

**Leadership Council Public Meeting - Minutes
July 4, 2023
Lahm Ridge Tower, Yellowknife, NT**

PRESENT:

- Mr. Gerry Cheezie, Chairperson
- Ms. Gina Dolphus, Chair, Sahtu Regional Wellness Council
- Mr. Muaz Hassan, Chair, Dehcho Regional Wellness Council (virtual)
- Ms. Phyllis Mawdsley, Chair, Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council (virtual)
- Mr. Ted Blondin, Vice Chairperson and Chair, Tlicho Community Services Agency
- Mr. Brian Willows, Chair, Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (virtual)
- Ms. Nancy Trotter, Chair, Yellowknife Regional Wellness Council
- Ms. Jo-Anne Cecchetto, Deputy Minister, Dept. of Health and Social Services (virtual - attended afternoon)

- Ms. Kim Riles, Chief Executive Officer, NTHSSA
- Ms. Marissa Martin, Chief Financial Officer, NTHSSA
- Ms. Kristy Jones, Exec. Director, Child, Family & Community Wellness, NTHSSA
- Ms. Lorie-Anne Danielson, Chief Operating Officer, Yellowknife Region, NTHSSA
- Ms. Arlene Jorgensen, Acting Chief Operating Officer, Dehcho Region, NTHSSA (virtual)
- Mr. Wilson Dimsdale, Chief Operating Officer, Dehcho Region, NTHSSA (virtual)
- Mr. Roger Israel, Chief Operating Officer, Beaufort Delta Region, NTHSSA (virtual)
- Ms. Sujata Ganguli, Chief Operating Officer, Fort Smith Region, NTHSSA (virtual)
- Ms. Jennifer Torode, Chief Operating Officer, Stanton Terr. Hospital, NTHSSA
- Ms. Tina Abellera, Manager, Child and Youth Counsellor, Sahtu Region, NTHSSA (virtual)
- Ms. Susan Laramée, Senior Advisor, Governance, NTHSSA
- Mr. Allen Stanzell, Senior Advisor to CEO Kim Riles, NTHSSA (virtual)
- Ms. Jocelyne Jalbert-Strader, Senior Administrative Coordinator, NTHSSA

REGRETS:

- Ms. Deborah Gordon-Ruben, Chair, Beaufort Delta Regional Wellness Council

PRESENTERS:

- Mr. Fraser Lennie, Director, Quality Risk and Client Experience, NTHSSA
- Ms. Elizabeth (Sabet) Biscaye, Director, Gender Equity, Executive and Indigenous Affairs – GNWT (virtual)

- Ms. Tanya Ashley, Family Violence Coordinator, Executive and Indigenous Affairs - GNWT (virtual)
- Mr. Robert Tordiff, Assistant Deputy Minister, Executive and Indigenous Affairs - GNWT
- Ms. Katie-Sue Derejko, Territorial Director, Integrated Service Delivery, Justice - GNWT

PUBLIC:

None.

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

- a) Ms. Dolphus led the meeting in an opening prayer.
- b) The Chairperson welcomed the Council, presenters, and public to the meeting, and acknowledged the land on which the meeting was held.
- c) The Safety Overview was reviewed, and Attendance recorded as above, by the Senior Advisor, Governance.
- d) The Senior Advisor, Governance took attendance of in-person and virtual attendees.
- e) There were no conflicts of interest declared for this meeting.

2.0 Agenda/Action Items/Minutes

a) Review/Approve Agenda

The Leadership Council reviewed the agenda for the meeting, there were no changes.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the July 4, 2023 agenda as presented.

Motion: Ms. Trotter

Second: Mr. Hassan

LC23/07-001 – Carried Unanimously

b) Review/Approve Previous Meeting Minutes

The Leadership Council reviewed minutes from previous meetings.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the June 16-17, 2022; January 11-12, 2023; and March 7-9, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion: Ms. Trotter

Second: Ms. Mawdsley

LC23/07-002 – Carried Unanimously

3.0 Regional Wellness Council Reports

Below are summaries of the actions, suggestions and activities of each Regional Wellness Council that provided a report:

- a) **Sahtu** – RWC Chair Gina Dolphus highlighted topics discussed during the June 4-5, 2023 meetings. Topics included RWC roles and responsibilities; presentation from the Office of the Client Experience; mental health and addictions services update; raised dental services and medical travel concerns; and requested presentation on medical travel, the Beaufort-Delta Mental Health pilot project. The next meeting to be confirmed in fall 2023.
- b) **Yellowknife Region** – The Yellowknife RWC met twice since March 2023 receiving various presentations including the NWT Alcohol Strategy, an update on Primary Health Care Reform and update on Stanton Territorial Hospital. Chair Nancy Trotter also expressed gratitude to Marie Speakman to outgoing member who served two consecutive terms on the Yellowknife RWC. Nancy also thanked the NTHSSA Yellowknife Region staff who worked long hours at the Yellowknife Evacuation Centre May 14 to June 1, 2023 in response to the Hay River Wildfire evacuation.

Key issues, concerns for the Leadership Council and NTHSSA include medical travel escorts for elders, cancer patients and income support clients and would like to see more input from these groups for medical travel policy review. public communications on system programs and services (e.g. Shingles vaccine), enhancements to cancer screening, increase mental health awareness, a volunteer program at Stanton Territorial Hospital, and the naming of the Stanton Legacy building.

- c) **Hay River** – The last meeting of the Hay River RWC was May 1, 2023 featuring presentations on medical travel, the traditional foods program audit and Public Health Outreach to address the community drug crisis. RWC Chair Brian Willows

highlighted wildfire evacuation that occurred mid May 2023, physician recruitment for summer months, medical travel concerns and community drug crisis and homelessness. The next RWC meeting to be determined.

- d) **Tlicho Community Services Agency** – Mr. Blondin provided an update from the last meeting of the Tlicho Community Services Agency (TCSA) in March 2023. Nurse recruitment activity in recent six months resulted in hiring two nurses via attendance at a Toronto, ON recruitment event. The TCSA is working to recruit a doctor in the new year as well. The TCSA met June 22-23, 2023 which included an ethics presentation for board and had good discussion regarding training and communications. A number of deaths have occurred in the region as well. Some may have been connected with health concerns and diagnosis. Home care worker training has been launched for foot care and massage therapy services. The TCSA is preparing a report for the Tlicho Government’s Annual General Assembly scheduled July 12 in Gameti.
- e) **Beaufort Delta** – RWC Chair Debbie Gordon-Ruben was absent and did not submit a report. The next RWC meeting will be in July 2023.
- f) **Dehcho** – Mr. Hassan updated the Council from the last Dehcho RWC meetin held on April 5, 2023. A physician update was provided by Area Medical Director, Dr. Bing Guthrie. Mr. Hassan highlighted the general legacy impacts of past floods and community reminded of events such as traditional workshops and training opportunities. Concerns raised included school teacher incident that triggered many emotional responses and a letter from the Minster regarding stakeholder involvement in the new Health Centre discussions and planning. The next Dehcho RWC meeting to be determined.
- g) **Fort Smith** – RWC Chair Phyllis Mawdsley reported on three RWC meetings held since March 2023. Discussions focussed on increased wait times for orthopedic surgery patients; and, non-government contracted services such as Trailcross Territorial Youth Treatment Centre, Polar Crescent Group Home and Sutherland House Women and Children’s Safe Shelter. Other topics included Fort Smith Health Centre cafeteria opening; the status of midwifery services; Fort Smith Health Centre signage; medical travel issues; and reciprocal billing with Alberta for Smith Landing/Fort Fitzgerald residents; and status on responses brought forward to the Leadership Council. The next Fort Smith RWC meeting will be September 2023.

4.0 Finance Committee Report

Mr. Willows reviewed discussions at the May 28, 2023 Finance Committee meeting. The Committee received an update on the Q4 financials for NTHSSA, with the annual deficit projected higher than projected in Q3. The difference is primarily driven by an increase in compensation and benefits attributable to under projected payroll, physician bonus/retro-pay, new hires, relief staff and demand driven overtime. Committee was satisfied with the explanation of cost-drivers contributing to the deficit, and that the overall understanding of the reasons for deficits continues to improve. Committee looks forward to continued collaboration between NTHSSA and the Department of Health and Social Services to help address systemic underfunding through approved GNWT Budget and funding processes outlined in the Deficit Reduction Plan. Committee is satisfied with the next steps and the ongoing deficit reduction mitigation efforts.

An update was provided on HSS System Sustainability. There have been delays and the deadline was extended to July 31, 2023. Committee looks forward to discussing the final report with the Minister at the earliest opportunity and discuss Leadership Council gaining a seat on the Steering Committee.

The Committee reviewed its work plan and did not recommend changes at this time. This may change after the Leadership Council confirms its role on the HSS System Sustainability Steering Committee

Health Break

5.0 Governance and HR Committee Report

Chair Gerry Cheezie summarized the May 26, 2023 Committee meeting.

Members reviewed and discussed Council Training Development Plan that the Council plans annually for training and development for members. Upcoming training includes attending the NUKA System of Care in Anchorage Alaska and public sector board governance training. In February 2023, members were asked to self-assess potential areas of focus for future training needs. The Senior Advisor of Governance will use the input received and provide the Leadership Council with options to consider for the 2023-24 fiscal year.

The Committee reviewed the Leadership Council Governance Manual and considered potential changes. The Senior Advisor, Governance will distribute for review and approval and members will be asked to sign their form of acknowledgement.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the draft NTHSSA Leadership Council Strategic Plan (2022-2025). The draft Strategic Plan contains four strategic directions that include: Communication, Advisory and Advocacy; Sustainability; Patient & Client Experience; and Cultural Safety. There were delays with moving the draft along for Committee review from summer of 2022 and there are some elements that need to be reviewed by NTHSSA Senior Management. The Committee is satisfied that most of the strategic directions are already implemented but communication could be focussed on. The Strategic Plan will be edited to reflect work undertaken and be presented for acceptance by the Leadership Council at the next opportunity.

Committee received a presentation the Management Succession and Development Plans. The NTHSSA has unique positions that do not have succession plans and this may cause risk if any vacancy occurs. Next step is to provide a guide to the CEO and NTHSSA senior management for further consideration. Committee was satisfied with the next step and noted the challenge of filling hard to fill positions but this should also include Indigenous employees in this planning.

The Committee reviewed the CEO performance goals and objectives document. Committee met in March and April 2023 to review and revise drafts that include four objectives with weighted percentages. Committee feels the goals and objectives are aligned with the NTHSSA Strategic Plan, the Quality Management Framework and the Minister's Mandate which should ensure goals and objectives are achievable. Committee approved the document and the CEO will distribute to assigned leads and incorporate into performance appraisals.

6.0 Quality Committee Report

With assistance from Ms. Laramée, Council reviewed the Quality Committee report from the May 26, 2023 meeting. Members received updates on the Integrated Quality Management Activities Framework (2019-22); the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Scorecard; and Primary Health Care Reform (PHCR).

Committee shared Quality Improvement Scorecard areas of concern and examining indicators such as diabetes rates, frequency of reporting, written reports, minimum contact rates for children and youth in care, linking with Office of the Auditor General reporting (CFS), mental health and addictions rates, and cancer diagnosis and care. Committee appreciated the update and will continue to review, provide indicator input and reconsider the presentation approach and the level of detail provided.

The PCHR updated included reform projects such as Integrated Care Team roll outs, chronic Disease Management for diabetes mental health and addiction safe sobering spaces to reduce medivacs.

7.0 Chairperson's Report

Mr. Cheezie provided his activities between April to June 2023 which included CEO meetings and Senior Advisor, Governance; visited the Yellowknife Evacuation Centre on May 18; attended Committee meetings, met with the Minister to discuss the NTHSSA deficit reduction; provided mandate responses to the Minister; and attended the NUKA System of Care conference in Anchorage, Alaska June 12-16, 2023. Committee meetings are tentatively scheduled for August 2023 and the AGM is scheduled for September 18, 2023.

The Chair committed to sharing NUKA meeting materials and suggested a Leadership Council delegation attend next year's conference.

8.0 Chief Executive Officer Report

Ms. Riles provided her CEO report that included updates on Accreditation and Operations with updates on the Emergency Response, Public Health, Stanton Legacy, Sheltering, Nunavut Suicide Prevention Plan visit, Cancer Care Alberta Site Audit, and the Beaufort Delta Mental Health Renewal Project.

There was update on Human Resources that included senior management staffing, recruitment and retention incentives and operational impacts of staff shortages.

The finance update included a fourth quarter variance report and HSS System Sustainability report.

The Council was interested in the Cancer Care Alberta site audit and suggested community or Regional Wellness Council meeting presentations of the Beaufort Delta Mental Health Renewal Project.

Break for Lunch

9.0 Deputy Minister, Health and Social Services Report

The Deputy Minister Report included information on HSS Program and Policy Initiatives (Federal bi-lateral agreements, NWT Alcohol Strategy, Child and Youth Counselling Initiatives, NWT Seniors Strategy, Extended Health Benefits, NIHB update, transition planning), an OCPHO update (Wastewater and reporting on flu, RSV, COVID-19, ongoing syphilis outbreak, 811 roll out, disease surveillance and

immunization regulations are being amended), and Legislation (Child and Family Services Act review, Act to amend the Pharmacy Act, Nursing Professions Act).

Next Legislative Assembly session is August 16-24, 2023.

Council asked several questions on the various updates presented by the Deputy Minister, requesting updates on medical travel policy changes and dental services. Council requested more information on the Child and Youth Counselling Initiative.

10.0 Quality Management Framework

The Leadership Council is required to approve the NTHSSA Quality Management Framework. This Framework helps the leadership council ensure Quality is promoted throughout the organization.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority approved the NTHSSA Quality Management Framework as presented.

Motion: Ms. Trotter

Second: Ms. Dolphus

LC23/07-003 – Carried Unanimously

11.0 In-Camera Session

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority to go in-camera to receive presentations on the GNWT's Draft Family Violence Framework and Homelessness Strategy.

Motion: Mr. Blondin

Second: Ms. Trotter

LC23/07-004 – Carried Unanimously

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

Motion: Ms. Dolphus

Second: Ms. Nancy Trotter

LC23/07-005 – Carried Unanimously

12.0 Adjournment

The Leadership Council adjourned for July 4, 2023 at 4:12 pm.

Ms. Dolphus provided a closing prayer.

The Chairperson of the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority declared the July 4, 2023 proceedings adjourned.

On a motion duly moved and seconded, the Leadership Council of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority closed its July 4, 2023 meeting.

Motion: Mr. Hassan

Second: Ms. Dolphus

LC23/07-006 – Carried Unanimously



December 8, 2023

Chairperson Approval Signature

Date