

Minutes of the Meeting of the Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council

Wednesday, April 17, 2024

1900 - 2100

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

Members Present:

Phyllis Mawdsley, Chair
Alan Karasiuk, Council Member
Dianna Korol, Council Member
Mary Pat Short, Council Member
Don Webb, Council Member
Lorraine Tordiff, Council Member
Lynda Martin, Council Member

Staff Present:

Sujata Ganguli, COO
Candace Dion, Executive Assistant

Members with Regrets:

Guests:

Glenda Simon, Senior Indigenous Patient Advocate
Freda Martselos,

#	Item and Details	Time	Responsibility
1.0	Call to Order	1903	Chair
2.0	Reflection / Prayer led by Council Member Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory led by Council Member	1903	Chair/Council Members
3.0	Approval of the Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion by Dianna Korol Second by Al Karasiuk Carried	1904	Chair/Council Members
3.1	The Chair opened the meeting up to Public Comments. The guest present at the meeting to speak to the RWC requested that the council go in camera. The Council went in-camera, and the COO and EA were excused from the meeting.	1904	Chair/Council Members
4.0	Review and Approval of Previous Minutes March 20, 2024. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motion by Lorraine Tordiff Second by Don Webb Carried	1955	Chair/Council Members
5.0	Business Arising from Previous Meeting Minutes A council member wants to know how to contact the new dentist for an appointment. Another council member says she uses the same phone number as Dr. Kolbasi. If you are still trying to reach her, call Samba Ke Dental in Yellowknife.	2056	Chair/Council Members

	<p>A council member asked about the Sutherland House data. The COO tried to PDF the spreadsheet, but it did not work. The council members need the Excel program to view it. They want to see the occupancy per month in the report. Action: The COO will pull the monthly occupancy and share it with the council members.</p> <p>A council member brought up concerns regarding the Polar Crescent Group home questions. Is it still open? What is being done? Is there a plan? Kristy Jones would be the preferred contact for these questions, as it is managed territorially. The COO recommends inviting Kristy Jones or the Regional Manager of Child & Family Services, Diane Porter, to an RWC meeting to discuss this ongoing topic. Council members are concerned that we are not responsible for the children of our community. We should know how many children we have in our region and care for. Action: The COO will contact Kristy Jones to request that Diane Porter join a future meeting to discuss the concerns of Child & Family Services with the Council.</p> <p>The Chair wants to add an action item for 7.1 on the previous meeting minutes regarding the following steps in mental health reform: contacting and setting up meetings with the governments, aiming for the end of May or early June. Action: The COO will contact the local governments, and the council wants to start this at the end of May.</p> <p>The Chair wants to add an Action Item for the COO to contact Dr. Kami Kandola, NT's Chief Public Health Officer, and the Executive Director of Corporate and Support Services, Tim VanOverliw, to attend and present to the RWC. Action Item: The COO will invite Dr. Kami Kandola to update the problematic substance abuse committee on the illicit drug response.</p> <p>Action Item: The COO will invite Tim VanOverliw, EDC corporate services, to update the RWC on the timeliness of booking flights for Medical Travel.</p>		
6.0	New Business		
6.1	<p>COO Report</p> <p>The COO provided a verbal summary of her report; see attached.</p>	2021	COO
6.2	<p>Chairpersons Report</p> <p>The Chair provided a verbal summary of her report.</p> <p>The month, she has attended the following meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 9th, I met with the COO to review the March meeting minutes. On April 11th, I virtually attended the Leadership Council Finance meeting. On April 18th, I virtually attended the Leadership Council meeting. 	2039	Chair

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On April 23rd, I virtually participated in the Leadership Council's Accreditation meeting. <p>The council members were given Naloxone Kits from the Chair provided by Dr. Kami Kandola. A council member commented that advocating for EpiPens and insulin is needed, as many families can't afford them.</p>		
6.3	<p>The Chair asked the Council to accept the COO and Chair Reports.</p> <p>Motion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Al Karasiuk Second by Lynda Martin <p>Carried</p>	2047	Chair/Council Members
7.0	Council Member Observations and Comments		
	<p>DW: Is there a problem with long-term care patients who can't be admitted into the Health Centre for observation? The COO explained that the medical staff go over, so we don't want to move them. We are encouraging our LPNs to go to NLSCH. How do you encourage the patients to come forward? If the family or patients have concerns, they can speak to the QRM, SIPA, and/or the COO.</p> <p>DK: What can we do to make it viable to improve our ability to keep patients overnight? What is the missing link to being unable to use our ACC inpatient beds more?</p> <p>LT: Ask the RWC chairperson to discuss our concerns regarding the gaps in Child Protection Services, Adult Services, and Mental Health Addiction Services.</p> <p>We used to have a detox program for patients referred to treatment; they would spend a few days here first, ensuring the patient could travel. Vulnerable patients were usually given escorts to help them get to the treatment center. We have a huge drug problem in this town and are looking into bringing these programs back, which might be helpful. We also need support for them when they return from treatment cause often, they don't receive it.</p> <p>AK: He is thankful for the medical travel flow charts received in this meeting and has requested another data set for territorial and regional staffing allocations. He would like to know how many are vacant, locums, etc. He will not be here for the May meeting due to travelling.</p> <p>MPS: Nothing to discuss.</p> <p>LM: She would like to point out that she receives excellent treatment from one of our locum doctors.</p> <p>The Chair: Her main concern is that small health centers nationwide are closing. She is worried about our health center and wants to know the occupancy rate for the ACC beds from the last fiscal year and strategies to make it viable. Look at the stats and internal strategy. Are we decreasing significantly?</p>	2051	Council Members

	Action: The COO will share the occupancy reports from the last 3-5 years of inpatient beds in ACC with the council members.		
8.0	Motion to extend the meeting to 2130. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved by Al Karasiuk Second by Lorraine Tordiff Carried	2058	
9.0	Decision Items and Recommendations to the NTHSSA Leadership Council		
	The Chair will bring the following RWC issues and concerns to the Leadership Council. Concerns regarding the gaps in Child Protection Services, Adult Services, and Mental Health Addiction Services.	2119	Chair/Council Members
10.0	Review of Action Items/Workplan The COO has drafted up a work plan. Lorraine and Don are going to review it. We need a tracking form with a completion section that must be added. Action Item: The COO or EA will draft a completion spreadsheet for all completed action items.	2120	Chair/Council Members
11.0	Adjournment The next meeting will be held on May 22 @ 1400.	2128	Chair/Council Members

	ACTION ITEM	OWNER	ASSIGNED	DUE	COMPLETED
1	Health Centre Cafeteria opening.	Sujata	Raphael	July 2024	
2	Retrieve a copy of the Medical Travel Booklet – No more copies of the booklet. The EA will make copies of the information the clinic gives to the public and send them to the council members.	Sujata	Sujata	May 2024	
3	The COO will contact the local governments to set up meetings regarding presenting the Mental Health reform project. Determine an RWC member to join.	Sujata	Sujata	May 2024	
4	Reach out to Public Health for information about air quality issues. You can find the information on the GNWT website—the COO will send a link.	Sujata	Sujata	April 2024	
5	Contact the Territorial manager for an update on Dental Hygienist hiring. One has yet to be hired.	Sujata	Sujata	March 2024	
6	Provide more detailed Sutherland House census data. The COO will pull the monthly occupancy and share it with the council members.	Sujata	Amy	April 2024	
7	Request an update on the Polar Crescent Group home and Trailcross buildings.	Sujata	Sujata	June 2024	

8	The COO will contact Kristy Jones to request that Diane Porter attend a future meeting with the Council to discuss the concerns of Child & Family Services.	Sujata	Sujata	June 2024	
9	The COO will invite Dr. Kami Kandola to update the problematic substance abuse committee on the illicit drug response.	Sujata	Sujata	June 2024	
10	The COO will invite Tim VanOverliw, EDC corporate services, to update the RWC on the timeliness of booking flights for medical travel.	Sujata	Sujata	June 2024	
11	The COO will share the occupancy reports from the last 3-5 years of inpatient beds in ACC with the council members.	Sujata	Sujata	June 2024	