



GRIMSHAW

REGIONAL HEALTHCARE

ATTRACTION & RETENTION COMMITTEE

Encouraging sustainable healthcare for our communities

MINUTES

GRHARC

Monday, March 10, 2025 @ 1:00 PM

Kennedy Admin Meeting Room

PRESENT: Stacey Messner, Chairperson, Deputy Mayor Town of Grimshaw
Brenda Yasinski, Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights (Zoom)
Misty Velichka, EDO, Lac Cardinal Regional Economic Development
Lori Kinee, MD of Peace No. 135
Jane Weber, Village of Berwyn
Bethany Rose, RhPAP
Corina Hendrickson, Primary Care Network
Guest: Chris Fujita

ABSENT: Brian Allen, CAO, Town of Grimshaw
Susan Smith, Physician Resource Planner, AHS
Nicole Anderson, AHS
Members at Large: Charlene Cavers & Tara Elliot

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at 1:01 PM

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Bethany Rose - RhPAP Consultant

Chris Fujita - Lethbridge, here to learn about committee and how it is operated

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was adopted by consensus.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1. Terms of Reference/ Roles & Responsibilities

Agreed by consensus to approve the draft Terms of Reference and Roles and Responsibilities included in the agenda package and to also include noted changes brought forth at the meeting for the Terms of Reference:

1. Term #3 - change dates of 4-year term to "November to October"
2. Term #3 - change call date to "September"

ACTION: Belinda to send out approved Terms of Reference and Roles and Responsibilities to all Committee Members.

5.2. GRHARC Scholarship - Future of the Program

- It was agreed by consensus that the GRHARC Scholarship Program is a very valuable and positive for our healthcare community. There are not many scholarships available to smaller communities. This scholarship encourages locals to continue their education in healthcare field and return to smaller communities like ours.
- The first year running this program we had 17 applications, the second year there was 13 and the 3rd year was 16. We have had 15 total recipients where 4 are in their last year of school, 8 are still currently in school, 3 have finished their education and are working in Grimshaw, Grande Prairie, and Barrhead.
- It was suggested by a member to offer a larger scholarship amount with a return to service within Northern Alberta.
- An inquiry was made by a community member whether our scholarship would consider students enrolled in Vet Medicine. The committee agreed by consensus that our scholarship would not include this post secondary program and direct them to apply with the Berwyn Agriculture Society as they offer scholarships.

ACTION: Stacey will ask Administration to provide a financial report for the committee and to breakdown how each municipality contributes to the scholarship program for the next meeting. Stacey will set up a meeting with the scholarship sub committee to discuss the scholarship amount and return to service where the sub committee will bring back a recommendation to the next meeting. Stacey will contact the Chair of the Peace River Healthcare A&R Committee regarding the number of Peace River residents that have applied and inquired about the scholarship program.

5.3. High School/ Post Secondary Presentations Healthcare Careers - Stacey and Tara

In January, Stacey contacted the principles of both Grimshaw Public and Holy Family regarding presentations to students from local healthcare professionals and possibly having a pizza lunch. Grimshaw Hospital Foundation would like to be apart of presentations and possibly help out with lunch.

There was also discussion about having the RHPAP Let's Go Rural High School Skills Day back in Grimshaw as so many students, teachers and community members said it was a great event.

ACTION: Stacey to contact potential presenters for high school healthcare career presentations and schedule with principles at the schools.

Diarize: GRHARC to apply for Let's Go Rural High School Skills Day in January 2026 when applications are accepted by RHPAP.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1. Grimshaw Chamber of Commerce Hiring Fair March 21, 2025

We will have a booth set up at the Grimshaw Chamber of Commerce Business Expo & Hiring Fair. There will be information from RhPAP and GRHARC frisbees for give aways.

ACTION: Stacey to send out email reminder for anyone who may be able to attend to help cover shifts at the booth.

6.2. Rural Health Week - May 26-30, 2025: [Alberta Rural Health Week - Rural Health Professions Action Plan](#)

Last year, County of Northern Lights & the MD of Peace committee members delivered goodies to all health-related businesses and organizations within our communities. This year, Grimshaw & Berwyn will organize and deliver goodies to all health-related businesses and organizations.

ACTION: Stacey to contact Tristan to set up a plan to order and delivery treats to all health care workers the week of May 27, 2025.

6.3. Health Center Summer BBQ with the Grimshaw/Berwyn & District Hospital Foundation

This will be a free BBQ for Healthcare staff hosted at the health centre. These are a few ideas provided: asking Co-op or Co-Co's Smoke Shack if they would be interested to set up and cook, maybe TOG public works can bring over picnic tables and chairs.

ACTION: Stacey & Tara to work together on planning the event to determine the best date, work with the Grimshaw/Berwyn & District Hospital Foundation regarding food and communicate with committee what they can help with.

6.4. Grimshaw Health centre Strategic Planning Session Discussion -See Link: [Health Care Strategy | City of Grande Prairie](#)

The City of Grande Prairie released a strategic plan for their Health Care Attraction & Retention Committee. This would be a great idea for our committee to do as well. Bethany mentioned that RhPAP has a working toolkit that will aid committees in launching a strategic plan and have a facilitator that can come out to guide the discussion.

ACTION & Diarize: GRHARC would like to start working on a healthcare strategic plan between November 2025 and February 2026.

7. UPDATES

7.1. PRIMARY CARE NETWORK - CORINA HENDRICKSON

PCN continues to offer the Self-Referral Services for Dietitian, Exercise Services, Mental Health Therapy, & Social Work. They are offering a Women's Health Clinic which addresses women's health concerns, bookings can be done online through the PCN Network website. PCN will be running a pilot project at the Grimshaw Medical Clinic from June until December of 2025.

7.2. RHPAP - BETHANY ROSE

- "Let's Go Rural" events are in full swing, these events are available to High School and post secondary student, exposing students to various professions in rural health, helping them to understand the scope of rural practice and hear stories directly from rural care providers.
- "How Do I Get There?"- Students exploring health careers can access recordings of past webinars and information on upcoming sessions through the RhPAP website, which detail the realities of these professions.
- May 26 - 30th is Rural Health Week, during this week, RhPAP invites communities, organizations, and individuals across the province to show appreciation for healthcare professionals and volunteers whose commitment enhances the well-being of rural residents. Their hard work and passion help maintain and strengthen healthcare services across the province.

8. ROUND TABLE

8.1. ROUND TABLE ITEMS

- Members suggested the meeting times should go back to evening times as attendance has been low for the afternoon meeting times.
- Charlene organized a tour and job shadowing experience with other staff to a local high school student who is interested in the lab/Xray program. Charlene also gave a tour of the communities and businesses to a lab/Xray specialist moving to the area. Charlene has also volunteered to participate in the student interviews for the Northern Alberta Medical Program (NAMP)
- Stacey has been participating with a working group with the U of A Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry focusing on the Recruitment and Development of Faculty/Teaching Clinicians in northern rural Alberta for NAMP. She hopes to have more information to share at a future meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

Monday June 9, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

10. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 2:32 PM