

Backgrounder

Saskatchewan Advisory Panel on Health System Structure

On August 18, 2016, the Government of Saskatchewan announced the appointment of an Advisory Panel on Health System Structure tasked with providing advice on the future structure of the health system. The Panel included three members:

- Brenda Abrametz (Prince Albert), Chairperson of the Prince Albert Parkland Regional Health Authority;
- Tyler Bragg (Swift Current), President and CEO of Pinnacle Financial Services, and former Chairperson of the Cypress Regional Health Authority; and
- Dr. Dennis A. Kendel (Saskatoon), former Chief Executive Officer of the Physician Recruitment Agency of Saskatchewan (PRAS).

The Advisory Panel was given a four point mandate to:

- Recommend a structure with fewer Regional Health Authorities (RHAs) to achieve administrative efficiencies as well as improvements to patient care.
- Consider opportunities to consolidate clinical or health system support services currently delivered by RHAs or other health care agencies that may be more efficiently delivered on a province-wide basis and the mechanism(s) to best organize and deliver such services.
- Review current legislation and processes to ensure they adequately establish: the roles of health systems boards; their composition; structure and reporting relationship to achieve appropriate accountability.
- Identify processes to enhance management information to improve and observe on performance management of the health care system.

“Our work was grounded in our health system’s commitment to patient- and family-centred care,” Panel member Dr. Dennis Kendel said. “Our goal remained the same from the start – to make sure the patient is at the centre of everything we do.”

The Advisory Panel held consultations and received input during a formal feedback process that was open to the public from August 29 through September 26. It received over 300 submissions from a diverse group of people and organizations, including patients, care providers, unions and Indigenous leaders. It also undertook over 30 face-to-face consultations with key partners and stakeholders across the health system, and reached out to health care leaders in Canada who had experience with the consolidation of health system governance and management.

“We are pleased with the diversity and high volume of submissions we received,” Panel member Brenda Abrametz said. “The diversity of opinions from key stakeholders, partners and the public supported a robust and open dialogue.”

“Our final report is based on a thorough review of submissions from the public and stakeholders, research on structure and care processes in other high performing jurisdictions, and our own experiences within the health system,” Panel member Tyler Bragg said.

Optimizing and Integrating Patient-Centred Care: Saskatchewan Advisory Panel on Health System Structure is available online at Saskatchewan.ca.