

**Grimshaw Regional Health Care Attraction and Retention
Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Attendees:

M.D. of Peace 135

Theresa Johnson, Councillor

Town of Grimshaw

Stacey Messner, Councillor, Chairperson GRHARC

Wendy Wald, Mayor

Brian Allen, CAO

Village of Berwyn

Nicole Johnson, Councillor – Via Zoom

County of Northern Lights

Brenda Yasinski, Councillor - Via Zoom

Alberta Health Services

Jessica Landry - Physician Resource Planner Via Zoom

RhPAP Consultant

Holly Handfield

Members at Large

Charlene Cavers

Tara Elliott – Via Zoom

Guest

Brad Pearson – M.D. Lesser Slave River – Via Zoom

1. **Call to order:** Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Grimshaw Regional Health Care Attraction and Retention Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

2. **Additions/changes and approval of agenda:** Theresa Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented.

3. **Review Meeting Minutes:** Brenda Yasinski moved to adopt the meeting minutes from June 12, 2023.

4. Old Business

- RhPAP Rhapsody Award Banquet Oct. 3, 2023 – Grimshaw ER Team: Stacey and Tara met with RhPAP reps to plan the October 3 event at the Coast Hotel. All committee members have been invited and are asked to RSVP by September 15 if they are attending. Board and Barrel are catering the event, with local entertainer Scott Randall providing dinner music. A program is being developed for the evening. AHS is to organize coverage to enable the award recipients to attend the dinner. A donation is being made to Room #27 on behalf of the Grimshaw Emergency Room Team. Stacey will be contacting the town's new communications person to have the E.R. Team recognized for their award on the town's digital sign as well as other social media/website.
- Community Orientation Plan: A meeting date – September 18 at 7 p.m. was set for the committee (Stacey, Wendy, Theresa, Charlene) to begin work on the plan.

5. New Business

- GRHARC Scholarship Program: It is time to start promoting the scholarship program again as the application deadline is December 31. Stacey will contact the town's communications person for assistance. The committee will meet in January for selection.

Grimshaw Regional Health Care Attraction and Retention Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

6. AHS Recruitment Update

- Physician Planning – Jessica Landry: Jessica has been in the position of Physician Resource Planner since mid June. There have been 2 resignations in Fairview, 1 has been filled, by way of a successful virtual site visit. There is a few job postings in Peace River for which they are currently interviewing. Physician staff levels in Manning and Grimshaw are good. Stacey notified the committee that she has been informed that Dr. MJ De Kock will be closing his practice in the March of 2024. .
- Nurses Update, Stacey for Nicole Rashidian: The limited hours (9a.m. – 9 p.m.) at the Grimshaw E.R. have been extended an additional 3 months. AHS is actively recruiting internationally (India, Jamaica, U.K. and U.S.) for 3 R.N. positions. 1 R.N. will be starting October 26 and another tentatively in November. These are “Grimshaw” specific fulltime positions, and successful candidates will receive \$10,000 signing bonus and \$10,000 for relocation. Tara informed the committee that 2 LPN’s have been hired for the Grimshaw E.R. Stacey will reach out to these individuals to welcome them to our community. The committee members expressed interest in connecting with the new nurses to as part of our Community Orientation Plan.

7. RhPAP Update – Holly Handfield

- Regarding Internationally educated nurses, Holly asked the committee for 1 person to act as a liaison with Holly to connect with new Nurses. The committee appointed Stacey Messner as the contact. If the nurse comes to the community alone AHS will provide them with 3 months accommodation, if they come with family, they will need assistance finding accommodations along with help getting groceries, drivers license etc. RhPAP fall learning sessions will be starting soon with a schedule currently being set up for the year. A call for proposals for communities interested in hosting the 2024 RhPAP conference closes on September 18.

Grimshaw Regional Health Care Attraction and Retention Committee Meeting Minutes Monday, September 11, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

8. Round Table

- **Tara:** Excited for the October awards event and thanked Stacey for all her hard work.
- **Brenda:** Thanked Stacey for keeping the committee on track.
- **Nicole:** Good information/good meeting
- **Jessica:** Nice to meet everyone and happy to be a part of this group.
- **Brad:** Had questions re: makeup of the committee, area covered, # of hospitals. Gave kudos to Holly as she is the “glue that hold us together.”
- **Wendy:** Reached out to Lynn Gaydosh regarding concerns with the extension of overnight closure of the E.R. to see if there is anything we can do to help. She stated that AHS is working hard to fill staff shortages. The town of Grimshaw provided a letter of support for the New Horizons for Seniors Program grant for construction of an outdoor recreation and family area at the Grimshaw/Berwyn and District Community Health Center long-term care.
- **Charlene:** Is stepping down from Vice-Chair position of Peace Health Advisory Council but will still attend meetings and bring information to this committee. Next meeting in Fairview September 26.

9. Meeting Dates 2024 – 2nd Monday, every 3 months

- Monday March 11, 2024
- Monday June 10, 2024
- Monday September 9, 2024
- Monday December 9, 2024
- Stacey will send a meeting request to all committee members for these meeting dates, and book the meeting room.

10.Next Meeting: December 11, 2023

11.Meeting Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.