

MINUTES

GRHARC

Monday, June 9, 2025 @ 6:30 PM

Kennedy Admin Meeting Room

PRESENT: Stacey Messner, Chairperson, Deputy Mayor Town of Grimshaw
Misty Velichka, EDO, Lac Cardinal Regional Economic Development
Lori Kinee, MD of Peace No. 135
Tristian Vanderklok, Village of Berwyn
Members at Large: Tara Elliott & Charlene Cavers
Bethany Rose, RhPAP (Zoom)
Lynn Florence, Vice Chair, Town of Grimshaw (Zoom)
Brenda Yasinski, Deputy Reeve, County of Northern Lights (Zoom)

ABSENT: Brian Allen, CAO, Town of Grimshaw
Susan Smith, North Zone Physician Resource Planner, AHS
Corina Hendrickson, Primary Care Network
Lynn Gaydosh, AHS Site Management Grimshaw Healthcentre

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at 6:30pm

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda was adopted by consensus.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Adoption of Meeting Minutes from March 10, 2025
Meeting Minutes were adopted by consensus.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1. Scholarship Sub Committee - Recommendation

The Scholarship Subcommittee met to review the program's structure and presented the following recommendations:

- Four scholarships will be awarded, each valued at \$3,000.
- Current geographical boundaries for eligibility will be maintained.
- Recipients can be in any year of their program of study.
- No return-to-service requirement.
- Applicants will be encouraged to also apply for the Northern Alberta Development Bursary for additional grant funding.

ACTION: Stacey & Belinda to work together to update current promotional items. Stacey will get Vanessa to promote in October.

4.2. GRHARC Financials - Review

1. The operating reserve balance is currently at \$86,000. Noting the \$20,000 was from 2024 operating reserve which was budgeted for expenses in 2025 to offset any major expenses.
2. The Medical Student's Bursary is currently at \$12,000 divided up by population percentage between the four municipalities.
3. Medical Clinic Support amounts shown, again based on population and divided by the four municipalities.

ACTION: Stacey will collaborate with Larissa to gain a better understanding of the budget, to present to the committee which will including a comparison with 2024 expenditures.

4.3. Medical Clinic Subsidy - Decision for Increase

We're pleased to inform that the Grimshaw Medical Clinic has moved to a new, bright, and welcoming facility within the Grimshaw Business Center. The committee discussed a proposed increase to the rent subsidy that GRHARC currently provides, The committee would like to wait until another presentation of the budget to make a decision and bring back to the next meeting.

ACTION: Stacey will draft to the partnering municipalities regarding an increase for the 2026 year.

4.4. Grimshaw Chiropractic Clinic - Farewell to Dr's Jennifer and Brett and Welcome to Dr's Kieran and Mandy Jo

The Committee has asked Lynn Florence to contact the Chiropractors and determine their availability for a open house event to bid them farewell from the community. GRHARC plans to organize this event at their location, providing coffee and cake. The committee will also consult with the fire department regarding the use of their driveway and arrange for Public Works to supply picnic tables for seating.

ACTION: Lynn Florence to contact Chiropractors to see what days would work best for the open house.

5. UPDATES

5.1. Primary Care Network – Corina Hendrickson

Corina was absent but sent in an email for the PCN updates that was forwarded to all members.

5.2. RhPAP – Bethany Rose

Bethany gave a shout out to the GRHARC for the great recognition we gave to our local health care organizations for Rural Health Week.

Updates:

- REAL Program: This program helps rural health professionals access continuing professional development and education to help enhance services in their communities, applications for funding are now open until June 18th.
- UAlberta Asclepius Medical Camp for Youth: This initiative is aimed at high school students with the goal of increasing the enrollment of underrepresented populations, including rural communities, in medical school. This year we offered programs in Edmonton and Grande Prairie.
- The REF is a grant is open all year and is intended for healthcare teams working within rural Alberta, to offer in house training for healthcare staff.

5.3. AHS Site Management - Recruitment – Lynn Gaydosh

Lynn Gaydosh and Susan Smith were absent from the meeting, but the following recruitment updates were shared:

- Physician Recruitment: Grimshaw Healthcentre still has two positions to fill. Of these two, an offer has been made to a physician and is currently completing examination requirements prior to being placed for their assessment.
- Emergency Department Vacancies: The Emergency Department still has one to two RN vacancies. Alberta Health Services (AHS) has implemented a hiring freeze, which is impacting the recruitment of these positions.
- Locum and Travel Nurses: The region has seen frequent use of locum and travel nurses to fill staffing gaps.
- Internationally Educated Nurses (IEN) Program: There have been some challenges with the IEN program. Some staff are experiencing culture shock, transitioning from urban environments with many amenities to smaller, rural communities. They are also finding the expectations higher in rural areas due to limited access to equipment and resources.

6. INFORMATION

6.1. Rural Health Week - Treat Deliveries May 28

Stacey and Tristian treated our local organizations and centers to a goodie box from Northern Dough, everyone was so thankful to be recognized and enjoyed the sweet treats.

6.2. Grimshaw Healthcentre Staff Appreciation BBQ- June 24

BBQ planning is complete, the GRHARC and the Grimshaw and District Hospital Foundation alongside with Peace Country Co-op will provide a staff appreciation BBQ at the Healthcare Center June 24, 2025 from 11:30pm to 1:30. All committee members are welcome to attend.

6.3. RhPAP Conference Oct 2026 - Peace Region Bid - Letter of Support

The Bid Planning Committee met June 9, 2025, next steps are to gather information for venues, hotels, events & caterers in the Grimshaw area for the bid package.

ACTION: Belinda and Stacey are working on this.

7. NEXT MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2025

8. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 7:42pm