



Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression (SOGIE) Provincial Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2022; Southport Tower (Calgary) and Zoom

| ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS | |
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| Members | J.K. (Chair), R.A. (Vice Chair), J.B., M.S., S.S., J.W. |
| AHS | Heather Cobb, Shahnaz Davachi, Jordanna Lambert, Marni Panas, Lori Roe, Tammy Troute-Wood, Laura Lee Clarke |
| Regrets | B.A., K.A., J.A., R.B., J.O., Dr. Sid Viner, Rachel Dziver, Ray Harrison, Bryan Peffers |
| Public | 3 |
| Welcome & Introductions | J.K. welcomed all in attendance, provided a land acknowledgment, and went through round table introductions. |
| Approval of minutes | June 11, 2022 minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus. |
| STANDING ITEMS | |
| Action items from previous meeting | <p>Action items from the June 11, 2022 meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Engagement will share with Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health and Dr. Laura McDougall, Senior Medical Officer of Health, AHS advice related to the communication of monkeypox information to Albertans. <p>Complete</p> |
| Alberta Health Services Permanent Resource Persons Update | <p>Tammy Troute-Wood and Heather Cobb, Sexual and Reproductive Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The goal of the Canadian Transgender Reproductive Health: Birth Control and Pregnancy Healthcare Experiences (TRH Study) is to better understand the contraceptive and pregnancy health care experiences of adult transgender Canadians who were both with a uterus. Findings have been presented at a local and international conferences including the European Society of Contraceptive Medicine and World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH). The project has received two awards including from The Alberta College of Family Physicians and Alberta Registered Nurses Education Trust (ARNET). The ARNET award is funding to be applied to knowledge translation activities which will be used for open access journal publication. Version 8 of the WPATH Standards of Care for the Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People was recently released. This version of the Standards of Care is the first to be developed using an evidence-based approach. Evidence-based guidelines include recommendations intended to optimize patient care that are informed by a systematic review of evidence and an assessment of the benefits and harms of alternative care options. |



- Eighteen AHS staff members attended and staffed seven booth spaces at the Wellness Oasis (Calgary Pride Parade and Festival) on September 5th. Approximately 575 people visited the following booths:
 - Sexual and Reproduct Health
 - STI Clinic
 - Safeworks/Harm Reduction
 - Healthlink/811
 - Gender Clinics – Metta and Adult
 - Teachingsexualhealth.ca
 - SOGIE PAC
- Booths at the Wellness Oasis, were decorated to engage visitors and the following services and “giveaways” were distributed:
 - 500 Nalozone kits were given out with training provided to 86 people
 - 260 condoms
 - 500+ buttons including pronoun pins
 - the STI clinic tested 18 clients
 - 35 CPR masks
 - 83 Monkeypox vaccines were given

Shahnaz Davachi, Primary Health Care

- The Primary Health Care (PHC) Program’s Patient Experience team in partnership with the patient advisors (PTR team) and with support from Health Link Alberta has created a new patient navigation resource entitled [Navigating your healthcare journey – with the right information](#). The purpose of this resource is to provide patients/families with easy access to a variety of excellent patient advocacy resources and care options, all in one handy document. Feedback from the SOGIE PAC members would be appreciated to ensure the new resource is inclusive of SOGIE community’s perspectives.

Marni Panas, Diversity and Inclusion

- SOGIE PAC members are encouraged to sign up and be a part of the AHS Proud Together Workforce Resource Group.
- Since June 2022, 40,000 pins (AHS pride, Every Child Matters, and pronoun pins) have been purchased. This is a great accomplishment and really shows the maturity of where we are going as an organization.
- Involved and engaged with the Edmonton hospital project on the basic principles of gender neutral spaces.
- Having been visiting all the sites in Calgary to look at the space available for inclusive change rooms for staff.
- Will be presenting next week to AHS Provincial Virtual Health on new tools that have been developed to guide people to creating safer virtual spaces for delivery of health.
- Working with Connect Care to review the codes related to HIV to ensure it’s neutral and reflects everyone at a high level.



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with various groups to understand and remove from the system outdated dead names. It is essential that if this happens to you or someone you know (those in the system) that a ticket is created and it is investigated. It is important to collect this data and understand the cause. • Will be connecting with Alberta Health to share the WPATH Standards of Care Version 8 guidelines. • Have been meeting and sharing the diversity and inclusion work AHS has done over the last 5-6 years with other provinces. |
| Council Round Table | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A member volunteered at Camp Dragonfly this summer. Camp Dragonfly is a summer camp for trans+, gender-creative and gender diverse kids, their siblings, and friends. • One member was able to provide support and guide a client that was going to Montreal for surgery. • The Alberta Provincial Sexuality and Alliance Conference is taking place in November. Attendees at the conference are junior and senior students along with some teachers. A call for workshop attendees that can provide resources for queer teenagers to take back and share at their schools on safer and more inclusive space has just gone out. |
| Report from the Chair | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of three new members has taken place. Approval by the AHS Board is expected shortly. • Resignation has been received and accepted for S.C. who will be relocating out of Alberta. • The SOGIE PAC 2021-22 Annual Report is expected to be approved at the September 21 AHS Board meeting. <p>Recruitment Update: SOGIE PAC is actively recruiting for members who live in rural Alberta. Anyone interested can learn more and apply online at ahs.ca/advisorycouncils. Email SOGIE.PAC@ahs.ca with any questions.</p> |
| NEW BUSINESS | |
| Presentation(s) | <p>Calgary Adult Gender Clinic <i>Lori Roe, Manager Mental Health, Collaborative, Community and Specialized CAAMHPP</i></p> <p>Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The program falls under Child & Adolescent Addiction Mental Health and Psychiatry program to ensure continuity between Metta and Gender for clients. • Services currently offered include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comprehensive assessment regarding gender identity including WPATH standards of care for surgical readiness where appropriate ○ Supports of individuals throughout their transition ○ Treatment of co-morbid mental health concerns related to gender (anxiety, mood, trauma) |



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Education and support regarding social transition (family, work, legal documentation, etc) ● The clinics current issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Demand far exceeds supply with long waitlists and high clinic volumes ○ Excessive wait times for gender affirming surgery – specifically bottom surgery (3+ years) leads to high clinic volume and extended care until surgery and post-surgery ○ Recruitment of trained psychiatry and mental health support around gender related issues <p>Questions/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Define high demand. Currently it is a 26 month wait list with approximately 1,200 people on the list. This is the time from receiving the consult to seeing the psychologist. If the patient has high needs the wait time would change. ● Has there been any changes to the waitlist? It has been consistent the last four years. Since the clinic opened in 2016, there has been a 600% increase in referrals or approximately 35-40 referrals per month |
| <p>Chair and Vice-Chair Elections</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Email was sent in July 2022 to SOGIE PAC members asking if any members were interested in putting their name forward for either the Chair or Vice-Chair positions. J.K. expressed interest in remaining Chair and R.A. put her name forward to remain Vice-Chair. An electronic vote took place and both J.K. and R.A. were unanimously appointed into the respective positions. ● J.K. was appointed Chair for a two year term effective October 1: Expecting to receive AHS Board approval on September 21. ● R.A. was appointed Vice-Chair for a two year term effective October 1. |
| <p>MEETING ADJOURNMENT</p> | |
| <p>Action Item(s)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● SOGIE PAC members were asked to provide feedback on the new resource <i>Navigating your healthcare journey – with the right information</i> to ensure it is inclusive of SOGIE community’s perspectives. |
| <p>Next Meeting</p> | <p>Date: Saturday, November 19, 2022 Time: 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Location: Seventh Street Plaza (10030-107 Street NW) - Edmonton</p> |

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