Action(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Zone leadership will follow up on the food quality concern directly with the Pincher Creek Health Care Centre and the service provider.
NEW BUSINESS	
Presentation(s)	<p>Indigenous Support Available to Indigenous Patients at Chinook Regional Hospital</p> <p>Presenter(s): Four Winds Team - Richard Oster – Scientific Director/Principal Investigator; Kienan Williams – Innovation & Research Team Lead; Leslie Wells – Senior Project Manager; Kara Eagle Bear – Indigenous Patient Navigator; Jeremy Chief Calf – Indigenous Patient Navigator</p> <p>An overview and presentation was provided of the Four Winds South Zone - Indigenous Patient Navigator Project. Highlights were shared about the success of the project at Chinook Regional Hospital.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourwinds@albertahealthservices.ca
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Community Engagement Event – Tuesday December 5, 2023</p> <p>Time: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>Location: Zoom</p> <p>Contact: oldmanriver@ahs.ca for details.</p>

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.