

Palliser Triangle

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, Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council



Krista Weiss

Despite the challenges of the past year, PTHAC has remained dedicated to the advisory role we serve between the public and AHS. Our particular commitments have focused on addiction and mental health, including the mental health of youth; seniors and continuing care; rural health; and enhancing care for Indigenous people and new Canadians. We have worked hard to engage with our community members and with AHS local leadership to share concerns, successes and feedback.

We were fortunate to welcome six new members who bring a wealth of experience and a commitment to healthcare: Gop Majak and Amanda Peterson of Brooks; Janine Tolhurst of Desert Blume; Martin Gendron of Cypress County; and Rachel Vossen of Medicine Hat. I want to thank them and the rest of Council for their dedication to the work they do. In addition, to everyone who has expressed their concerns, attended our meetings and events, who care about preserving and improving healthcare in our province – thank you.

I was fortunate to become Vice Chair in 2021. That vantage point gave me the opportunity to learn from Reg Radke, a PTHAC member since 2016, who skillfully led Council as its Chair for three and a half years. I am grateful for his continued assistance. His insight and perspective on issues and his knowledge of this Council and AHS have been invaluable. Thank you, Reg.

Sincerely,

Krista Weiss, Chair, Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council



Who we are

The Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council (PTHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside in the geographic [area](#) surrounding Medicine Hat. Members of Council in 2021-22 were:

Krista Weiss (Chair)	Medicine Hat
Rachel Vossen (Vice Chair)	Medicine Hat
Andrea Ames**	Bassano
Ajit Atwal	Medicine Hat
Jill Bernhart	Foremost
Jeanette Devore**	Medicine Hat
Patricia Dietrich	Medicine Hat
Martin Gendron	Cypress County
Kathleen Hutcheon	Oyen
Gop Majak	Brooks
Paul Nederveen	Medicine Hat
Amanda Peterson	Brooks
Reg Radke	Brooks
Deborah Reid*	Duchess
Janine Tolhurst	Desert Blume

*Appointed to Council in 2021-2022.

**Term completed in 2021-2022.

Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



Deborah Reid at the Advisory Council Spring Forum. May 2022.



Key achievements of 2019-20

The Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council's Work Commitments informed many of our presentations and community engagement event topics, all of which seek to inform and engage the local community while facilitating dialogue with AHS South Zone leadership.



Community concerns shared with Zone leadership included:

- Access to addictions and mental health supports
- Vulnerable populations and seniors impacted by the pandemic
- Physician recruitment and retention
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- COVID-19 vaccine rollout, supply and health & safety measures
- Spiritual care in the South Zone
- Retail food services
- Cardiac Service Planning



Council engaged with AHS on the following topics:

- South Zone Healthcare Plan Core Committee
- AHS Welcome to all South Zone Municipal Leaders
- South Zone Physician Recruitment Strategy and Rural Engagement
- AHS Ethics & Compliance review and update of AHS' Code of Conduct
- Virtual Care in AHS: goals of virtual care and ideas for achieving them
- Impact of COVID-19 on Alberta family caregivers
- Emergency Medical Services (EMS) listening sessions
- Facility-based continuing care
- Alberta Precision Laboratories Information Session



Public Participation:

- Over 30 community members attended regular HAC meetings and community engagement events



Council leadership met monthly with AHS South Zone leadership to facilitate ongoing conversations about strategic planning that included the Advisory Council Coordinator. This collaboration ensured open and timely communication between AHS leadership and Council members.



AHS Provincial Advisory Councils (PAC) are a credible source of information on provincial engagement. The Seniors and Continuing Care PAC Chair shared details on the PAC's role and the commitments Council are focused on.

AHS Presentations

- ❖ Seniors & Continuing Care Provincial Advisory Council

Public/Community Engagement Presentations

- ❖ Greg's Wings
- ❖ MyHealth Records – Alberta Health
- ❖ Rural Mental Health Project – Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA)
- ❖ Wellspring Cancer Services
- ❖ Quality Virtual Care, Anytime, Anywhere

A look ahead

Meetings and events remained virtual throughout the year, allowing Council to reach into several new rural communities about topics and information that many public participants shared during the agenda item ‘Voices of the Community,’ providing new and useful insights into the work AHS was doing in their communities.

The members of the Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council reviewed their current 2021 – 2023 – 3-year Commitments plan and remain committed to four key areas, but have also added a key focus on Health System Integration (formerly known as Enhancing Care in the Community):

- **Addiction and mental health:** When Council is made aware of information and resources on addiction and mental health services they will share broadly with their communities.
- **Seniors health and continuing care:** Council will participate in local service planning, promoting seniors health priorities and ensuring zone leadership is aware of seniors health and continuing care concerns in the South Zone.
- **Rural health:** Council will partner with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP) and Primary Care Networks (PCN) for up-to-date information on local resources, retention and recruitment of health professionals in the South Zone.
- **Communication:** Council will advise AHS on the readability of its public resource materials and provide input on improving online navigation. We will also share information back with our communities to bring awareness of AHS channels of communication.
- **NEW: Enhancing Care in the Community:** Council has identified enhancing care in the community as a top priority in the South Zone. Council is committed to ensuring engagement on: Mental health initiatives for youth; awareness and education on health care services and accessibility for new Canadians; and Indigenous well-being.

As our world adjusts to living through a pandemic, our HAC members continue to share the views and perceptions of the residents in the communities they represent. We greatly appreciate the perspective they bring, and their input assists us in addressing concerns, sharing information and shaping the priorities within the communities of the South Zone. The HACs continue to provide valuable input to AHS to support the delivery of healthcare services.

Linda Iwasiw

Chief Zone Officer, South Zone

Dr. Aaron Low

Zone Medical Director, South 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

✉ pallisertriangle@ahs.ca

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

