

MINUTES
GRHARC

Monday, September 8, 2025 @ 6:30 PM
Kennedy Admin Meeting Room

PRESENT: Stacey Messner, Chairperson, Deputy Mayor Town of Grimshaw
Lynn Florence, Vice Chairperson, Councillor Town of Grimshaw
Brenda Yasinski, Deputy Reeve County of Northern Lights (Zoom)
Lori Kinee, Councillor MD of Peace No. 135
Tristian Vanderklok, Councillor Village of Berwyn
Charlene Cavers, Member at Large
Tara Elliott, Member at Large
Susan Smith, Physician Resource Planner, AHS
Bethany Rose, RhPAP
Belinda Russell, Acting CAO Town of Grimshaw

ABSENT: Brian Allen, CAO MD of Peace
Corina Hendrickson, Primary Care Network
Jatin Saini, Acting CAO MD of Peace
Gerhard Stickling, CAO County of Northern Lights

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at

Chair, Stacey Messner called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Agenda adopted by consensus.

3. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

3.1. Adoption of Minutes

Meeting Minutes adopted by consensus.

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1. Financials - Review

- The Operating Reserve is the Community Development Operating Reserve that is meant for anything community development related. GRHARC can access these operating reserves. We do not need motions to approve the use of transferring operating reserves funds (just capital funds, which the GRHARC would never use capital), but it is there if there is in any need for GRHARC.
- The Medical Student Bursary and Clinic Subsidy allocation funds from the funding municipalities are requisitioned to each municipality to pay to the Town of Grimshaw each year.
- The GRHARC budget line item of \$7,000 is a Town of Grimshaw approved budget line that is funded by the Town each year.
- GRHARC will have their own GL codes and budget in the new year.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1. Call for Members at Large - November 2025

Link for Application: [Application Form](#)

The Call for Members positions will be posted from September 9th to October 6th.

Stacey recommended establishing a subcommittee to review, evaluate, and interview candidates. This committee will consist of the four municipal members and the LACRED EDO.

Agreed by consensus to strike the members at large selection sub committee.

ACTION: Vanessa to post on social media. Belinda to distribute poster to each municipality. Stacey to facilitate and lead the sub committee selection process.

5.2. Terms of Reference Membership Change: Re: AHS Talent Acquisition Specialist

Stacey talked to AHS Talent Acquisition about whether they would like to continue being a member as they have not attended meetings. AHS Talent Acquisition stated that if they were to provide an update regarding recruitment, they would need that direction from AHS Site Management to report and attend the meeting. With AHS Site Management being recently added as a member to our committee, Stacey recommended that the committee remove AHS Talent Acquisition as a member.

Lori moved to remove AHS Talent Acquisition Specialist from membership.

ACTION: Administration to remove AHS Talent Acquisition from membership in Terms of Reference & website.

A discussion to add the Grimshaw/Berwyn & District Hospital Foundation as a member was welcomed by the committee. The Foundations next meeting is scheduled September 18th, and Cindy Hockley said she would let Stacey know what the foundation decides. If the Foundation was in favor to join the committee, Stacey would ask for GRHARC members to approve their membership by consensus via email as we do not meet again until December.

5.3. Thank You to Members

Stacey presented personalized letters of thanks along with bouquets of flowers to the members at large, Tara Elliott & Charlene Cavers.

Stacey also presented handmade, personalized cards to all members as a token of her appreciation.



- 5.4. Discussion regarding membership and inviting Grimshaw/Berwyn & District Hospital Foundation to join.

Stacey received notification from Cindy Hockley that the Grimshaw/Berwyn & District Hospital Foundation agreed at their meeting September 26th, to become a member of GRHARC.

6. UPDATES

6.1. AHS Physician Recruitment - Susan Smith

- Dr. Abraham Beyer has successfully passed his Medical Council of Canada Exam, which is required of physicians who are trained internationally. He is busy with the College of Physicians & Surgeons Registration and the next steps which will take him into the New Year. Compliments to Dr. Beyer for his commitment to meeting the CPSA requirements for internationally trained physicians. It is not an easy path.
- Dr. Prince Nwaubani is a new psychiatrist in Peace River, serving Area 2. He began practicing on Sep 2. I am working with two other psychiatrists, who may also be interested in Peace River (fingers crossed).
- Dr. Dominic Uwadia is a new family medicine physician in Peace River (you may see his name around)
- Grande Prairie has the first ever fully specialist trained Gastroenterologist (and Hematologist) Dr. Khurram Raees, bringing the services closer to home
- Dr. Jana Swanepoel is a family physician who may be coming for a site visit to see Manning, Peace River, Grimshaw and High Level – stay tuned for further details as they become available.

6.2. RhPAP - Bethany Rose

- Last call for 2026 RhPAP Conference Proposals deadline is September 19, 2025.
- Nominations for the 2026 Rhapsody Award nominations open early and will close February 27, 2026. [Click Here](#)
- The AIR Toolkit is now available committees! This free, interactive resource is designed to help rural communities and AIR committees strengthen healthcare workforce attraction, integration, and retention [Toolkit](#)
- The Rural Education & Advanced Learning (REAL) Program's fall application cycle opens on September 10 and runs through October 22. [Application Form](#)
- RhPAP wants Physicians for Rural Mentorship Program, specifically within 2.5 hours of Grande Prairie and 3 hours from Calgary. These opportunities expose students to what rural medicine has to offer. Contact: mentorship@rhpap.ca
- Bursary for International Educated Nurses (BIEN) are available! The BIEN program provides up to \$30,000 in funding to IENs as they complete an approved bridging program at Mount Royal University, NorQuest College, or MacEwan University (noted below). In return for the bursary, the recipient must spend a period of time working in any BIEN-eligible rural Alberta community following their graduation. [Learn More!](#)



7. INFORMATION

- 7.1.
- Scholarship Applications Campaign: the scholarship application has been updated to reflect one new criterion for applicants to provide one written professional reference. An ad/promo campaign to encourage people to apply will start in October 2025.
 - GRHARC Website: the website has been updated with the current committee members, scholarship application, terms of reference, minutes, links to local health and medical organizations, and other information.
 - RhPAP Conference 2026 Bid: the bid package compiled by healthcare attraction and retention committees from Peace River, Grimshaw, and Smoky River has been finalized and will be sent to RHPAP by the deadline of September 19, 2025. We will be notified of the outcome by October 2025. Crossing our fingers we are successful!
 - NAMP: Northern AB Medical Program: NAMP welcomed the first 30 students into the program on Sept 2 in Grande Prairie. Stacey attended a luncheon to be a part of this incredibly historic and important program to welcome the next generation of future rural and remote family physicians.
 - Open House for Grimshaw Chiropractic Care Centre: Dr's Kieran and Mandy Jo hosted an open house at their clinic on July 11, 2025. A bouquet of flowers was given to them on behalf of GRHARC. They are grateful to be a part of the community and are looking forward to providing chiropractic services to the region.
 - Farewell Event for Dr's Jennifer and Brett Hessel: this event was organized by our sub committee members and held at Northern Dough on Wed August 6th. The venue was perfect, well attended, including people from Manning and Fairview came. Jennifer and Brett were extremely gracious and humbled that this was organized for them and they will miss their patients and the community of Grimshaw dearly. Some tears shed as they remembered the people who made it possible for them to set up their clinic in Grimshaw. We wish them the very best!
 - Stacey will attend the RhPAP dinner for Healthcare Attraction & Retention Chairs on October 15.

8. NEXT MEETING

December 8, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.

9. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Adjourned at 7:42 pm.