



## True North Health Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 27, 2023 / 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. / Zoom

ATTENDEES & INTRODUCTIONS	
<b>Members</b>	Nella Fehr (Chair), Rick Cartier (Vice Chair), Gord Burnell, Oxana Kabardina, Shelly Komarnicki, Julie Melville, Liane Mercredi, Tracey Stauffer, and Judith Wiebe
<b>AHS</b>	Jo Blakley, Cory Brunham (Presenter), Angie Mann, Bobbi Paul-Alook, and Diane Rinne
<b>Regrets</b>	Wilma Cardinal, Darrell Derksen, Gina Martens, and Crystal McLean
<b>Public</b>	4
<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Chair, Nella Fehr, welcomed all in attendance and Vice Chair Rick Cartier provided a land acknowledgment and housekeeping.
<b>Approval of previous minutes</b>	June 20, 2023, minutes were reviewed and approved by consensus.
STANDING ITEMS	
<b>Action items from previous meeting</b>	No action items from the June 20, 2023, meeting.
<b>PRESENTATION</b>	<p><b>Cory Brunham, EMS - Manager NW, Slave Lake/Wabasca/Red Earth/Swan Hills</b> reported the following for the True North Health Advisory Council (HAC) region. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– EMS Resources: 8 Total Units – 7 AHS units (Direct Delivery &amp; Contract Service Provider)</li> <li>– EMS Call Volume Regional Event Volumes - July 1st, 2022, to June 30th, 2023:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• July to September – 1481</li> <li>• October to December – 1339</li> <li>• January to March – 1213</li> <li>• April to June – 1476</li> </ul> </li> <li>– <b>Total Regional Event Volume: 5509</b></li> <li>– EMS Ambulances Serving Communities by Event: High Level, Chateh-FN, Fox Lake-FN, Fort Vermillion, La Crete, Mackenzie County, John D’or Prairie-FN, Paddle Prairie-MS.</li> <li>– Transport Destinations for the True North regional ambulances: High Level, Fort Vermilion, La Crete, and Manning</li> <li>– Response time targets – Community&gt;3000 – 10 minutes, Rural – 20 minutes, Remote – 40 minutes.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Alberta Health Services Zone Update</b></p>	<p><b>Angie Mann, Director of Clinical Operations, Allied Health, Acute Care and Seniors for Area 1, North Zone</b>, provided a written report with information about workforce recruitment, capital projects and major events and initiatives specific to the local area. Some highlights included are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Workforce News:</b></li> <li>• Area 1 bed closures for both High Level (6 beds) and Fort Vermilion (10 Beds) have been extended to November 30, 2023, due to nursing vacancies. AHS continues to recruit and utilize RN locums and agency nurses. International recruitment is underway, and RNs are expected to arrive Fall 2023. <b>Capital Projects:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fort Vermilion – the long-term care (LTC) atrium is completed; palliative care suite upgrades; new flooring upgrade in the emergency department and a new freezer is being replaced in the food services department.</li> <li>○ La Crete – the security upgrade project is expected to be completed in Fall 2023, along with new countertops in some of the medical clinic/Advanced Ambulatory Care Centre (AACC) patient rooms.</li> <li>○ Rainbow Lake – the pavement improvement parking lot is completed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Bobbi Paul-Alook</b>, Manager, North Zone Area 1 PPIH, Population, Public &amp; Indigenous Health provided updates on Monkey Pox, and the <a href="#">Alberta Breast Cancer Screening program</a>.</li> <li>• <b>Enhancing Access to Public Health Services in Rural Communities throughout the North</b> TELUS Health for Good, and Radius Community Health &amp; Healing provided a fully equipped medical van to help bring healthcare to remote communities and wildfire evacuees in northern Alberta. This service supports enhanced access within northern Alberta and ensures healthcare is available to rural residents where they are, when they need it. To see the official AHS post on Instagram, visit: <a href="#">TELUS Health for Good and Radius Community Health &amp; Healing - Medical Van</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Physician Recruitment Report</b></p>	<p><b>Shauna Wallbank, Physician Resource Planner</b> Shauna Wallbank was unable to attend the meeting but a copy of the Physician Recruitment Update AHS North Zone – Area 1 was emailed to Council members prior to the meeting: AREA 1 – True North HAC Communities – Physicians in the Community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fort Vermillion – 7 family physicians (4 sharing 1 role)</li> <li>• High Level – 11 family physicians (9 with additional skills)</li> <li>• La Crete – 2 family physicians</li> </ul>



<p><b>Community Partners</b></p>	<p><b>Holly Handfield, Rural Community Consultant with Rural Health Professions Action Plan (RhPAP)</b>, shared updates with Council. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On October 10 – a virtual conversation geared toward high school students was held. The “How Do I Get There? Nursing Careers” series will walk students through various roles within the nursing profession, post-secondary experience and how to secure employment once they have graduated.</li> <li>• Host the 2024 RhPAP Conference – for more information visit: <a href="#">2024 Conference</a>.</li> <li>• Visit the events page periodically for registration and details on all upcoming sessions as they are added: <a href="#">RhPAP Events</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Action Items</b></p>	<p>Holly Handfield to send Jo the Let’s Go Rural – Nursing Careers poster for Jo to share with council members.</p>
<p><b>Report from Chair</b></p>	<p><b>Chair Nella Fehr reported the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an outbreak of Pertussis (whooping cough) in La Crete.</li> <li>• Great to see a greater number of members and public attend the TNHAC meeting.</li> <li>• Nella asked council members if they were happy with Wednesday as their meeting day or if they wanted to change, it was agreed by all to stay with Wednesday.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Report from Advisory Council Coordinator Update</b></p>	<p>Jo Blakley shared information on the upcoming October Learning Series:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Link 811 - Wednesday, October 11 @ 12 – 1 p.m.</li> <li>• AHS Leadership Update - Wednesday, October 18 @ 6-7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• Community Engagement 101 - Wednesday, October 25 @ 6-7:30 p.m.</li> <li>• Building Trust - Session #1 - Monday, October 30 @ 12-1:30 p.m. <b>OR</b> Session #2 - Monday, November 6 @ 12-1:30 p.m.</li> </ul> <p>True North Health Advisory Council held its elections for Chair and Vice Chair as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were no expressions of interest previously submitted for the position of <b>Chair</b>. Jo Blakley opened the floor for nominations. Rick Cartier nominated Julie Melville for position of Chair. Tracey Stauffer seconded the nomination. Jo asked three times if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were none. Julie accepted the nomination. Julie Melville was declared Chair of True North Health Advisory Council. All in favour. Motion carried.</li> <li>• There were no expressions of interest previously submitted for the position of <b>Vice Chair</b>. Jo Blakley opened the floor for nominations. Liane Mercredi put her name forward. Jo asked three times if there were any further</li> </ul>



	<p>nominations from the floor. There were none. Liane Mercredi was declared Vice Chair of True North Health Advisory Council by acclamation. All in favour. Motion carried.</p>
<b>Action Item</b>	<p>Jo Blakley will update Community Engagement contact lists with the names of the new Chair/ Vice Chair and will advise the Official Administrator’s office.</p>
<b>Council Round Table</b>	<p><b>Rainbow Lake</b> – Rick Cartier thanked the council for his years as vice chair and for allowing him to present and speak for his community.  <b>Rainbow Lake</b> – Julie Melville thanked Rick for his years as vice chair.  <b>High Level</b> – Tracey Stauffer thanked Nella for being chair and commended everyone for the great attendance at the meeting.  <b>High Level</b> – Liane Mercredi expressed that it is very nice to see so many members at the meeting.  <b>Fort Vermilion</b> – Oxana Kabardina thanked both Nella and Rick for their service and welcomed Julie Melville and Liane Mercredi as new chair and vice chair.  <b>La Crete</b> - Judith Wiebe thanked Nella and Rick and welcomed Julie and Liane as new chair and vice chair.  <b>High Level</b> – Council member Shelly Komarnicki shared that once again, there has been evacuees in the community due to wildfires in the territories.  <b>La Crete</b> – Nella thanked everyone for their comments.</p>
<b>NEW BUSINESS</b>	
<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	<p><b>Next Council Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2023</li> <li>• Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</li> <li>• Location: Virtual - ZOOM</li> </ul>