



## David Thompson Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

March 9, 2022 /5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Gerry Greschner (Chair), Peggy Makofka (Vice-Chair), Carole Tkach, Melanie Hassett, Phyllis Loewen, Shelagh Slater
<b>AHS</b>	Maya Atallah, Lisa Barrett, Marni Bercov, Barbara Frere, Heather Kipling, Lori Sparrow, Janice Stewart
<b>Regrets</b>	Deryl Comeau, Marie Cornelson, Dawn Konelsky, Janey Olson, Selena Redel
<b>Public</b>	5
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Gerry welcomed all in attendance, gave introductions, and provided a land acknowledgment.
<b>Approval of previous minutes</b>	The October 7, 2021 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from the previous meeting</b>	Maya will send an invitation out to Council to join the Yellowhead East HAC meeting on Oct 21, 2021. <b>Complete.</b>
<b>Alberta Health Services Zone Update</b>	<p><b>Janice Stewart, Chief Zone Officer, Central Zone, shared the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A COVID update in the Central Zone.</li> <li>• Nursing staff vacancies and physician coverage continue to be the primary reasons for service disruptions in the Central Zone. While some of the challenges are linked to historical vacancies in areas that have been difficult to recruit to, increased sick time related to the pandemic has exacerbated both staff and physician coverage challenges.</li> <li>• Announced by government earlier this year, the Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience (RESIDE) program will provide \$2 million to 20 new family physicians in each of the next three years.</li> <li>• Connect Care wave 5 launches will take place in May. For more information on implementation timelines visit <a href="#">Connect Care website.</a></li> <li>• The new Regional Police and Crisis team (RPACT) is now active and serving your area. RPACT is a partnership between AHS mental health professionals and RCMP officers who will work together to intervene, assess, de-escalate, refer and follow up with individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. Based in Rocky Mountain House, the team will</li> </ul>



	<p>serve the Rocky Mountain House area, Blackfalds, Innisfail, Drayton Valley, Rimbey, Sundre and Sylvan Lake. The referral process will be generated by contacting local RCMP detachments.</p> <p><b>Lori Sparrow, Senior Operating Officer Community, and Seniors Health, Central Zone:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AHS has opened additional continuing care beds in Drayton Valley and Ponoka, helping provide the highest level of supportive living services to local seniors, as close to home as possible.</li> <li>• COVID outbreaks are still occurring at some continuing care sites however fewer cases than before.</li> </ul> <p><b>Lisa Barrett, Area Director:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared specific updates regarding acute care in the northwest part of the Central Zone which includes: Drayton Valley, Wetaskiwin, Rimbey, Ponoka, and Camrose.</li> </ul> <p><b>Barbara Frere, Area Director:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared specific updates regarding continuing care in the southeast part of the Central Zone which includes: Stettler Home Care &amp; LTC, Castor Home Care, Coronation Home Care, LTC &amp; SL, Consort Home Care &amp; LTC, Hanna Home Care, Drumheller Home Care, Three Hills Home Care, and Elnora Home Care.</li> </ul> <p><b>Response to a concern that was brought forward regarding the closure of the Winfield Community Health Centre (CHC).</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As with all facilities leased by AHS, lease agreements are reviewed regularly to ensure the most appropriate use of human, fiscal and capital resources as part of the organization’s ongoing monitoring of service delivery and accessibility. If a decision not to renew a lease were to be made at any facility, and a facility was to close, that would not occur without prior engagement and discussion with staff, patients, community partners, etc. Staff would be given options to transition to other facilities. There would be no involuntary loss of employment as a result of such a decision. No such decision has been made. All home care services provided by the Winfield CHC continue to remain operating as usual at this time.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community Partners</b></p>	<p><b>Alicia Fox, Rural Community Consultant with RhPAP</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared updates with council, and highlights include: Ms. Tracy Sopkow has accepted the position of Chief Executive Officer, effective March 1, 2022. On April 21st, 2022, AHS Talent Acquisition seniors advisors will discuss the AHS recruitment processes for hiring nursing and allied health staff and where communities can get involved. Alberta</li> </ul>



	<p>Rural Health Week is May 30th – June 3rd, 2022. Attraction and Retention Conference has been scheduled for October 4 – 6, 2022 in Drayton Valley. And also announced shared information on the <a href="#">Rural Education Supplement and Integrated Doctor Experience</a>.</p>
<p><b>Voices of the Community</b></p>	<p>Community members (especially local seniors) from Sundre, are grateful there is now a vaccine clinic close to home.</p>
<p><b>Council Round Table</b></p>	<p>David Thompson Health Advisory Council members shared the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Coronation Health Centre Foundation raised money to replace the outdoor gazebo area for the Coronation Hospital and Care Centre residents to enjoy.</li> <li>• Central Zone communities are concerned that long-term care senior staff will be retiring soon and are aware of the current nursing shortage across the province.</li> <li>• Communities are excited to have a business and recreational center reopen. Members can start to socialize in person with the ease of restrictions, noting this is important for the well-being of a person's mental health.</li> <li>• Rimbey Hospital &amp; Care Centre beds may be opening again with the recruitment of a new physician.</li> <li>• Rocky Health Foundation raised money to help the operating room with lights and instrument sets, endoscope washing equipment, fetal monitors, jaundice therapy lights and meters, an autoclave, and an instrument washer.</li> <li>• The Rocky Health Foundation is also excited to have an indigenous member and is looking forward to building a relationship with the community.</li> <li>• A pair of South African doctors, Jaco and Emé Vermeulen, have been hired by the Stettler Medical Clinic.</li> <li>• Sundre will have its eSIM lab up and running by the end of March. eSIM is based on four concepts: educate, simulate, innovate and motivate. It will create opportunities to train students locally who are pursuing a path in rural health care, and it will also be available at no cost to community-based groups interested in providing volunteers with training, for example first aid training.</li> <li>• Overall community members would rather have in-person appointments but are welcoming virtual appointments and are seeing this as a positive that has come from the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been heard from cancer patients who are grateful to eliminate unnecessary travel for follow-up appointments.</li> <li>• Council Chair, Gerry Greschner shared highlights from the Council of Chairs meeting on February 24, 2022. Gerry also gave an update on the current membership status and disclosed that Shelagh Slater, Dawn Konelsky and Michelle Narang are no longer with the Council, and that council is welcoming two members as of April 1.</li> </ul>



<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Presentation</b>	<p><b>Addiction &amp; Mental Health (AMH) - New Justice Initiatives</b>  <i>Marni Bercov - Provincial Director, Mental Health &amp; Justice, Provincial Addiction &amp; Mental Health</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marni's presentation shared information about the Mental Health Act Initiatives, the Community Treatment Orders (CTOs) and Provincial Corrections. The MHA Secure Locations/ Conveyance project as well as the Reducing Criminalization Grant were explained. The presentation concluded with Marni sharing new and emerging initiatives such as; the Regional Police &amp; Crisis Teams (RPACTs), the HealthIM system, the Provincial Family Violence Treatment Program (PFVTP), the Provincial Law Enforcement Mental Health Call Line, the Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART), the Provincial Mental Health Diversion Program (PMHDP), the Provincial Forensics, the Provincial Mobile Addiction Outreach Initiative (PMAOI) and the AHS ID Program.</li> </ul>
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p>Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 – Engagement Event – Connect Care            Time: 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.            Location: Online via Zoom.            Contact: <a href="mailto:community.engagement@ahs.ca">community.engagement@ahs.ca</a> for details.</p>

Our meetings are open to the public. Dates and locations are [available here](#).  
[Find your Health Advisory Council here](#). Visit [Together 4 Health](#) (T4H) to engage with AHS online.