

**TO: Primary Care Network Physician Leads**

**Primary Care Network Administrative Leads/Executive Directors**

**Alberta Health Services Primary Health Care Governance Members**

**CC: Provincial PCN Committee Members**

**Provincial PCN Committee Secretariat**

**Zone PCN Committee Support Teams**

**RE: Provincial PCN Committee Key Messages June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Meeting**

On behalf of the Provincial PCN Committee (PPCNC), we are pleased to update you on the PPCNC meeting which was held on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

The following updates were provided:

- Zone updates
  - All five Zone PCN Committees (ZPCNCs) submitted 2023-2024 Zone PCN Service Plan Quarterly Progress Report #4 (QPR 4) on May 31, 2024. The 2024-2025 Zone PCN Service Plan Amendments are currently under review.
  - Alberta Health will be engaging with Zone PCN co-chairs on PCN transition work following the first round of Phase 1 PCN engagement sessions and again after Phase II. Zone PCN co-chairs can include appropriate personnel (individuals impacted by PCN Transition) including zone business unit members to the session.
- General Updates
  - Alberta Health (AH) continues to work on the revised Provincial PCN Committee (PPCNC) Terms of Reference, which includes updating the PPCNC name to the Provincial MAPS Advisory committee (also known as PMAC) in the Terms of Reference.
  - The Communications and Change Management (CCM), Structure, Governance Design and Implementation (GDI) and Performance Monitoring and Evaluation (PME) sub-committees are in the process of being established. The CCM had the first meeting on May 28, 2024 while PME and GDI will meet for the first time on June 17 and June 14 respectively.
  - Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program
    - Government of Alberta announced the Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Program on April 25, 2024.
    - The program is currently open to eligible Nurse Practitioners (NPs) interested in practicing under this model, with the first clinics anticipated to open this Summer/Fall.
    - AH received over 90 expressions of interest from NPs across all five AHS zones, representing both urban and rural locations. AH is reviewing

incoming applications and notifying successful applicants about next steps.

- Approximately 85% of applicants plan to join established clinics, working collaboratively with other family physicians and/or nurse practitioners.
- Many applicants are already part of the PCN Nurse Practitioner Support Program (NPSP) or have expressed interest in joining a Primary Care Network (PCN).
- PCNs can apply for one-time mentorship funding to support NPs entering practice. Each mentor is eligible for \$10,000 during the NP's first 18 months to ensure a successful transition to independent practice.
- Bill 22- Health Statutes Amendment Act (HSAA) update was provided
  - The HSAA includes amendments to the *Regional Health Authorities Act* (RHAA), including labour-related amendments, as well as consequential amendments and amendments to the *Health Information Act* (HIA).
  - Amendments to the *Regional Health Authorities Act* (RHAA) will enable the creation of the four new provincial health agencies (PHAs) within a unified health care system.
  - This will allow for the establishment of the Mental Health and Addiction PHA (Recovery Alberta) in summer 2024; and the establishment of the Primary Care, Acute Care, and Continuing Care PHAs in Fall 2024.
  - The name of the RHAA is also changing to become the Provincial Health Agencies Act.
  - The first part of Bill 22 sets out the roles, responsibilities and powers for the oversight minister and the sector ministers.
  - Additional legislative amendments will occur in Fall 2024 to ensure the legislative framework is aligned with the vision for a refocused health system.
    - Alberta Health will engage with key stakeholders as needed, to inform these amendments.
- Transition to Regional Primary Health Care Networks was discussed
  - Following the ADM townhall in May which introduced the upcoming engagement sessions with PCNs, committee members shared their thoughts including concerns regarding instability, recruitment, retention, project planning and AHS involvement in joint governance.
  - There was agreement that meaningful engagement should be prioritized.
- Innovation Fund (with a \$5M budget)
  - The objective is to build an innovation funding model that can accelerate innovation efforts in primary care by leveraging existing strengths, early adopters, the innovation ecosystem to build capacity and deliver value including:
    - Build a pull mechanism to identify health system and provider challenges where patient care technologies are desired.
    - Build capacity by developing a model that supports training, development, and enablement of innovative thinking by Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and patients while fostering a culture of innovation.
    - Build trust by developing relationships within the health system and innovation ecosystem that will foster meaningful and impactful collaboration.
  - Committee members provided input and feedback on the 'what' and 'how' the funds could be spent. Next steps include synthesizing feedback from the co-design session for consideration into the funding model. The funding approach will be shared with PMAC in August 2024.

- An update on Administrative Burden was provided, work continues to advance the initiative.
- A Primary Care update will be provided to PMAC (also know as PPCNC) and sub committees members on June 28.

The next PPCNC meeting is currently scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to contact us via email at [PPCNCSecretariat@gov.ab.ca](mailto:PPCNCSecretariat@gov.ab.ca).

Thank you,  
**Provincial PCN Committee Secretariat**