

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

**Kennedy Admin Bldg Meeting Room and via Zoom**

**Attendees:**

**M.D. of Peace 135**

Lori Kinnee, Councillor

**Town of Grimshaw**

Stacey Messner, Councillor, Chairperson GRHARC

**Village of Berwyn**

No representation

**County of Northern Lights**

Brenda Yasinski, Councillor - Via Zoom

**Alberta Health Services**

No representation

**RhPAP Consultant**

Holly Handfield - Via Zoom

**Members at Large**

Charlene Cavers

Tara Elliott – Via Zoom

- 1) Call to order:** Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
- 2) Additions/changes and approval of agenda:** Lori Kinnee moved to adopt the agenda as presented.
- 3) Review Meeting Minutes:** Brenda Yasinski moved to adopt the meeting minutes from September 11, 2023.

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**4) Old Business**

**a) Community Orientation Plan**

The subcommittee of Wendy, Charlene, Theresa and Stacey met and created a list of all possible services a new health/medical professional might need information about when relocating to our community. In addition to the list, a questionnaire was developed to further ascertain the individual needs of each new professional and their families. This questionnaire will enable us to create a customized orientation to integrate the professional into our community. Brenda suggested that the framework be updated before sending to each applicant to ensure that the most current information is available to them.

We will possibly be using the new Community Orientation Plan for an international nurse scheduled to arrive in March 2024.

It was noted that there has been some privacy and confidentiality issues in being able to contact hired professionals with AHS which makes it difficult to prepare them for their arrival and make them feel welcomed.

**b) GRHARC Scholarship Program**

We have one applicant currently. However, from experience, most applications arrive the last week of December. Information has been sent to local high schools, and post secondary institutions. The Communications Coordinator, Vanessa, has been posting the scholarship on social media and other advertising platforms. For returning applicants there will be a shortened qualifying process. Holly will send information to the student group at NW Polytechnic. To further promote the scholarship program, we encourage committee members to reach out to eligible students to apply.

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The sub committee – Lori, Brenda, Stacey, Charlene, and Jane - will meet in January to select the successful recipients.

**5) New Business**

**a) Farewell Event for Dr. Louw and Dr. De Kock**

A sub committee - Stacey, Charlene, and Misty with the help of the Communications Coordinator, Vanessa - has been struck to organize a community-based function prior to April 1, 2024. Details to be communicated as soon as possible.

**6) AHS Recruitment Update**

**a) Physician Planning**

The two Doctor positions for Grimshaw have still not been posted on AHS Doctor Jobs. Doctors posted their notice on August 30, 2023 to close their clinic practise to their patients – one on January 25, 2024 and the other for March 31, 2024. We have recently been informed that Jessica Landry is no longer our AHS Physician Planner Representative. Mayor Wald has talked to AHS Regional Site Management and Stacey discussed concerns with MLA Dan Williams to escalate the issue of how long it is taking to post the positions.

Dr. Coetzee is looking for suitable accommodation for a locum starting in April for 1 week per month until the Doctor positions are filled. Normally accommodations are paid for locums by AHS, however, there is something different with this locum arrangement where the AHS is not obligated to pay. Dr. Coetzee is inquiring with AMA to see if they would pay for accommodations.

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Suggested accommodations from the committee were: the Coast Hotel, any AirBnB in the area?, Rotary House in Peace River, Wild Rose Guest Ranch, Peace River Cabins, and possibly a room at the crew quarters owned by Avenge. Stacey will talk to Dr. Coutzee about the housing options discussed and then figure out a plan with the funding municipalities of how we can assist to pay for the locum's accommodations.

### **b) Nursing Recruitment**

There are 3 positions for Grimshaw posted, with 1 international nurse starting in March 2024. They are still recruiting to fill the other 2 positions.

### **7) RhPAP Update – Holly Handfield**

Holly will send contact information to Stacey when she knows when the nurse is starting in Grimshaw. There is a paramedic seminar December 15, 2023. The 2024 RHPAP conference is in Wainwright Alberta on October 8-10, 2024. There have been expressions of interest from groups regarding the Rural High School Skills Day education grant for students going into healthcare. Peace River is planning to initiate a conversation to meet with Grimshaw and Manning healthcare attraction and retention committees. There are REAL bursaries available through RhPAP as well.

### **8) Round Table**

- **Misty** - Started with Lac Cardinal Economic Development in October, busy revamping the social media footprint, the economic development work should be able to dovetail nicely with the A&R mandates.
- **Lori** – 1<sup>st</sup> meeting tonight. Happy to be on board with the A&R.
- **Brenda** – Wishing All a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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- **Charlene** – Nothing to Add
- **Tara** – Nothing to Add
- **Stacey** – Move Up magazine will be doing a healthcare segment and has asked our committee to participate. Stacey will complete the interview on behalf of the A&R committee. Thank you to RhPAP for their continued support of our committee. Please, all of us, show support to our local healthcare workers. Wish you all a Merry Christmas.

**9) Next Meeting:** Monday March 11, 2023 - 7:00 PM

**10) Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.