

# Peace

## 2019-20 Annual Report



Peace  
Health Advisory Council

Healthy Albertans.  
Healthy Communities.  
**Together.**

## Message from Alberta Health Services Board of Directors



*Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn*

Alberta Health Services values Advisory Council members as volunteers, leaders and partners in health care planning. With every year that passes, I see how our Councils continue to grow and expand. They challenge us and ask really great questions, they share the AHS story with their communities, their families and neighbours – helping Albertans everywhere to better understand our complex health care system – and they advise AHS on our planning, programs and services.

We had a number of long-time members leaving Councils in 2019-20 and we would like to acknowledge their hard work, dedication and passion. While we will miss them, we also know it's important for new voices to join the conversation and we look forward to building new partnerships, relationships and connections.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn,  
Vice Chair, Board of Directors; Chair, Community Engagement Committee of the Board

## Message from the Chair, Peace Health Advisory Council



*Krista Schuett*

It is easy for me to confidently say that our Council is heard loud and clear by AHS Executive Leadership, and the level of engagement is very healthy with the goal of learning always at the forefront. Peace Health Advisory Council (PHAC) has true collaboration with AHS.

With our Council's broad public reach we have been able to promote AHS to add a rural lens to its work in the North. Specifically, access to specialized care, continuity of care and enhanced support for seniors and mental health. We invite members of the public to have a voice and consider joining our Council to work together with AHS to highlight top concerns based on the public's feedback, and to contribute to enhancing health care across our region.

Thank you to AHS for your increased communication. Thank you to our Council members and AHS staff that have devoted many hours to the betterment of our northern health care system collectively, and thank you to the members that left our Council in 2019. Thank you all for reading our report and taking an interest in health!

Warm regards,

Krista Schuett, Chair  
Peace Health Advisory Council

## Who we are

The Peace Health Advisory Council (PHAC) is comprised of up to 15 volunteer members who reside within the geographic [region](#) surrounding Grande Prairie. Visit us online for a full list of [membership](#).



*L-R: Back: Marc Boychuk, Alison Cormack, Laura Hanchurak, Karen Egge, Cindy Park*

*Front: Sandy Bunse, Mary Wilson, Carla Day, Danielle Commandeur, Penny Stone, Stacy Greening*

*Missing: Krista Schuett, Yvonne Rempel, Michelle Margarit*

## Highlights

### Community Participation

- Attraction and retention committee
- Primary Care Network
- Graphic Art Selection Committee

### North Zone Sector Meeting

- A combined meeting with all six North Zone Health Advisory Councils
- Connection with multiple AHS North Zone leaders
- Members shared top health priorities from their region

### Location of Public Meetings

- Grande Cache, McLennan, Spirit River & virtually
- 15 members of the public attended

*The AHS North Zone team provides service to a large geographical area with a diverse population. We place a very high value on the information and advice we receive from a broad range of stakeholders in our communities. The HACs give us a regular forum to share ideas, receive input, and refine our ways of working so that our strategies and operational priorities are aligned with provincial and local priorities.*

Gregory Cummings, Chief Zone Officer

## Key achievements of 2019-2020

Council is pleased to have AHS participate in each of its meetings where they provide regular updates on workforce information, capital projects, innovation, new programs and services. In addition, when we have questions or require information on specific topics of interest we invite AHS to present. Council received the following presentations this past year:

- Telehealth Psychiatry Model
- Addiction and Mental Health Parent Council
- Regional Oncology Services
- Alberta Healthy Communities Initiative
- Recruitment to the new Grande Prairie Hospital

Council partnered with AHS to host a [Community Conversation](#) in Peace River in December, where 29 community members along with AHS leadership participated in a conversation about health and wellness in the region. Key areas of concern identified at the past seven North Zone Community Conversations were reviewed, which included access to services, system navigation and travel. As well, participants discussed how new or existing community partnerships can be developed to address challenges. Ideas include:

- making unoccupied rooms in the local seniors facility available to health care students on short term placements in Peace River,
- identifying creative ways to tackle loneliness faced by residents of all ages, and
- developing a health care coalition to identify and "spread the word" about services and programs available to residents.

Members of Council, along with Stacey Greening, Senior Operating Officer were invited to Alberta Infrastructure's tour of the new Grande Prairie Regional Hospital in August. Members were impressed by the planning and process the new builder had taken on.

Throughout the year, Council shared our Top Concerns with the AHS Board for its broad understanding of issues across the province. These include: addiction and mental health (access for rural communities); Indigenous relations (ensure cultural awareness and sensitivity training of staff at new Grande Prairie hospital); the need for more seniors and continuing care services in our region; improve communications with AHS; transportation from rural communities; wait times for specialists and surgeries; access to allied health services; improving health promotion in our area; and integration of services.

Council members attended workshops through Rural Health Professionals Action Plan (RhPAP) and Campus for Communities of the Future. Two members participated in a workshop in Beaverlodge about rural community building. These workshops provide education and training on community-led development for community members who want to make a difference and are serving in informal community leadership roles. These workshops help Council members serve as a catalyst for positive community change and growth, engage citizens and partner stakeholders by applying a community development approach and demonstrate personal growth as a community leader.



## A look ahead 2020 - 2021

As Council is well connected to a variety of local organizations, we will continue our efforts to bring community feedback about health services to AHS. Some of the activities planned include:

- Hosting meetings and events in surrounding rural communities and inviting local municipal leaders to attend. We are actively working on building relationships with the many Indigenous communities in our Council area.
- Partnering with AHS Seniors Health portfolio to host a community event to share information and resources and provide opportunity for feedback about services in our area.
- Attending local events to promote the Council and to gather feedback.
- Strategizing ways to promote increased awareness of mental health services in the region. We look forward to partnering with staff teams from Addiction and Mental Health, Canadian Mental Health Association and other local agencies to share information with the public about mental health resources.

Council is looking forward to 2020-21. Implementation of the new direction of Health Advisory Councils (HAC 2.0) is expected to begin in the fall, where community events will be embedded into our annual planning cycle. Events will be co-designed with AHS and will be a partnership with Zone leadership. Work is underway to determine the nature of these events.

We are excited about the many large projects AHS has underway. We look forward to learning more about the Indigenous Health Program, Regional Collaborative Service Delivery (RCSD), eMental Health and 811 Health Link during our upcoming year.

Finally, we said farewell to some members who have been on our Council for many years. These voices are missed and we wish them all the very best. With these departures we welcome new members to apply to ensure diverse representation from across the region. We look forward to generating new ideas for the promotion of our Council and providing feedback to AHS. The year ahead is going to be exciting.



*Community Conversation in Peace River*

Advisory Councils act in an advisory capacity to Alberta Health Services (AHS) as we share feedback with AHS leadership from our communities about health services. We hold public meetings at locations throughout our geography and participate in engagement activities that further contribute to health services in Alberta.

## Learn more

Visit [ahs.ca/advisorycouncils](https://ahs.ca/advisorycouncils)

✉ [peace@ahs.ca](mailto:peace@ahs.ca)

☎ 1.877.275.8830

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

## 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](https://ahs.ca)
- Delivering a presentation at a Council meeting on a health area of interest or concern
- Provide input on various health care topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to [become a member](#). Members are appointed for three-year terms.



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