

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Provincial Advisory Council

2022-23 Annual Report



**Alberta Health
Services**

Sexual Orientation,
Gender Identity &
Expression PAC

Message from the Official Administrator Dr. John Cowell



It has been a great pleasure to reconnect with Alberta Health Services (AHS) Advisory Councils since I was appointed to the role of AHS Official Administrator in November 2022. Soon after my appointment, I had the opportunity to meet with Council Chairs and our conversation informed the development of my 90-Day Plan to achieve rapid improvements in four priority areas of AHS:

- Improving emergency medical services (EMS) response times.
- Decreasing emergency department wait times.
- Reducing surgery wait times.
- Improving patient flow and continuity of care.

There has been marked improvement in all these areas, not just over my first 90 days as OA, but sustained improvements made possible, in part, by the invaluable advice and perspectives provided by our Councils.

Through our partnership with Advisory Councils, we're seeing EMS response times improving despite sustained increases in call volume across the province. Emergency department wait times are also coming down. Fewer people are waiting longer for surgery than clinically recommended. And we're seeing evidence of improved patient flow with the addition of acute care, intensive care and continuing care beds. We need to continue building on this momentum, while also addressing our organization's serious workforce issues. This is all challenging and complex work, and AHS will continue to involve our Advisory Councils as a key stakeholder for advice and real-time feedback on how we're doing in our efforts to serve all Albertans.

I understand and appreciate the value that Advisory Councils bring to AHS, and look forward to expanding and deepening our partnership. I'll continue to reach out to Council Chairs, and meet with Council members throughout the year, including at the 2024 Advisory Council Forum.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the work of all Advisory Council members. Although AHS still has much work ahead, I look to the future with optimism knowing we'll move forward and navigate our challenges with our valued and steadfast Advisory Council partners.

Message from the Chair Jennifer K.

Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Provincial Advisory Council



As the Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Provincial Advisory Council (SOGIE PAC) enters its fifth year, it has been one filled with hope and excitement for the future of sexually and gender diverse healthcare in Alberta. 2023 has been a year of rapid change and growth in Council activities. Council again would like to extend our gratitude to Alberta Health Services (AHS) leadership for their commitment.

The SOGIE PAC met in person with meetings including insightful discussion on a multitude of topics from Alberta Health and LGBTQ2S+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and two-spirit) community organizations. Council participated in advising AHS on the need for patient navigation services for the transgender community, communication resources on Mpox (Monkeypox) and engaging with the community at Calgary Pride. Council members participated in numerous projects and provided feedback on several initiatives that positively impact the lives of LGBTQ2S+ Albertans.

2023 will be my final year of Chair for this Council. I am humbled and grateful to lead such a passionate and amazing group of community leaders and AHS permanent support staff dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive healthcare system.

OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

North and Edmonton Zones

Rebecca A., Vice Chair
Kenyo A.
Jason B.
Alexandra M.
Scott S.
Evan W.

Calgary Zone

Renate B.
Kira D.
Jennifer K., Chair
Jane O.
Haley W.

Central Zone

B A.
Michelle S.
Jolene W.

South Zone

Carly-Ann H.
Mikey W.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE INPUT (ALL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS)



Newcomer Engagement Patient & Experience

AHS sought input on how AHS can communicate, support, and enable Albertans to become active partners in their care.



2022-23 Influenza Immun- ization Campaign

Members reviewed draft AHS influenza campaign materials and provided input toward the provincewide campaign that informed Albertans about the flu shot.



Spiritual Care Policy

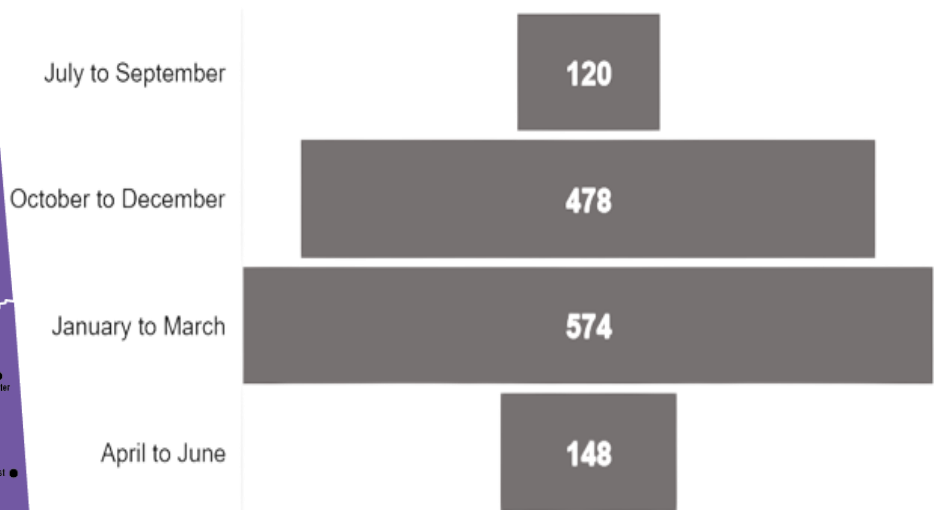
Councils were invited to provide feedback to the AHS Community Spiritual and Religious Care Providers Access Policy.

FACTS AND FIGURES

Membership Representation



Participation at Advisory Council Meetings & Events*



*Reflective of the number of public that attended Health and Provincial Advisory Council meetings and events between July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023.

“ *It continues to be my pleasure to serve as the Executive Sponsor of the SOGIE PAC. The partnership between SOGIE PAC and Alberta Health Services remains instrumental in creating a safer, more welcoming healthcare environment for gender and sexual diverse individuals and their families. It is essential that everyone accessing care at AHS feels respected, safe, and supported. Over the past year, the Council Members have moved forward some critical pieces of work, continued to advocate for required resources and supports and began work on a strategic future-oriented plan. The expertise and lived experience provided by SOGIE PAC is invaluable and I am looking forward to future collaboration and work.*

Dr. Sid Viner

Vice President and Medical Director, Clinical Operations

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

The Alberta Health Services (AHS) SOGIE PAC plays an advisory role, considers existing and emerging topics from the service-user's perspective. It makes recommendations to the AHS Official Administrator, CEO and Executive Leadership on system-level opportunities to improve service provision and access for gender and sexual diverse Albertans. Members strive to capture lived experience and ensure patients and families are at the centre of all healthcare activities, decisions and teams. Our key achievements include:

- ✓ As part of **Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System (MAPS)**, a report was submitted outlining initiatives that reduce barriers to care for the LGBTQ2S+ community. The Council was also invited to participate in the Alberta Health's Community Care Innovation Forum and Modernizing Alberta's Primary Health Care System Forum to discuss solutions to current barriers and explore international and national innovations.
- ✓ Invited by Dr. Deena Hinshaw, former Chief Medical Officer of Health, and her team at Alberta Health to provide input and advice on **Mpox** messaging to the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- ✓ Identified the need for **navigation support** for sexual and gender diverse individuals to improve access and quality of care. This recommendation led to the funding of three AHS positions that provide peer support health navigation support to LGBTQ2S+ Albertans.
- ✓ Provided advice and raised awareness on many **programs and services** within AHS such cancer screening resources for the LGBTQ2S+ community.
- ✓ Attended the Calgary Pride Festival in September where forty-eight people stopped by the booth to learn more about the Council's work.
- ✓ Participated in the M.E. LaZerte School Health Fair where Council members raised awareness and listened to high school students on gender and sexually diverse healthcare topics.
- ✓ Six **members** were **reappointed** effective March 1, 2023. In addition, we recruited six new members: two from Edmonton, two from Calgary and area, and two from southern Alberta to increase representation throughout the province. Jennifer K. and Rebecca A. were **re-elected as Chair and Vice-Chair**



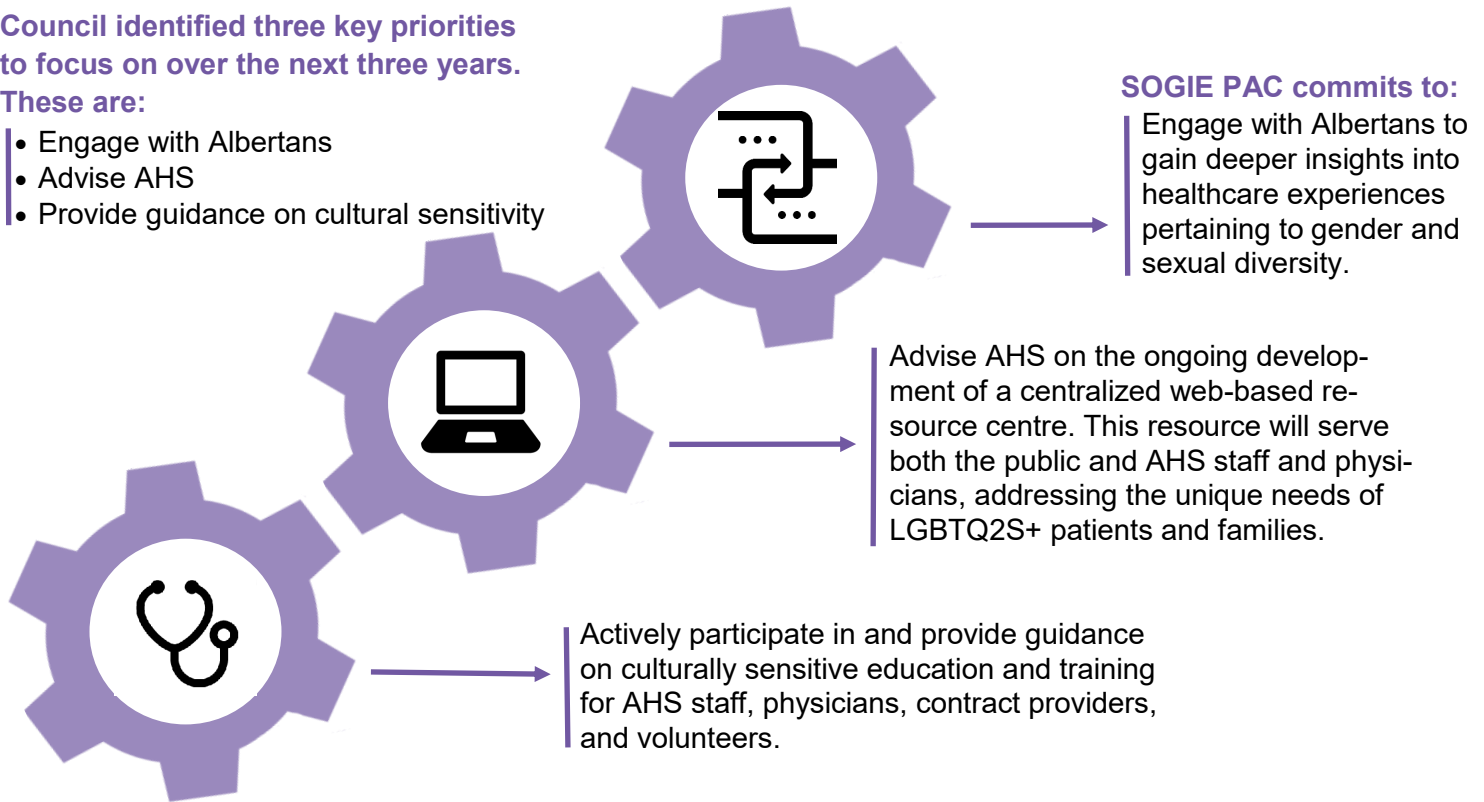
A LOOK AHEAD



Council identified three key priorities to focus on over the next three years.

These are:

- Engage with Albertans
- Advise AHS
- Provide guidance on cultural sensitivity



GET INVOLVED



Make a difference to the health and well-being of your community by sharing your thoughts and ideas with AHS.

- Email: sogie.pac@ahs.ca
- Phone: 1.877.275.8830
- Attend an upcoming meeting. Email sogie.pac@ahs.ca
- Provide input on various healthcare topics online, at [Together4Health](#)
- Apply to join an Advisory Council:

APPLY

