

## Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council Meeting Minutes

**Wednesday, May 25, 2022**

**4:30 PM – 7:00PM**

**Location: Goga Cho 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom** (4916 47<sup>th</sup> Street)

**Teleconference:** 1 647 556 5305 | Code: 13371256#

**Video:** <https://my.telemerge.ca/meet/13371256>

**Mission:** Working with people to optimize wellbeing through the provision of collaborative and culturally appropriate health and social service

**Vision:** Healthy People, Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

**Values:** Collaboration Accountability Integrity Respect

**Cultural safety:** An outcome where Indigenous peoples feel safe and respected, free of racism and discrimination, when accessing health and social services.

**Acknowledgment of Land:** We acknowledge that we are in the Chief Drygeese territory.

From time immemorial, it has been the traditional land of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and more recently, the homeland of the North Slave Métis.

We respect the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Metis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.

**Members:**

**X** Nancy Trotter, Chair

**X** Gloria Enzoe

**X** Nancy Cymbalisky

**R** Elizabeth Liske

**X** Brandie Miersch

**X** Katey Davis

**X** Gilbert Langsi

**X** Marie Speakman

**Employees:**

**X** Lorie-Anne Danielson

**X** Attanda Yakeleya

**Guests:**

Peter Long

Tim VanOverliw

Lisa Rayner

#	Item	Time	Responsibility
1.0	<b>Call to Order</b> Meeting called to order at 4:32pm.	4:32	Chairperson
2.0	<b>Reflection/Prayer</b> Opening prayer was led by Marie Speakman	4:34	Member
3.0	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Nancy welcomed everyone to the meeting, including guests. Introduction to guest speakers – Tim VanOverliw, Peter Long and Lisa Rayner		
	<b>3.1 Acknowledgement of traditional territory</b>	4:35	Chairperson

	<b>3.2 Safety Overview</b>	4:36	COO
4.0	<b>Guest Speaker</b>		
	<p><b>4.1 Medical Travel</b>  <b>Guest Speakers: Peter Long, Territorial Manager, Patient Movement (Medical Travel) and Tim VanOverliw, Executive Director, Corporate and Support Services</b></p> <p>Focus of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updates to Medical travel administration</li> <li>• How medical travel benefits are delivered across the NWT</li> <li>• Improve Client Services</li> <li>• Type of benefit</li> </ul> <p>Covid has impacted staffing. Det'on Cho purchased Slave Lake Inn and is transitioning the building into the new Vital Abel boarding home.</p> <p>The Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) is currently working on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escort policy and reimbursement rate</li> <li>• Boarding home contracts – looking for feedback on the type of options</li> </ul> <p>Q: We are dealing with elders denied escorts at age 79. Is there a policy for escorts?  A: The challenge here is the administration of policy. Escorts not denied, but in some way, they do not meet the criteria or need for an escort as policy states. Right now, age is not a part of the criteria. This is a concern that has been brought up with DHSS</p> <p>Q: In Fort Resolution the head nurse would fight for escorts for elders over 70 and the elder would get an escort. When and if would the policy change?  A: From an operational point of view all we can do is apply the policy. Medical escorts are meant to get a person to medical appointments, if a person already has a medical escort (nurse, paramedic, physician, etc.) then they would not be eligible for a non-medical escort.</p> <p>Q: What are the criteria for medical travel?  A: The medical travel policy is available to the public on the GNWT website</p> <p>Q: With the policy under review do you have a timeline?</p>	4:43	Peter Long/Tim VanOverliw

	<p>A: The department is putting together a workplan for policy changes. Tim will follow up and advise on the timeline.</p> <p>DHSS is the accountability holder for the medical travel Policy.</p> <p>NTHSSA is accountable for administering the benefit following the DHSS medical travel policy. All policies are reviewed on a regular basis. Last changes made to the medical travel policy in 2019.</p> <p>Non-Insured Health Benefit (NIHB) Provides funding to the GNWT for Medical Travel. During the last review the GNWT brought many different groups together to review the policy, they will probably do the same thing this time.</p> <p>General comments: Medical travel is an area of stress for patients, they need to have their support systems with them. Cancer patients need supports with them, as do other patients to help them understand their treatment plans. Another concern is that some patients are not notified with appropriate amount of time prior to appointment.</p> <p>Comment: if we are serious about reconciliation and equality, we need more people at the table to review the policy and looking at equality as fair is not equal.</p> <p>Comment: In the past years GNWT &amp; HSS would get involved with NGOs and aboriginal governments. This has not happened, yet people are still reaching out to the band and aboriginal organizations looking for help. Clients who are on income support and get help with medical travel, when they get back home whatever help they got is taken out of their basic needs and assessment from their income support. This should be looked at. Escorts are for physical and mental support. It would be good for this to be looked at.</p>		
	<p><b>4.2 Indigenous Patient Advocates</b>  <b>Guest Speaker: Tim VanOverliw, Executive Director, Corporate and Support Services</b>  Focus of Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Patient Advocate position to be released for competition this week</li> <li>• 4 Indigenous patient advocate positions under Indigenous Leader in the Quality Division. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Indigenous applicants</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	5:31	Tim VanOverliw

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Located in Acute Care – 1 at Stanton, 1 in Hay River, 1 in Inuvik and 1 in Fort Smith.</li> <li>○ Primarily responsible to advocate on behalf of patients.</li> <li>• 2 Client Experience positions</li> </ul> <p>Q: what would be a realistic timeline to expect to be able to hire into these positions? A: We hope to have them hired by the end of summer/fall, then have them orientated and on boarded by late fall/early winter.</p> <p>Comment: can they be provided with Languages Training? Tim will take this forward.</p>		
	<p><b>4.3 Update on Home Care Review</b> <b>Guest Speaker: Director, Legacy Stanton Development and Continuing Care Service</b></p> <p>Focus of Discussion: Presentation Provided – see attached</p> <p>Q: Does Home Care provide activities for elders? When will programs be up and running again? A: Yes, that is through Homecare. Will be starting again shortly.</p> <p>Q: Are the activity programs only for elders 65 years and over? If an elder does not require services like meals on wheels are they still eligible for the elders in motion program? A: A Needs assessment is done. Services are not open to everyone but activities like fun BINGO is open to all elders. If there are concerns, please contact the Manager or the COO.</p>	5:46	Lisa Rayner
5.0	<b>Agenda and Minutes</b>		
	<p><b>5.1 Previous Meeting Minutes – Review and Approval</b></p> <p>Gloria Enzoe and Nancy Trotter were not present <b>Motion: Brandie Mierch</b> <b>Second: Gilbert Langsi</b> <b>All in Favor: Approved with changes to attendance</b></p>	5:14	Chairperson
	<p><b>5.2 Approval of Agenda</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Gloria Enzoe</b> <b>Second: Brandie Mierch</b></p>		

	<b>All in Favor: Approved</b>		
	<b>5.3 Declaration of Conflict of Interest</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No conflicts were declared</li> </ul>		
6.0	<b>Business Arising</b>		
	<b>6.1 RWC Activity Plan</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We have one meeting left on our schedule. Previously meetings were the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, but this changed in May. Nancy apologized to Katey who arrived for the meeting last week.</li> </ul> June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stanton Hospital update</li> <li>Midwifery Program update</li> </ul>	6:18	Chairperson
	<b>6.2 Review Action Items</b> Eliminate 6.2 it can fall under 10 – RWC Report to the Leadership Council.  Q: Does Community Leadership participate in the Leadership Council meetings? A: No, the Leadership Council is made up of each RWC Chairperson, the deputy minister is an ex-officio member.	5:20	
7.0	<b>Chairperson Report</b> See report attached	6:24	Chairperson
8.0	<b>COO Report</b> Verbal Report provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main function over last two weeks was setting up the evacuation centre in Yellowknife. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initially set up for Fort Simpson for 137 evacuees, but last-minute call with 2800 evacuees.</li> <li>Closed the evacuation centre yesterday.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Visited Fort Resolution twice in May, met with Mayor, Community members and staff – working on bringing in the right employees</li> <li>Hired new NIC in Fort Resolution and Regional Manager, Health Centers.</li> <li>Attending the upcoming Senior Leadership Annual Planning session – June 7 &amp; 8</li> <li>Syphilis Action plan developed and in place</li> <li>Primary Care practitioner shortages continue, and we continue to be impacted by COVID related absences.</li> <li>Mental Health has 4 vacancies in the CYCC program.</li> <li>Hoping to announce the successful EA shortly.</li> </ul>	6:55	COO

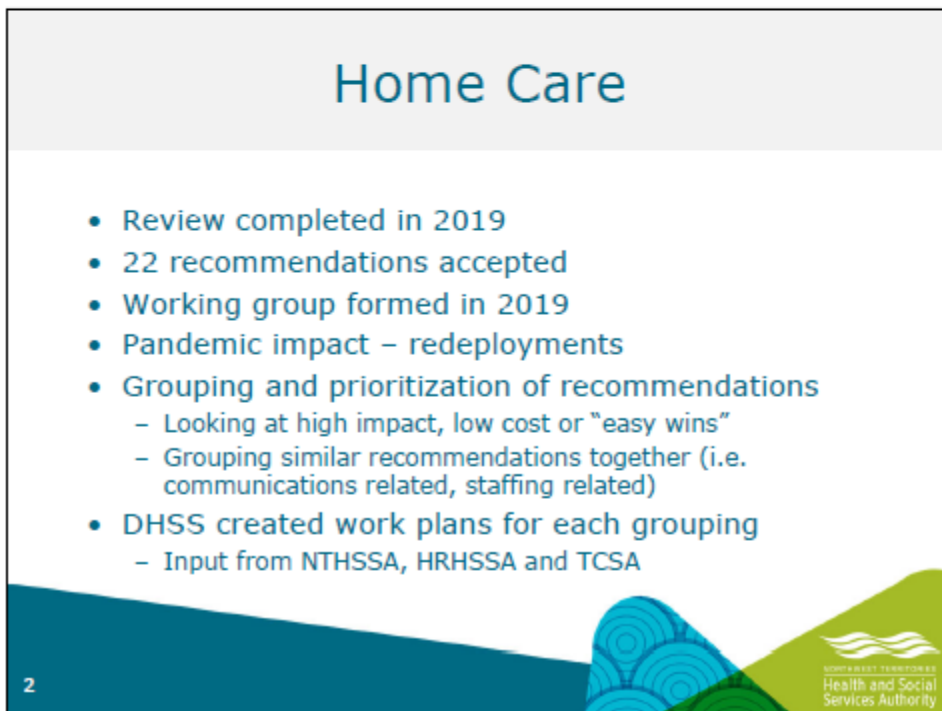
	<p>Q: Do we have a Territorial Medical Director yet? A: It hasn't been announced it yet.</p> <p>Q: Would you say we are having low level COVID transmission? A: Yes, COVID cases are not being reported any longer but most communities experiencing some infections.</p>		
9.0	<p><b>Roundtable Updates - Community activities, questions, and concerns</b></p> <p>Comment: some patients in communities miss medical appointment due to transportation. There is need for effective transportation in the communities.</p>	7:04	Chairperson
10.0	<p><b>RWC Report to Leadership Council - Items to take forward to the Leadership Council</b></p> <p>We are pleased there is now funding to hire a CHR for Dettah and N'dilo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COO noted, the CHR Job Description is currently being completed.</li> </ul> <p>We continue to recommend</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer program at Stanton – 2019 presentation</li> <li>• Recommended Indigenous name for Legacy Stanton Building</li> <li>• Concerns with medical travel will be taken forward</li> <li>• Members to submit any other issues to Chair this week.</li> </ul>	7:14	Chairperson
11.0	<b>New Business</b>	7:14	
12.0	<p><b>Closing Reflections / Prayer</b></p> <p>Closing prayer was led by Gloria Enzoe</p>	7:20	Member
13.0	<p><b>Motion to Adjourn</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Brandie Mierch</b> <b>Second: Katy Davis</b> <b>All in Favor: Approved</b></p>	7:21	Chairperson

Next Meeting –June 22, 2022

	<b>ACTION ITEMS</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	<b>ASSIGNED</b>	<b>DUE</b>	<b>Completed</b>
<b>1.</b>					



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Northwest Territories Health and Social Services  
Authority  
Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT  
X1A 2L9  
Yellowknife Region

Administration des services de santé et des  
services sociaux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest  
C.P. 1320, Yellowknife, NT  
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Région de Yellowknife

## Work Plans

- **Enhanced Hours of Service**
- **Staff Planning**
- **Scope of Services**
- **Communications**
- **Data Collection**
- **Funding**

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## Work Under Way

- Hay River and Tlicho implementing augmented hours of service
- NTHSSA is hiring a manager of planning and health planner
- Evaluation of Paid Family Care Giver pilot project
- DHSS and NTHSSA working with Aurora College

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## Work Under Way

- Standardization of job descriptions
- Utilization of education/training dollars for certification for PSWs
- Tool standardization through InterRAI and Continuing Care Information System
- Accreditation Canada survey in 2023

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Health and Social  
Services Authority

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## Work Under Way

- Development of Home Care Standards
- Defining Scope of Services for Home Care
- Communications for public
- NIC of Home Care positions

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NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
Health and Social  
Services Authority

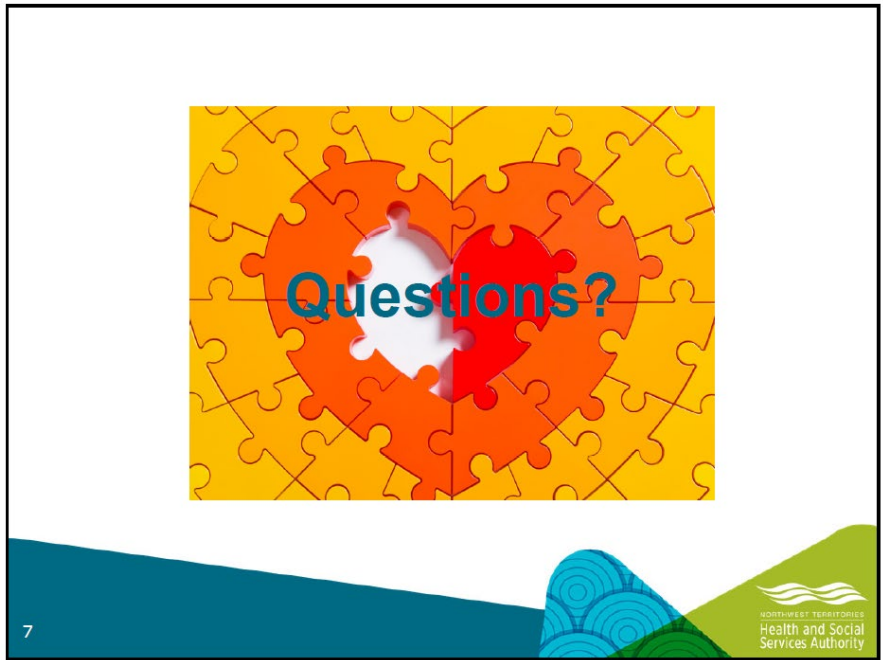
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## Regional Wellness Council Chair Report

Region:	<i>Yellowknife Region</i>
Meeting Date:	<i>May 25, 2022</i>
Meeting Location:	<i>Yellowknife</i>

### Recent Activities:

I have the following activities to report since our last meeting.

- I met with Lorie-Anne Danielson, COO on May 19<sup>th</sup> to review plans for the April 20<sup>th</sup>RWC meeting.
- We were given the opportunity to comment on a draft breast cancer screening poster. Thank you to RWC council members for your comments on the draft poster. All comments were forwarded to the NTHSSA cancer care team.
- The Leadership Council is presently in the process of a self-assessment process. On May 17<sup>th</sup> we spent two hours on a survey to determine if we are functioning as an effective governing body. This is also an accreditation requirement. Some of this reflection and evaluation process could be useful to our region. I will be following up with suggestions at our June meeting.
- I continue to take part in regular communication with the Senior Advisor, Governance to discuss Leadership Council issues.
- I continue ongoing communication with RWC members and members of the public.

### Future Activities:

The next RWC meeting is June 22, 2022. During this meeting we will have an opportunity have a discussion with Stanton Territorial Hospital COO, Georgina Veldhorst. We will also receive the re-scheduled presentation from Joanne Engram, on Midwifery. Joanne is the Director, Health Services, Clinical Integration.

The next Leadership Council meeting is scheduled for June 14 to 17 in Yellowknife. The first two days will be a strategic planning session followed by two days of regular meetings. I will forward an agenda when it is available. As in the past, the regular Leadership council meetings are open to the public.

Respectfully Submitted  
Nancy Trotter