

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council

*Wednesday, March 12, 2025*

*1400 - 1600*

*Location: 41 Breynat Street, Fort Smith Health Centre Board Room*

**Members Present:**

Dianna Korol, Chair  
Mary Pat Short, Council Member  
Lynda Martin, Council Member  
Lorraine Tordiff, Council Member  
Don Webb, Council Member

**Members with Regrets:**

Alan Karasiuk, Council Member

**Staff Present:**

Lisa Sanderson, COO  
Candace Dion, Executive Assistant

**Guests:**

Danielle Mager, Indigenous Advisory Body  
Presenter.  
Courtney Vital, Assistant to the Indigenous  
Advisory Body  
Gladys Rehm, Local Resident

#	Item and Details	Time	Responsibility
1.0	<b>Call to Order</b>	1402	Chair
2.0	<b>Reflection / Prayer</b> led by Council Member <b>Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory</b> led by Council Member	1402	Chair/Council Members
3.0	<b>Approval of the Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion by Don Webb</li> <li>Second by Mary Pat Short</li> </ul> <b>Carried</b>	1401	Chair/Council Members
4.0	Presentation from Indigenous Advisory Body to guide and advise on incorporating Indigenous Traditions, Culture, and Healing Practices with the NWT health and social services (HSS) system.  Questions from the Presentation.  <b>How can the IAB support a more collaborative environment with the Regional Wellness Councils? How can we support your community?</b> A council member asked if the IAB would be rolling out the Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism Training for everyone. Currently, it is available only to HSS staff. The goal is to roll it out to all government departments. Currently, it is primarily for front-line care staff, Deputy Ministers, and EDMs, with plans to expand.	1415	Danielle Mager, IAB Presenter

<p><b>A council member asks how we can ensure that the locums recruited to work in the health centre receive this training and understand our culture, as they are coming from the south and some have not been exposed to the vibrant culture we have in the north, which does impact their care. What are your measurables and qualifiers?</b></p> <p>They do provide the CS&amp;AR training to medical students who want to work in the NWT. The training starts again in July; these medical students will be the first on the list to receive the training. The IAB has very little control over the locums who are coming into the province to work for a week or so to receive this training. This issue has been brought to our attention and is currently being addressed. A temporary solution for now is to encourage our locums to take the mandatory Living Well online training. Measurables are the numbers; whenever there is training, data is logged on how many people work in the HSS and how many front-line workers there are.</p> <p><b>A council member asked if there is Regional Representation in their working group.</b></p> <p>Yes. They have five to six representatives from different areas who provide traditional training. Sebastien Bourke is the Fort Smith representative.</p> <p><b>A council member asked if there would be an attempt to meet in the Sahtu, Dehcho, and South Slave areas.</b></p> <p>Yes. We were supposed to meet in Deline this April, but the in-person meeting was canceled due to the travel restrictions put out by the GNWT. Once the next fiscal year budget is out and we can book in-person meetings, Deline will be on our list.</p> <p><b>A council member asked if there is an attempt to meet more regularly with the committees in the North.</b></p> <p>She will bring the feedback from this meeting back to the IAB, and they will decide what to do with it. I know they are eager to work collaboratively with the different councils.</p> <p><b>A council member asked that this training be government-wide and not housed in one department only. This training contains important information that needs to be shared with all departments. The government needs to start removing the barriers and working together.</b></p> <p><b>Question from the guest: Do you talk about Lateral Violence in the workplace?</b></p> <p>This subject is not discussed at length in this training. It's more focused on the histories of the NWT's indigenous peoples and the different stereotypes and biases that people think of when talking about indigenous peoples in the territory. It's more of an education tool for people working with indigenous peoples in their department.</p> <p>The Regional Wellness Council will send their collaborative ideas to the executive assistant to pass along to the Indigenous Advisory Board.</p>	
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5.0	<p><b>Review and Approval of Previous Minutes</b></p> <p>February 26, 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion by Mary Pat Short</li> <li>• Second by Don Webb</li> </ul> <p><b>Carried</b></p>	1409	Chair/Council Members
6.0	<p><b>Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes</b></p> <p>A council member is concerned about the children and their mental health falling through the cracks. How do we follow up and keep our voice?</p> <p><b>The RWC Chairs met with the Public Administrator last week, as we are not the only community with mental health concerns, especially in children.</b></p> <p><b>Schools are gathering their data and forwarding it to Sandy Little.</b></p> <p><b>The Health Café opened yesterday at PWK.</b></p> <p><b>Wellness workers work in both schools. The health centre counsellors no longer go directly into the schools.</b></p>	1409	Chair/Council Members
7.0	<b>New Business</b>		
7.1	<p><b>COO Report</b></p> <p>The COO provided a verbal summary of her report; see attached.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the MRT position has not been uploaded to the government site. She asked the COO if the HC is advertising through the Canadian Society for Laboratory Medicine.</p> <p><b>The COO will look into this and bring back the information for the next meeting.</b></p> <p>A council member asked the COO if the secure room has any priority with infrastructure.</p> <p><b>The scope of work has been given to infrastructure. No priority has been addressed. They are aware of the importance of making this secure room functional.</b></p>	1410	COO
7.2	<p><b>Chairpersons Report</b></p> <p>The Chair provided a verbal summary of her report to the council; see attached.</p>	1506	Chair
7.3	<p>The Chair asked the Council to accept the COO and Chair Reports.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moved by Lynda Martin</li> <li>• Second by Don Webb</li> </ul> <p><b>Carried</b></p>	1514	Chair/Council Members
8.0	<b>Council Member Observations and Comments</b>		
	DW: He supports the letter regarding the risk and dangers our youth are facing in the community.	1514	Council Members

	<p><b>MPS:</b> No comments.</p> <p><b>LT:</b> We need to take some action, a strongly worded support letter, spelling out the level of risk and danger the youth is facing in our community right now. Coming from the whole board. Submitted before the public administrator's visit.</p> <p><b>DK:</b> She would like to state that the nurses provide excellent care here and looked after a family member who required some care.</p> <p><b>LM:</b> She wonders if we are providing welcome committees to our locums. <b>The EA meets locum physicians new to town at the airport and shows them around town. During their stay, they get their own vehicle. If they want to explore outside of Fort Smith, they must inform the EA.</b></p> <p><b>GR:</b> The system is fractured; the policy is ruled by how staff do their jobs. They are coming from a place of risk rather than a place of care.</p>		The EA will follow up with Daniel Wiltzen on welcome packages for the locums.
10.0	<p><b>Decision Items and Recommendations to the Public Administrator to the Regional Wellness Council Board.</b></p> <p>Continue with the questions and concerns we have now.</p>	1535	Chair/Council Members
11.0	<p><b>Review of Action Items/Work Plan</b></p> <p>Deferred to next meeting.</p>	1535	Chair/Council Members
12.0	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p><b>The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2025, @ 1400.</b></p>	1539	Chair/Council Members

	<b>ACTION ITEM</b>	<b>OWNER</b>	<b>ASSIGNED</b>	<b>DU<sup>E</sup></b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
1	Health Centre Cafeteria opening.	COO	RM, Raphael Jeanssonne-Gélinas	March 2024	On Hold
2	Once the website has been updated, we can retrieve a copy of the Medical Travel Booklet. New pamphlets will be distributed to communities.	COO	COO	April 2025	On Hold
3	Chair, COO & Council Member to revise the work plan layout.	Chair	COO	January 2024	On Going
4	Request an update on Trailcross programming and the status of the Trailcross building from Kristy Jones.	COO	COO	April 2025	
5	Tim VanOverliw will be asked to attend an RWC meeting virtually to answer questions regarding Medical Travel.	COO	COO	June 2025	
6	Provide an update on Mental Health Renewal.	COO	COO	September 2024	On Going

7	Work on increasing Inpatient Occupancy.	COO & Council	COO	September 2024	
8	Enlarge the Mission, Values, and Vision posters in the boardroom.	COO	EA	Jan 2025	On Going

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Approved by Dianna Korol  
Fort Smith RWC Chair

