

Wednesday, April 22, 2021

Regional Wellness Council Meeting Minutes

#	Item	Details	Time	Responsibility
1.0	Call to Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. 		RWC Chairperson
2.0	Reflection / Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The prayer was led by the Chairperson, Ms. Patricia Schaefer 		Chairperson
3.0	Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Attendance ○ Ms. Patricia Schaefer – Chairperson ○ Ms. Linda Mabbitt ○ Mr. Lloyd Jones via teleconference ○ Ms. Gloria Villebrun via teleconference ○ Ms. Lorraine Tordiff via teleconference ○ Executive ○ Ms. Sujata Ganguli, Chief Operating Officer ○ Ms. Rohma Nawaz 		Executive Assistant
4.0	Approval of the Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved by Ms. Lorraine Tordiff, seconded by Mr. Lloyd Jones that the agenda for the Fort Smith Regional Wellness Council (RWC) meeting of April 22, 2021 be approved. 		Chairperson
5.0	Previous Meeting Minutes - Review and Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Tordiff noted that she attended the last meeting. ○ Mr. Jones inquired regarding the Vice-Chair position. Ms. Schaefer noted that Vice-Chairs could attend Leadership Council meetings but could not make decisions. ○ Moved by Ms. Lorraine Tordiff, seconded by Ms. Villebrun that the minutes be approved. 		Chairperson
6.0	Business Arising from the Previous Meeting Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Villebrun inquired regarding medical travel information and policy. COO noted that she would circulate this information. ○ COO noted that medical staff do not order but recommend, and that it is the medical travel policy that is followed. She advised that this determines who will qualify for an escort. She advised that change will 		COO

		<p>be required through lobbying for a change of policy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Tordiff inquired when the policy was last under review. COO advised that there is a regular review cycle, and offered to forward relevant information regarding this policy. She advised that information is available for a presentation regarding this if the RWC wishes. ○ Ms. Tordiff highlighted that the amounts allocated for meals and incidentals during medical travel are not sufficient, and they overburden those of lower income background. ○ Ms. Villebrun inquired regarding vacant positions. COO advised that some new employees have been hired to fill vacant positions, but that they have also lost employees and thus some additional vacancies have arisen. ○ COO advised that they have hired a new Regional Manager of Allied Health but that the Regional Manager Continuing Care position is still vacant. COO added that they are interviewing for nurse positions but lack of housing is a big hurdle. ○ COO advised that they have hired a third Community Health Nurse, a specialist LPN for Primary Care as well as a Dietician. ○ Ms. Villebrun asked for an overview of vacant positions. 		
7.0	COVID 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COO advised that Fort Smith has the highest vaccination rate but low vaccination numbers for those under 30. There was discussion regarding clean messaging for those under 30 regarding vaccine availability, and ways to encourage more of this demographic to register for vaccines. ○ COO advised that the NWT has revised the requirements for essential staff isolating upon their 		

		<p>return. She advised that essential staff who are not exempt may return to work after four days if they provide a negative swab on the fourth day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairperson noted that there is discussion regarding the checkpoint at the border crossing in Fort Smith shutting down, and that questions are arising regarding changing policies. ○ The EA will contact Protect NWT to attend the next RWC meeting and address member questions regarding isolation policies, Fort Smith border checkpoint, and the future of Covid restrictions in the NWT over next six months. ○ Ms. Villebrun expressed concerns regarding a lack of information in Yellowknife regarding the border in Fort Smith and the number of citizens who travel by boat into NWT from Alberta through this border. Ms. Tordiff expressed concern regarding visitors in the Park during the summer, and the number of out of NWT visitors that will visit the park, but may also enter the community. 		
8.0	Chairpersons Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Last leadership meeting was March 2 – 4, 2021. She advised that they had the audit planned which will be similar to as it occurred last year. She noted that the biggest concern is the deficit which is larger due to underfunded over time. ○ Chairperson advised that positions being funded at a step 4 but being at a step 6 or 8 in reality has also contributed to the deficit. ○ Chairperson noted that they went through the governance manual and reviewed it. She advised that there was a presentation by Continuing Care. ○ The council reviewed an update on programs. The NWT will be focusing 		Patricia

		<p>on improving each area and transition to Seniors aging in place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discussed training programs and training for support workers. Programs for Nurses and workers facilitated by Aurora College in Yellowknife. ○ There was a conversation regarding the Stanton renewal plan. ○ Budget approved by capital budget. There was a few items that were on the action plan. Advised that if a member attended a meeting, and are acknowledged by the Chair, then they may address the Council at that meeting. ○ Advised that the information binder from the meeting is available for anyone who wishes to review it. Chairperson advised that the first meeting was just council with their presentations and that the next two days it was open to public. She advised that there was a conference calling number where people could call in and listen. ○ Ms. Tordiff inquired regarding the Stanton renovation plan. Chairperson advised that changes encompass long term care and extended care for residents. She advised that one part will be integrated primary care hub. 		
9.0	RWC Member Observations and Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ms. Tordiff noted that she has submitted paperwork twice but reimbursement has been delayed. EA will follow up regarding this. 		
10.0	Decision Items and Recommendations to the NTHSSA Leadership Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ RWC members will send ideas to EA to be included in report. ○ Ms. Tordiff inquired why budgeting is done at a pay step level 4. Chairperson advised that she will bring this up at the finance committee. ○ Ms. Tordiff noted that medical travel and accompanying concerns should be raised. Chairperson 		

		<p>advised that medical travel is an ongoing agenda item</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chairperson raised concerns regarding medical referrals. She noted that within Parks Canada they had concerns regarding referral forms no being completed in a timely manner by Health Centre staff. She advised that this a Federal form that all employees need filled, and that they turn around time for these should be improved. COO will follow up on this item. ○ Mr. Jones noted that sometimes notification regarding Medical Travel is received without adequate time to make arrangements to leave the community, and that single parents and those that are care givers are at a disadvantage. ○ Ms. Tordiff noted that she recently had to travel to Edmonton for medical, and that there was a misunderstanding and lack of communication within the system regarding which forms were required to be filled. She noted that these disconnects make travel tedious on patients, and need to be addressed. ○ Chairperson advised that sometimes it is short notice as they attempt to fill the spots when a doctor in Yellowknife has a cancellation. ○ Ms. Villebrun raised concerns regarding the temperature in Northern Lights Special Care Home being too low, and that there were complaints from residents that they were cold. COO will follow up on this item. 		COO
11.0	Action Items Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Medical travel will remain in place. ○ Connect with cancer care team for presentation. 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Training and infection control for housekeepers and laundry staff at NLSCH. ○ Ms. Tordiff inquired regarding training available to staff at NLSCH. COO advised that they pieces training which is a form of dementia care training, as well as other training for techniques for dealing with individuals who exhibit affected behavior. ○ Chairperson advised that nominations forms are available for anyone wishing to join the RWC. 		
14.0	Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moved by Ms. Gloria Villebrun, seconded by Ms. Lorraine Tordiff that the meeting be adjourned. ○ Next meeting is June 16, 2021 	8:42 pm	