

Leadership Council Public Meeting - Minutes

March 3-4, 2021

Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, NT

PRESENT:

- Mr. Jim Antoine, Chairperson
- Ms. Gina Dolphus, Chair, Sahtu Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Brian Willows, Chair, Hay River Health and Social Services Authority
- Mr. Ted Blondin, Chair, Tlicho Community Services Agency
- Ms. Ruby Simba, Chair, Dehcho Regional Wellness Council
- Ms. Ethel-Jean Gruben, Chair, Beaufort Delta Regional Wellness Council
- Ms. Nancy Trotter, Chair, Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council
- Ms. Patsy Schaefer, Chair, Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Bruce Cooper, Deputy Minister, GNWT DHSS

- Ms. Sue Cullen, Chief Executive Officer, NTHSSA
- Mr. Kevin Whitehead, Senior Advisor, CEO, NTHSSA
- Mr. Allen Stanzell, Senior Advisor, Governance, NTHSSA
- Ms. Kim Riles, Executive Director – Clinical Integration, NTHSSA
- Ms. Gloria Badari, Chief Financial Officer, NTHSSA
- Mr. Tim VanOverliw, Executive Director – Corporate & Support Services, NTHSSA
- Ms. Arlene Jorgensen, Chief Operating Officer, Beaufort Delta Region, NTHSSA
- Ms. Sara Nash, A/Chief Executive Officer, Tlicho Community Services Agency
- Ms. Georgina Veldhorst, Chief Operating Officer, Stanton Terr. Hospital, NTHSSA
- Ms. Sujata Ganguli, Chief Operating Officer, Fort Smith Region, NTHSSA

GUEST PRESENTERS:

- Dr. Kami Kandola, Chief Public Health Officer, GNWT HSS
- Mr. Scott Robertson, Executive Co-Lead, Authorities Pandemic Response, NTHSSA
- Ms. Sabet Biscaye, Special Advisor, Women's Advisory, GNWT Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Ms. Yolande Chapman, Project Manager, Women's Advisory, GNWT Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Ms. Judy Tutcho, Project Manager, Women's Advisory, GNWT Dept. of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

OBSERVERS:

- Ms. Jenna Scarfe, Director, Mental Health and Addictions, NTHSSA
- Ms. Andrea Brown, Manager, Mental Health and Addictions, NTHSSA
- Ms. Nancy Cymbalisky, Member, Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM.

- a) The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, acknowledging Chief Drygeese Traditional Territory, home of the Yellowknives Dene and traditional lands of the North Slave Metis.
- b) Ms. Patsy Schaefer led the meeting in an opening prayer.
- c) The Chairperson highlighted COVID-19 protocols, and a safety overview was provided by the Senior Advisor, Governance.
- d) All Members of the Leadership Council were noted present, plus Ms. Cullen, Ms. Riles, Mr. VanOverliw, Ms. Jorgensen, Ms. Nash, Ms. Veldhorst, Ms. Ganguli, Mr. Whitehead, and Mr. Stanzell.
- e) There were no conflicts of interest declared for this meeting.
- f) It was noted questions from the public could be emailed to rwc_nthssa@gov.nt.ca.

2.0 Agenda/Action Items/Minutes

a) Review/Approve Agenda

The Leadership Council reviewed the agenda for the meeting. There was one amendment, to defer consideration of the 2021/22 NTHSSA Operational Plan to a future meeting.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the March 3-4, 2021 agenda, as amended.

Motion: Mr. Brian Willows
Second: Ms. Ruby Simba
LC21/03-001 – Carried Unanimously

b) Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

The Leadership Council reviewed the minutes from the November 19,

2020, December 9-10, 2020, and February 9, 2021 meetings.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the November 19, 2020 meeting minutes, as presented.

Motion: Ms. Nancy Trotter
Second: Mr. Brian Willows
LC21/03-002 – Carried Unanimously

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the December 9-10, 2020 meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Ms. Ruby Simba
Second: Ms. Ethel-Jean Gruben
LC21/03-003 – Carried Unanimously

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the February 9, 2021 meeting minutes, as amended.

Motion: Ms. Ruby Simba
Second: Mr. Brian Willows
LC21/03-004 – Carried Unanimously

3.0 Regional Wellness Council Reports

The Leadership Council received updates from each region during the meeting. Below are summaries of the actions, suggestions and activities of each region that provided a report:

- a) **Beaufort Delta** – RWC Chair Ethel-Jean Gruben highlighted:
- The RWC held a regular meeting January 29-30, 2021 featuring discussion on cancer care, CFS structure, Long Term Care and Continuing Care, COVID-19, and the need for ongoing decentralization of programs and services.
 - In addition, the Beaufort Delta RWC had the following issues and/or concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA:
 - Organizational Safety/Cultural Safety;
 - Program and service delivery improvements;

- Medical Travel policy and services;
- Ambulance services for small communities;
- Access to good quality dental care;
- Homelessness.

The RWC requested follow up on the allocation of funding for Health and Social Services programming in Yellowknife versus the regions.

The Chair also acknowledged the recent passing of an Inuvik Regional Hospital nurse, and the need to ensure comfort and support are available to all who need this during these difficult times.

The next RWC meeting is planned for April 16-17, 2021.

b) **Sahtu** – RWC Chair Gina Dolphus highlighted :

- The RWC held a regular meeting February 27, 2021, for updates on Child and Family Services and regional mental health and addictions programming.
- In addition, the Sahtu RWC has the following issues and/or concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA:
 - The need to reinstate drug and alcohol workers in the Sahtu with local workers who speak local languages. They will work with MHA counsellors for pre-treatment and after-care supports, and with community members suffering from anxiety, depression and psychosis.
 - Region specific rehab staff like Speech Pathology, Dieticians, and physio and occupational therapists should be increased.

The next meeting will be held in May 2021.

c) **Dehcho** – RWC Chair Ruby Simba, highlighted:

- The RWC held a regular meeting February 22-23, 2021, with discussion of NTHSSA services during the pandemic, Child and Family Services, and the Child and Youth Care Counsellor program.
- In addition, Dehcho has the following issues and/or concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA:
 - Concerns with community members self-isolating in their home communities instead of regional hubs.
 - Concerns with the impact of removing liquor restrictions in Fort Simpson, and how Child Youth and Family Services can proactively adjust.

The next RWC meeting will be scheduled for April or May 2021.

- d) **Tl̨ich̨o Community Services Agency** – TCSA Chair Ted Blondin asked acting CEO Sara Nash to report:
- Significant activities of the TCSA Board, including a quarterly meeting February 2-4, 2021, a special meeting February 12, 2021, and a health policy workshop January 24-25, 2021 regarding indigenous governance in health care.
 - In addition, the TCSA has ongoing issues, challenges and concerns for the TCSA Board:
 - Capital planning for improvement and expansion of integrated services delivery.
 - Continued need for increased mental health and wellness supports.
 - Recruitment and Retention Challenges in all program areas.
 - Critical nature of housing in Tl̨ich̨o communities, the impacts on staff recruitment and retention across all program areas, as well as impacts on health and wellness of community members.

The next meeting will take place June 1-3, 2021 in Yellowknife.

- e) **Yellowknife Region** – Chair Nancy Trotter delivered her report:
- The Yellowknife RWC held meetings on January 21 and February 24, 2021, with presentations on the Healthy Family Program, Child and Family Services reforms, and Stanton Territorial Hospital.
 - The community of Lutselk'é is now represented by Gloria Enzoe.
 - In addition, Yellowknife has the following issues and/or concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA:
 - Emergency services in Fort Resolution need to be improved and clarified. Suggest using an integrated services delivery model among GNWT departments to find the best solution.
 - The name of the Stanton Legacy Building should be indigenous to reflect the spirit of truth and reconciliation.
 - Cancer is the leading cause of death in the Northwest Territories. Organized screening programs find cancer earlier, leading to better health outcomes. Currently there is no core-funded organized screening program in the NWT.

The Chair thanked all NTHSSA staff for enduring the pandemic.

The next Yellowknife RWC meeting will be held in April 2021.

- f) **Hay River** – Chair Brian Willows reported :
- The RWC met for a regular meeting on February 17, 2021, with presentations on COVID-19 and vaccine roll-out, Primary Health Care Reform, and the HRHSSA Diabetes program.
 - In addition, Hay River has the following issues and/or concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA:
 - Lack of communications for the vaccine roll-out.
 - Long term care visitation restrictions.
 - Herd immunity definitions and benefits.
 - Gaps in the medical travel process.

The next RWC meeting will be held in April 2021.

- g) **Fort Smith** – RWC Chair Patsy Schaefer reported :
- The RWC held a regular meeting on February 10, 2021, the first for the new COO, and reviewed an RWC orientation presentation, updates on COVID-19 and the vaccine roll-out, and the launch of the Integrated Care Team approach in Fort Smith (part of the Primary Health Care Reform initiative).
 - In addition, the Fort Smith RWC has the following issues and/or concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA:
 - Medical Travel guidelines should be reviewed given regular feedback from patients and their families.
 - Proper training for resident care aides and the requirement for staff to complete Personal Support Worker training.

The Council asked for clarification if the above training could be offered at the Aurora College Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith.

The next meeting will be scheduled in April 2021.

4.0 Finance Committee Report

Mr. Brian Willows, Chair of the Finance Committee, delivered a report on the February 9, 2021 Finance Committee meeting, attended by all Committee Members.

The Committee was updated on the 2021/22 NTHSSA Operational Plan, based on the system strategic plan developed by DHSS. The Operational Plan

will tie-in elements of the System Sustainability Plan, and will be released publicly once the GNWT Budget is approved, allowing 2021/22 NTHSSA Budget information to be included. The Committee approved a 2021/22 work plan that included a quarterly update on the System Sustainability Plan, with annual consideration of the need to discuss a-base budgeting. Committee reviewed their Terms of Reference, and noted with a heavy annual work plan and a focus on system sustainability, more Leadership Council Members would be welcomed on the Committee. The Committee looks forward to an update at their next meeting, on receiving regular information on NTHSSA capital planning (infrastructure (through DHSS) and equipment).

Leadership Council agreed all Members would be Members of the Finance Committee effective immediately.

The next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021.

5.0 Governance and HR Committee Report

Mr. Jim Antoine, the Governance and HR Committee Chair, delivered the report of the February 10, 2021 Committee meeting.

The Committee discussed the CEO evaluation process for 2020/21, a Leadership Council self-evaluation quote from Watson Inc., recommended changes to the Governance Manual, and format changes for Leadership Council meetings to give more focus on regional issues. Committee completed the annual review of their Terms of Reference with no recommended changes.

The next Governance and HR Committee meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2021.

6.0 Quality Committee Report

The Committee Chair, Mr. Ted Blondin, asked the Committee lead official, the Executive Director, Clinical Integration to read the report of the Quality Committee meeting on May 13, 2021, into the record.

Committee will review an implementation plan for new Enterprise Risk Management software at their May 13 meeting. Accreditation Canada's response to the December action plans and evidence submitted by NTHSSA is expected shortly. Committee received a quarterly update on Primary Health Care Reform, with this initiative entering the next phase of

implementation – stabilizing and sustaining existing projects, and expanding to all regions. An Integrated Care Team (ICT) project was added in the Sahtu (Fort Good Hope), with the Beaufort Delta and Hay River now in different stages of project planning and development. Initiation of the ICT project in Fort Smith commenced in January 2021. The Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Scorecard was reviewed by Committee, while it's aligned with current system priorities it will be updated as priorities and the Operational Plan are updated. Committee completed the annual review of their Terms of Reference with no changes recommended.

(Updates requested by the Leadership Council on rehab wait times based on acuity scoring, medevac statistics for in- versus out-of Territory, and the response from Accreditation Canada to NTHSSA submissions from December 2020, were provided by email after the meeting.)

The next Quality Committee meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2021.

7.0 Chairperson's Report

Chairperson Jim Antoine summarized his activities since the last Leadership Council meeting, including meetings with the Executive team, LC update and Budget meetings, discussions with the Deputy Minister and Chief Public Health Officer, attending Committee meetings, and discussions with various LC Members and NTHSSA Executive staff.

The Chair referenced the next round of meetings for Committees May 11-13, 2021 and the Leadership Council May 25-27, 2021.

8.0 Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services Report

DM Bruce Cooper discussed the relative success of the vaccine roll-out in the NWT, videos explaining the vaccine available in all NWT official languages (<https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/services/covid-19-vaccine>), the outbreak at the Gacho Kue mine, the possibility of moving to a more relaxed phase of Emerging Wisely, and the CPHO willingness to consider updates to permitted activities based on applicant plans to mitigate COVID-19 risks. Mr. Cooper highlighted the availability of Shingrix vaccine under NIHB for those over 65 by summer 2021, the Addictions Recovery Survey being conducted by DHSS, work on a suicide prevention and crisis response network and availability of the Community Suicide Prevention Fund, work to advance the recommendations from the Home and Community Care Review and

development of an Elder's Strategy, and a regular report on social impacts of the protective health measures implemented during the pandemic available at this link https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/social_indicators_public_information_final_jan_27.pdf.

Mr. Cooper also reviewed the NWT implementation of federal legislation Bill C-92) that sets out national standards for the delivery of child and family services to Indigenous children, and affirms the rights and jurisdiction of Indigenous people in relation to child and family services. Other key legislative initiatives in DHSS include engagement reports on the Tobacco and Vapour Products Control Act and the Nursing Profession Act, and the statutory review of the NWT Child and Family Services Act. Finally, Mr. Cooper shared information regarding the Minister's participation in the ongoing National Dialogue on Anti-Indigenous Racism in Health Care.

The Council expressed their preference for the Shingles vaccine to be available to those over 50 years old, and asked for more information on the Addictions Recovery Survey and the Community Suicide Prevention Fund (provided by email after the meeting).

9.0 Chief Executive Officer Report

CEO Sue Cullen updated the Leadership Council on NTHSSA operational issues including the Authorities' (including Hay River HSSA and TCSA) pandemic response planning, testing capacity and vaccine roll-out. Ms. Cullen's report contains updates from Child, Family and Community Wellness (training, quality reviews, the Healthy Family Program, and the Family Preservation Program), Clinical Integration (Mental Health and Community Wellness, Long Term Care, Home and Community Care, Cancer Care, the Paid Family/Community Care Giver pilot, Midwifery, and NIHB dental visits), Corporate and Support Services (Occupational Health and Safety, Biomedical Engineering/Informatics and Health Technology, Medical Travel, and Talent and Organizational Development), Stanton Territorial Hospital (boilers, medical device reprocessing (sterilization), Obstetrics birthing tubs, COVID-19 cases, and building operator (Dexterra) performance). The CEO Report also included regional operational updates from Fort Smith, Sahtu, Dehcho, Yellowknife, and the Beaufort Delta.

Council noted the e-fax pilot for its potential to reduce misdirected facsimile transmissions, the success of the Child Youth Care Counselling program in

Yellowknife, and virtual training available for NTHSSA staff in the Child, Family and Community Wellness Division.

Lunch Break

10.0 COVID-19 Update

Dr. Kami Kandola, the NWTs Chief Public Health Officer, and Mr. Scott Robertson, Executive Co-Lead of the Authorities Pandemic Response with NTHSSA, presented a COVID-19 update to Leadership Council. While the efficacy of vaccines against variants remains undetermined with no real-life data available, there are no known variant cases of COVID-19 in the NWT. Lockdown measures are an effective way to lower daily case counts, but caution is still required against a potential 3rd wave of infections.

Waste water testing may be added in Behchoko and Fort Liard. The CPHO provides updates regularly to the NWT Association of Communities and indigenous governments, and appreciates the Leadership Council's important role to promote vaccines so the number of cases is minimized, the most vulnerable people are protected, and our health system isn't overwhelmed.

While the national vaccine rate is lagging other countries, the NWT has received 4 shipments of Moderna vaccine, with a 5th shipment expected by the end of March – this is enough to achieve the goal of 75% of eligible adults vaccinated in all NWT communities by April 2021. The NWT has the highest per capita vaccine uptake rate in the country.

It's expected strong public health measures – masking, hand-washing, self-isolation, and physical distancing – will still be required, until the rest of Canada reaches similar vaccination rates. The CPHO will be reviewing and potentially updating Emerging Wisely in April, based on NWT and national vaccine rates, the spread of variants in nearby jurisdictions, and the most current science on the spread of COVID-19 after vaccination. As many variables as possible need to be mitigated to reduce the risk of virus importation and consider relaxing restrictions.

Council requested clarification of changes to priority populations, the vaccine schedule for general population over 18 years old, the conversation around vaccine passports as a requirement for travel and proof of immunity (NWT will adhere to WHO and NACI advice), Moderna research on a COVID-19 vaccine for children (results likely available for start of next school year),

There will be more communications to address vaccine hesitancy or indifference (higher in some regions and in younger population), through media and vaccine teams in communities. The support of local nursing staff and leadership has made a difference in communities.

The CPHO acknowledged the last year has been long, people may be tired, but encouraged all to remain vigilant. Many risks remain – unknown risk of transmission after vaccinations, unknown need for a booster shot to protect against variants, the higher risk of mutations with more virus spread. Mr. Robertson thanked the CPHO and her team for their strategic leadership, and all front line health care staff and those picking up the slack in regular areas.

Council looks forward to their next scheduled COVID-19 update at the next Leadership Council meeting.

11.0 Adjournment – March 3, 2021

The Leadership Council adjourned for the day at 2:53 pm.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority adjourned its March 3, 2021 proceedings.

Motion: Mr. Brian Willows
Second: Ms. Ethel-Jean Gruben
LC21/03-005 – Carried Unanimously

12.0 Call to Order Day 2 – the Chairperson called the meeting back to Order on March 4, 2021 at 8:35 am.

Mr. Ted Blondin led the meeting in an opening prayer for Day 2.

13.0 Domestic and Family Violence

Representatives from the Women’s Advisory in the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs presented to Council on Domestic and Family Violence. Their presentation focussed on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, and the work in the Women’s Advisory office (central coordinating role) to focus on family and domestic violence.

Actions against family violence are related to the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Calls for Action. The pandemic has forced women suffering

violence into confined spaces with abusers, unable to get help. The federal government has released funding nationally for shelters, received in the NWT. The GNWT has given free cell phones to women and issued more emergency protection orders. A community partnership approach to the fight against violence has more chance of success.

Governments realize violence is committed against men, focus is shifting to gender-based violence. With the 2nd highest rate of family violence in Canada, the NWT has hurdles to overcome – inconsistent broadband services lead to a lack of information and knowledge sharing, transportation limitations lead to greater isolation. GNWT is hiring a Family Violence Coordinator to develop a strategy on family violence, including a work plan with community engagement. Communities bring access to program funding that partnerships can bridge to fight family violence - eg. On The Land funding with DHSS, language funding with ECE.

Women's Advisory is meeting regularly with MLAs, community contacts. GNWT departments are working through their programs and services with a gender-based violence lens – eg. Housing Corporation has amended lease agreements to account for fair treatment in case of marital breakdown, and better options for future access to housing.

Leadership Council looks forward to receiving specific information on changes to NWT housing programs and services, and the federal funding programs available to NWT indigenous governments for gender-based violence projects (link provided <https://cfc-swc.gc.ca/fun-fin/cp-ap-en.html>).

14.0 Meeting with Minister of Health and Social Services (in camera)

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority moved in camera.

Motion: Ms. Nancy Trotter

Second: Mr. Ted Blondin

LC21/03-006 – Carried Unanimously

The Leadership Council met in-camera from 11:25am to 12:20pm, to discuss health and social services issues with the Honourable Julie Green, Minister of Health and Social Services.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority moved out of camera.

Motion: Ms. Ruby Simba

Second: Ms. Ethel-Jean Gruben

LC21/03-007 – Carried Unanimously

Lunch Break

15.0 Regional Issues, Advice to the Minister (*HIHSSAA s7.3.2*)

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority moved in camera.

Motion: Ms. Gina Dolphus

Second: Mr. Brian Willows

LC21/03-008 – Carried Unanimously

The Leadership Council met in-camera from 1:13pm to 3:10pm, to discuss strategic advice to the Honourable Julie Green, Minister of Health and Social Services, based on discussion with the Minister earlier in the day, and other regional concerns.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority moved out of camera.

Motion: Ms. Gina Dolphus

Second: Ms. Nancy Trotter

LC21/03-009 – Carried Unanimously

16.0 2021/22 Corporate Planning Calendar

Council approved the planning calendar for 2021/22, with target dates and agenda items for Committee and Leadership Council meetings for the next fiscal year. Council agreed to tentatively plan the LC meetings for next year in Yellowknife. The Calendar is for planning purposes and is subject to change based on specific circumstances as the year unfolds.

17.0 In-Camera Session

The Leadership Council did not require an in-camera session.

18.0 Leadership Council Meeting Evaluation

The Leadership Council completed the meeting evaluation forms and returned them to the Senior Advisor, Governance for tracking, follow up.

19.0 Adjournment

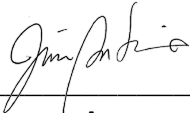
The Leadership Council formally ended its business and closed its meeting at 3:35 pm.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority closed its March 3-4, 2021 meeting.

Motion: Ms. Ethel-Jean Gruben

Second: Ms. Patsy Schaefer

LC21/03-010 – Carried Unanimously



Chairperson Approval Signature

August 06, 2021

Date