

Palliser Triangle Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

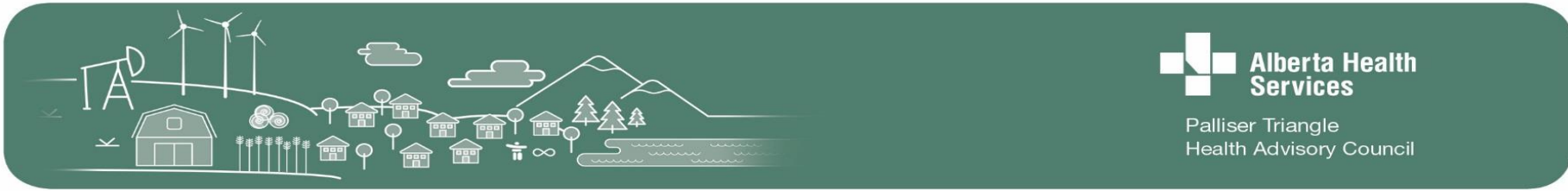
Monday, October 16, 2023 /12:00 – 3:00 p.m. / Medicine Hat Regional Hospital

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Krista Weiss (Chair), Rachel Vossen (Vice Chair), Daphne Anstey-Martin, Wanda Diakow, Gwendoline Dirk, Cathy Fox, Deborah Reid, Janine Tolhurst
AHS	Karen Fritz, Linda Iwasiw, Dr. Aaron Low, Christine Osunde, Dr. Gerry Prince, Terry Seitz, Linda Tessman-Potvin, Monica Whitehead, Gwen Wirth, Colin Zieber
Regrets	Jill Bernhart, Sasha Loewen, Michelle Miller, Wes Paterson, Amanda Peterson
Public	21
Welcome & Introductions	Chair Krista Weiss welcomed all in attendance, provided a land acknowledgment, and Vice Chair Rachel Vossen addressed housekeeping.
Approval of previous meeting summary	The April 24, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	<p>All action items from the April 24, 2023 meeting are complete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zone leadership to provide information on Opioid Agonist Therapy Gap Coverage Program Alberta.ca (COMPLETE) Zone leadership to provide stats on the pertussis outbreak in South Zone. (COMPLETE)
Alberta Health Services Zone Update	<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 AHS Enhanced Masking Directive, and which sites in Alberta have currently implemented the directive. 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 Calgary Zone to the new provincial AMH portfolio. An overview and update 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

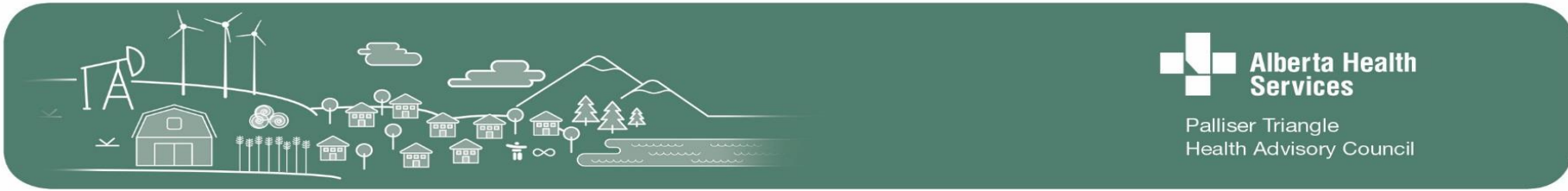
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On EMS response times in the zone • On emergency department and surgical wait times. • On service disruptions and staff and physician shortages in Oyen and the zone. • Connect Care implementation in South Zone - all sites are scheduled to go live in Launch 7 - November 2023. <p>Dr. Low provided a written report that was included in the meeting package. An update was provided on physician recruitment in the South Zone, East:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are several positions being recruited for and 14 active postings in the areas of: addiction and mental health, diagnostic imaging, emergency medicine, rural and family medicine.
Action Item(s)	Christine to share the link for the Together4Health South Zone Healthcare Planning in the meeting follow up email.
Community Partners	<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. • RhPAP Events – Expression of Interest (EOI) for Rural Communities - Rural Health Professions Action Plan
Action Item(s)	Christine to share the link to the RhPAP expression of interest for rural communities in the meeting follow up email.
Council Round Table & Good News Stories	<p>Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently heard from an Albertan they were very impressed by how Medicine Hat gets knee surgeries done so quickly. • Having the service of a dispensing pharmacist in the Duchess area was excellent and should continue. Just over 1000 people gave kudos to the program, AHS should keep it going. • Current HAC member will be participating in the working group for the Southern Alberta Medical Program collaboration between University of Lethbridge and University of Calgary – investigation into how to get programs into rural areas. • Accessing permanent housing for healthcare professionals in rural areas continues to be a concern. • October Learning Series is excellent, sharing information from Health Link 811 with community. • Council member had an excellent experience getting lab work, in and out in nine minutes with an appointment. • Received excellent care during a surgical experience at the Medicine Hat Regional Hospital.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited about the changes to lab services. Home care took away footcare that they were charging a nominal fee for. Footcare will resume in Brooks for a nominal charge and will issue receipts. (Podiatry services) • Update on the Oyen Hospital service disruption: no fixed air service has resumed as of Aug 10. Air ambulance at night. • A recent community resource fair on community supports was very successful. Thank you to AHS for partnering.
Action Item(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christine to share the public question and answer for updated lab service information. • Christine to share the contact information for footcare in Brooks in the meeting follow up email.
Voices of the Community	<p>Members of the community shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab service update. Walk-in appointments are available and service is being provided in a timely manner. • The AHS Cultural Competence Initiative should be a priority and available/provided to all AHS staff, community partners, Indigenous groups and minority groups. • Not enough trained staff for lab and x-ray, the issue is in the programming. The Northern Alberta Institute of Technology has dual programming. Attrition is high. Once they graduate they don't have to stay in Alberta. • Shortage of nurses could be attributed to students using nursing as a steppingstone into other programs.
Presentation(s)	<p>Medicine Hat Regional Hospital Ambulatory Care Wing Presenter: Dr. G.D. Prince, Women and Children's Health - AHS South Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of the new ambulatory care wing and resulting change in service delivery was shared.
NEW BUSINESS	
Date of Next Meeting	<p>Date: Community Engagement Event – Tuesday December 5, 2023 Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Location: Zoom Contact: pallisertriangle@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.

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