

RE: Provincial PCN Committee Key Messages December 11th, 2024 Meeting

On behalf of the Provincial MAPS Committee (formerly PPCNC) we are pleased to update you on the meeting which was held on December 11th, 2024.

The following updates were provided:

Primary Care Alberta (PCA)

- **The CEO provided an overview of PCA's mandate, key functions, goals, and first-year objectives:**
 - PCA's mandate includes providing provincial oversight for primary health care services, ensuring Albertans are attached to primary care providers and receive timely access to care where and when needed, implementing an accountability framework, and strengthening capacity by enabling tools and new models of care to better utilize and grow the workforce.
 - Key functions focus on planning, system integration and access for patients and providers, and operations of some primary care services.
 - PCA's goals include increasing system integration, evidence-based service delivery, seamless transitions between sectors, and improving access to culturally safe care in underserved communities.
 - Physicians can expect better coordination, consistent resources and improved engagements.
 - Improved sharing of information and best practices through PCA's development of clinical standards, pathways, and operational practices.
 - First-year objectives include developing and implementing an Unattached Patient Strategy, addressing service shortages through a Multidisciplinary Advisory Committee, and collaborating on a Chronic Disease Management Strategy and an Integrated Health Neighbourhood Framework. It will work with Indigenous partners to advance the Anti-Racism Action Plan, use data analytics to improve primary care quality, enhance the HealthLink program through technology, and strengthen patient navigation systems.
 - PCN governance changes will shift accountability from Alberta Health Services (AHS) to PCA, with Regional Primary Health Care Networks (RPHCNs) evolving into new entities accountable to PCA and the Minister of Health, aiming to improve outcomes like equitable access, team-based care, and quality improvement.

- **PMAC Members received general Alberta Health updates including:**
 - An overview of grants that advance initiatives to further strengthen primary health care such as the Grant funding for Community Health Centers, Rural Team Recruitment grant and Municipality supported clinics grant and Primary Care Innovation Fund.
 - Information on the newly launched Rural and Remote Family Medicine Resident Physician Bursary Pilot Program to support family medicine residents who are interested in practicing in rural or remote Alberta was also provided.
 - The third quarter update to the MAPS dashboard is expected to be released on January 6, 2025.
 - It was noted that out of 30 action items, 29 are currently in progress and 1 is complete.
 - Members can visit the dashboard website at <https://abca-admin-prod.apps.aro.gov.ab.ca/modernizing-primary-health-care-progress-on-2-year-plan>
 - The full launch of the Care Opinion Pilot program is scheduled for January 2025.
 - The MAPS Newsletter winter edition is expected to be launched in early January 2025.
 - To subscribe for future editions, visit alberta.ca/contact-maps.
 - Zone PCN updates were provided, where members were encouraged to continue to engage. It was shared that change management supports are in place for impacted

- stakeholders particularly PCNs and Zone PCN Committees to navigate through the governance changes associated with PCA stand up.
- The following direction was provided for zone PCNs:
 - Zone PCN Service Planning requirements remain the same for 2025-2026:
 - Zone PCNs will submit a Zone PCN Service Plan Amendment, outlining priority initiatives and a proposed budget for next fiscal year.
 - To support planning, Zone PCNs are encouraged to:
 - continue with existing operations,
 - prioritize activities that align with zonal and provincial initiatives and can be completed within the fiscal year, and
 - consider allocating resources to enable MAPS participation.
 - PCNs with a Business Plan Renewal (BPR) expiring as of March 31, 2025, have the option to either request an extension of the current BPR for 1 year or submit a new three-year BPR.
 - Health Corridors: following the announcement in October, key messages shared with members reiterated the following:
 - The [recently announced regional health corridors](#), are distinct from Regional Primary Health Care Networks.
 - They were designed to organize data and inform capital planning across the four new provincial health agencies and considered travel patterns, access points and local population needs; data on how Albertans access services and facilities, and feedback from the health care refocusing public engagement sessions.
 - Regional Advisory Councils align with Regional Health Corridors.
 - Regional boundaries will be discussed at the January/February engagements, including how to align with Health Corridors and potential sub-division.
 - Members discussed the importance of integrating with the broader health system, particularly aligning boundaries with other sectors like Acute Care Alberta and Recovery Alberta and stated that access to care should not be affected by the new Corridor design.

The next PMAC (formerly PPCNC) meeting is currently scheduled for February 12, 2025.

If you have any questions or comments, contact the PPCNC secretariat via email at PPCNCSecretariat@gov.ab.ca.

Thank you,

Provincial PCN Committee Secretariat