

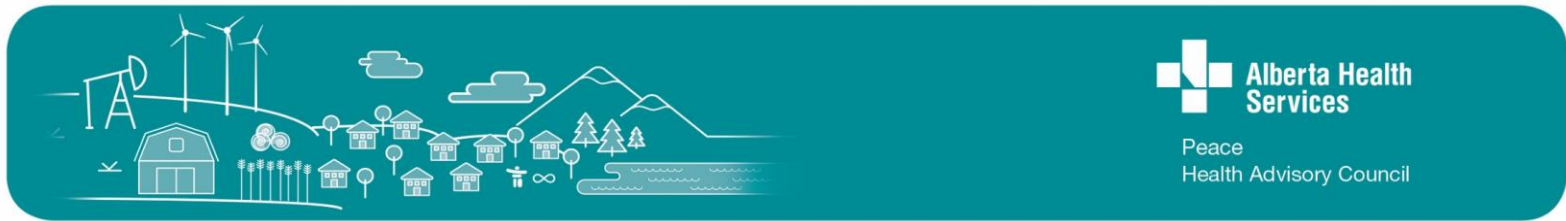
Peace Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2024 /6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
Members	Barry Yaehne (Chair), Gladys Blackmore (Vice-Chair), Murray Capon, Charlene Cavers, Carla Day, Jancey Dolen, Karen Egge, Jennifer Hamilton, Maurissa Heitland, Samuel Elkins, Krista Schuett, Carol Van Slyke and Yvonne Rempel
AHS	Nicole Allan, JoAnn Cazakoff, Deanna Dament and Candice Edey
Regrets	Marc Boychuk and Susan Smith
Public	37
Welcome & Introductions	Barry welcomed all in attendance and carried out introductions and provided a land acknowledgment.
Approval of previous minutes	Tuesday, September 26, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
Action items from previous meeting	Action items from the September 26, 2023, meeting have been completed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jo worked with Barry to get the new Vice Chair in place.
Presentation	<p>Candice Edey, Senior Operating Officer, North Zone Area Nine, provided an overview of the Internationally Educated Nursing (IEN) Program. Information provided included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IENs are in the process of immigrating to Canada and domestic IENs have already done so. • Nursing jobs are advertised to Canadian graduates first and if none apply the job is posted for international candidates. Once IENs are hired they go through the immigration process and AHS’s nursing skills assessment. • One advantage of the program is IENs have filled some long-standing vacancies. • Integrating the IEN and their family into the community is important for retention. <p>Candice adds that despite rumours of pushback from the nursing union, she is unaware of any problems and that investigations are done on a case-by-case basis. As well, nursing vacancies in the North Zone are six to seven per cent higher than the rest of the province.</p>

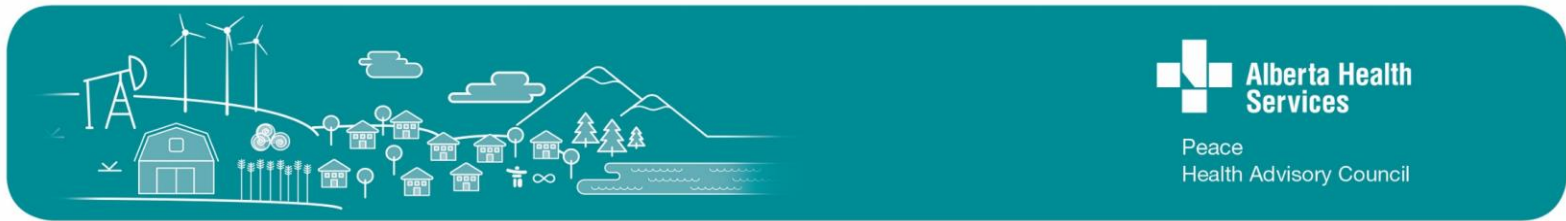




Action Item	Candice to confirm the vacancy rate in the north versus the rest of Alberta.
Presentation	<p>How a Community Supported a new IEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perry Skrlik, a member of the Peace Regional Healthcare Attraction and Retention Committee, presented on how he and his fellow Council member, Dan Bouvier, supported Patrick, an IEN. • Upon Patrick’s arrival from Nigeria, Perry picked him up from the bus station and got him overnight accommodations. The next morning, he took Patrick out for breakfast and gave him a tour around the community. Perry and Dan helped Patrick get his learner’s permit and then his driver’s license. They helped Patrick buy a car and find a permanent home.
Questions and Answers	<p>Q: Is there anything the community can do to help family members immigrate with the IEN? A: Immigration is the purview of Immigration Canada and is out of AHS’s hands. Though it is difficult to get permanent residency in Canada, newcomers must be encouraged to apply to it. Communities can only support the IEN.</p> <p>Q: It is hard for IENs to get financing on vehicles with a two-year work visa. Can it be five-years? A: The positions are permanent, but the Immigration Canada work visas are for only two years.</p>
Alberta Health Services North Zone Update	<p>Candice Edey shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new Indigenous Wellness Coordinator started work in Peace River. • Grimshaw, Fairview and other towns have candidates working through the IEN program and the immigration process, who are starting in the spring. Other sites hired several new positions including domestic IENs and IENs. • In November, the Indigenous workforce committee met in Grande Prairie. AHS discussed how it can increase and improve its Indigenous workforce. A career fair was held after the engagement activities. • The Hythe Continuing Care call bell system is being repaired. The medical device reprocessing project continues in Peace River.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Peace River Community Healthcare Centre obtained a grant to fund the Maternal Newborn, Child and Youth Strategic Clinical Network (MNCY SCN). The funds are for infants who are high-risk cases and born outside of tertiary care. • Emergency departments are working with the Stollery Outreach program to collaborate on referrals. • AHS announced the construction of a new Beaverlodge Hospital. The groundbreaking ceremony is set for the spring. The facility is a public-private partnership. AHS provides the services but leases the space from the town. • The Horse Lake First Nation and Beaverlodge Municipal Hospital Collaboration held a celebration in October that was attended by many physicians, AHS staff and leaders. <p>Q: Does AHS play a role at the Clear Hills Youth Treatment Center? A: It is not an AHS facility, but some AHS physicians are engaged with the center.</p>
Physician Recruitment Update	<p>Susan Smith, North Zone Physician Resource Planner, was not in attendance. Susan shared a report before the meeting, and it was sent out as part of the meeting package.</p>
Action Items	<p>Deanna to email the Medical Affairs report to attendees as part of the post-event email.</p>
Community Partners	<p>Holly Handfield, Rural Community Consultant, Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP), shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RhPAP has an expression of interest call out to schools and rural communities to hold a Skills Day. • On February 15 there will be a session about how RhPAP supports students. Register here. • Wainwright, AB will host the 2024 RhPAP Conference October 8-10, 2024. More information here. • Deadline is February 29 for nominations for Rhapsody Rural Healthcare Hero Awards. Learn more here.
Report from Chair	<p>Barry welcomed Gladys Blackmore as Vice Chair. He also advised Council Alberta Health is holding in-person engagements around the province on its plans for refocusing the health system. Register here.</p>
Action Item	<p>Deanna to send a reminder email to Council to complete the annual satisfaction survey to Council.</p>



Report from Advisory Council Coordinator	<p>Deanna discussed the Annual Satisfaction Survey, Work Commitments and 2022-23 Annual Reports. She mentioned the PHAC event on Wednesday, March 20, 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion made by Murray to extend Barry’s term as Chair until the Government of Alberta’s Regional Advisory Councils are implemented. Motion seconded by Carol. Motion carried.
Voices of the Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It seems Medical Affairs is focusing on hiring specialists, despite needing family physicians. If other communities are feeling this way, please contact Medical Affairs. • AHS has recently recruited specialists, but family doctors are also being hired. Perhaps AHS can promote new hires more. Alternately, the lack of affordable housing and childcare is a deterrent for family doctors in Peace River. • Aging in place is important, but a program is needed on how to age in place in facilities. • There is a need for psychologists and social workers in the area. • The City of Grande Prairie is always working on retention and is interested in talking to anyone with experience working with doctors and understanding why they leave.
Council Round Table	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Karen indicated that PHAC is in transition and wants clarity. Community Engagement will keep Council members informed as information is available and as soon as possible. • Murray reported a new doctor did an assessment then waited six weeks before the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) allowed him to work. AHS needs to encourage the College to improve its processes. If this is occurring elsewhere, Medical Affairs and the doctors conducting the assessments must know a six-week wait is not acceptable.
NEXT EVENT	
	<p>Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2024 Time: 6 p.m. Location: Zoom</p>